

TOPOF THE WORLD



A collapsed building after an earthquake in Padada, Davao del Sur province. AP

PHILIPPINES
Child killed, several injured in powerful quake

Manila: A powerful earthquake hit the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on Sunday, killing a child, injuring dozens and damaging buildings in an area still recovering from a string of deadly quakes in October. Police said a rescue operation had been launched at a heavily damaged market building in Padada near the 6.8 magnitude quake's epicentre, which is about 90 kilometres south of the major city of Davao. Patients were evacuated from hospitals as a precaution and nervous crowds massed outside shopping malls after the jolt and dozens aftershocks.

NEW ZEALAND
Volcano toll rises to 18, search for bodies continues

Wellington: The death toll from New Zealand's White Island volcano eruption rose to 18 on Sunday, including two people whose bodies have not been recovered, police said. A land search early Sunday failed to find any sign of the missing pair and divers returned to the sea in the afternoon amid increasing speculation both could be in the water. Deputy police commissioner Mike Clement said there was "every chance" the bodies had been washed into the sea from the stream where they were last seen on Monday.

MEXICO
50 bodies unearthed from mass grave

Guadalajara: The bodies of at least 50 people have been unearthed from a mass grave at a farm outside Mexico's western city of Guadalajara, local authorities said. The grim site was discovered just over three weeks ago in Jalisco — a state hard-hit by violence linked to organized crime. The local prosecutor's office said Saturday 13 of the dead — 12 men and a woman — have been identified and the remains given to their families. The process of identifying more of the victims and how they died will continue, it added.

ANITA GATES
DECEMBER 15

ANNA KARINA, the Danish-born actress who became a symbol of the French New Wave — or Nouvelle Vague — in Jean Luc Godard's 1960s films, died on Saturday in Paris. She was 79.

The death was confirmed by France's culture minister, Franck Riester, in a post n Twitter and by her agent, Laurent Balandras, who wrote that the cause was cancer.

Making her first film in her teens, Karina started at the top: Godard's *Le Petit Soldat* (The Little

Longest UN climate talks end with no decision about key issue on agenda

Details of new carbon market postponed to next summit; after objections over draft agreement, final text lacks specifics



EXPRESS IN MADRID

AMITABH SINHA
DECEMBER 15

THE LONGEST-EVER climate conference delivered probably the weakest outcome ever. The two-week Madrid climate conference could produce an agreement only after removing everything that any country objected to from the final text, and postponing all decisions on the only major agenda item it had to finalise.

After several countries rejected the draft agreement texts that were prepared on Saturday morning, the conference had little option but to remove all contentious phrases and provisions, and produce an agreement that was mired in generalities and lacked any specific decisions.

The issue of framing rules for setting up a new carbon market under Paris Agreement, the only big issue to be finalised in Madrid, was deferred entirely to next year, as no country was willing to budge



Carolina Schmidt, president of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25), closes the summit in Madrid. Reuters

from their stated positions.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres echoed the mood of many after the conference, saying in a statement: "I am disappointed with the results of COP25 (the 25th edition of Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the official name of Madrid talks). The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaptation and finance to tackle the climate crisis. But we must not give up, and I will not give up."

Civil society groups, an important and vocal stakeholder in the negotiations, reacted with anger and disappointment at the out-

come of what was the longest ever climate talks. The two-week year-end conference was supposed to end by Friday evening, but continued till Sunday afternoon.

"I have been attending these climate negotiations since they first started in 1991. But never have I seen the almost total disconnect we've seen here at COP25 in Madrid between what the science requires and what the climate negotiations are delivering in terms of meaningful action," said Alden Meyer, director of policy and strategy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent scientific group. "Governments need to completely rethink how they do this, because the outcome of

EXPLAINED Uphill task for next year after little achieved in Madrid

THE RESULT from Madrid means negotiators face an uphill task next year to complete all the unfinished tasks ahead of the transition of the global climate regime from the 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the 2015 Paris Agreement. With the Paris Agreement set to come into effect next year, the rules of the new carbon market will have to be finalised soon. Moreover, with latest studies showing the world needs to do even more than what the Paris pact mandates, countries will be under pressure to increase their commitments.

COP25 is totally unacceptable," said Jennifer Morgan of Greenpeace International.

Apart from framing the rules for a new carbon market, the Madrid talks was expected to direct all countries to increase their climate actions in view of recent scientific assessments that show the world was not doing enough to prevent the extreme impacts of climate change. Some countries, especially the most vulnerable ones like small island states, were pushing for language directing all countries to update their climate action plans by next year to reflect the new realities. Such demands were resisted mainly by big developing countries like China, India

and Brazil, which had been arguing that countries be asked to deliver on their past and current promises before being asked to make any new commitments. These developing countries repeatedly pointed out that the current situation was a direct result of developed countries not meeting their targets in the pre-2020 period, and has demanded an assessment of the performance of developed countries on climate action, including their obligation to provide finance and technology to the developing world.

The final agreement included a general call stressing "the urgency of enhanced ambition" by all countries. There was no direc-

Calm broken in Hong Kong as police, protesters clash in malls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HONG KONG, DECEMBER 15

HONG KONG police used pepper spray and made multiple arrests on Sunday as small groups of black-clad pro-democracy protesters targeted some of the city's malls, ending a rare lull in violence.

Flashmob protests and vandalism broke out in multiple locations, prompting riot police to use pepper spray and make arrests in at least two shopping centres as members of the public heckled the officers.

AFP reporters in a Sha Tin mall saw a secondary school girl and a 16-year-old boy arrested, the pair shouting out their details as officers led them away.

Earlier in the afternoon an elderly woman was knocked over in the same mall after a fight broke out when a shopper tried to stop protesters from spraying graffiti.

Masked activists had also trashed restaurants run by Maxim's, a catering giant owned by a tycoon that has become a frequent target because his daughter has criticised the pro-democracy movement.

The skirmishes are the first to break out in three weeks.

Hong Kong has been up-



Police officers detain an anti-government protester during a demonstration inside a mall in Hong Kong on Sunday. Reuters

ended by six months of massive pro-democracy protests that have seen violent battles between police and hardcore demonstrators, as well as regular transport disruption.

The past month had seen a lull in the violence and vandalism after pro-democracy parties won a landslide in local council elections.

Last Sunday an estimated 800,000 marched peacefully through the streets.

But public anger remains as Beijing and city leader Carrie

Lam show no sign of giving further concessions despite the election success.

Lam is currently in Beijing for an annual visit and is set to meet President Xi Jinping on Monday.

The protests were ignited by a now scrapped plan to allow extra-ditions to the authoritarian mainland but have since morphed into a revolt against Chinese rule.

Among the movement's demands is an independent inquiry into the police and fully free elections.

Probe into possible 'white power' gestures at US military event

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 15

THE US Army and Navy academies are looking into hand signs flashed by students that can be associated with "white power" and were televised during the

Army-Navy football game on Saturday, school officials said.

Cadets at West Point and midshipmen at the Naval Academy in the stands both appeared to display the sign during the broadcast, officials with the two military academies told *The Wall Street Journal*.

The gesture was seen during an ESPN broadcast segment.

School officials are trying to determine what the hand signals were meant to convey, they said.

"We're looking into it," Lt. Col. Chris Ophardt, a spokesperson for the US Military Academy at West Point in New York, told the

Journal. "I don't know what their intention is".

"We are aware and will be looking into it," said Cmdr. Alana Garas, a spokesperson for the US Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Maryland. The Pentagon didn't immediately respond to *the Journal's* request for comment.

The hand sign is similar to the one often used to indicate "OK", but the Anti-Defamation League says it has lately been used as an extremist meme, in part because of its ambiguity. US Coast Guard leaders last year reprimanded an officer who used a similar hand sign during a television broadcast.

US secretly expels 2 Chinese embassy officials

EDWARD WONG & JULIAN E BARNES
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 15

THE AMERICAN government secretly expelled two Chinese embassy officials in September after they drove on to a sensitive military base in Virginia, according to people with knowledge of the episode. The expulsions appear to be the first of Chinese diplomats suspected of espionage in more than 30 years.

American officials believe at least one of the Chinese officials was an intelligence officer operating under diplomatic cover, said six people with knowledge of the expulsions. The group, which included the officials' wives, evaded military personnel pursuing them and stopped only after fire trucks blocked their path.

The base intrusion took place in late September on a sensitive installation near Norfolk, Virginia.

The Chinese officials and their wives drove up to a checkpoint for entry to the base, said people briefed on the episode. A guard, realising they did not have permission to enter, told them to go through the gate, turn around and exit the base. But the Chinese officials instead continued on to the base, according to those familiar with the incident. After their way was blocked, the Chinese officials indicated that they had not understood the guard's English instructions, and had simply gotten lost, according to people briefed on the matter. It was not clear what they were doing on the base. **NYT**

UK's Labour leader Corbyn apologises for election debacle

MIKE CORDER
LONDON, DECEMBER 15

LABOUR PARTY leader Jeremy Corbyn apologised Sunday for this party's crushing defeat in the British general election but defended his campaign, which failed to resonate with the party's working-class base, as "one of hope rather than fear."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party won 365 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons in Thursday's landslide election. Labour took 203 seats, its worst total since 1935.

Corbyn, 70, has pledged to stand down as the decimated party's leader and the maneuvering to replace him has begun.

"I'm sorry that we came up short and I take my responsibility for it," Corbyn wrote in a letter published in the left-leaning *Sunday Mirror* newspaper.

But he also said his party's ambitious, big-spending policy platform was popular and blamed the British media for its portrayal of Labour. Corbyn was widely criticised for his perceived tolerance of anti-Semitism in his inner circle.



I remain proud of the campaign we fought. I'm proud that no matter how low our opponents went, we refused to join them in the gutter."

— JEREMY CORBYN
UK OPPOSITION LEADER

After coming under fire in the aftermath of the electoral carnage, Corbyn said he will step down after a "period of reflection." The process of choosing a replacement will begin early next year, but some have called for Corbyn's immediate resignation.

"I remain proud of the campaign we fought. I'm proud that no matter how low our opponents went, we refused to join them in the gutter," he said. **AP**

'SHE COULD BE HEADSTRONG AND WAYWARD, GORGEOUS AND BROKEN'

Anna Karina, who became a symbol of French New Wave cinema, dead at 79

Soldier), about terrorism during the French-Algerian War. The film, shot in 1960, was not released until 1963 because of censorship. Between those two events, Karina won the 1961 best actress award at the Berlin International Film Festival for Godard's *Une Femme Est Une Femme* (A Woman Is a Woman), in which she played an unmarried stripper who wants to have a baby.

"Whatever Godard required, Karina provided," *The Guardian* newspaper wrote in 2016. "She could be headstrong and wayward, gorgeous and broken. She was the effervescent free spirit of the French New Wave, with all of

the scars that the position entails."

Her other full-length Godard films, released between 1961 and 1966, were *Vivre Sa Vie* (My Life to Live), about a young woman who drifts into prostitution; *Bande à Part* (Band of Outsiders), a crime comedy about a romantic triangle and a burglary; *Pierrot le Fou*, a crime drama about a bored husband on the run with his former mistress, an arms smuggler; *Alphaville*, a science-fiction tale set in a loveless dystopian future; and *Made in USA*, a crime comedy set in Atlantic-Cité, a fictional French town.

In later years, Karina played down the notion that she and



Anna Karina at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2018

Godard — whom she married in 1961 — were reinventing cinema, as some film historians liked to say, but she did acknowledge his

unusual directorial style.

"In older Hollywood movies, a character will make an entrance, close a door, light a cigarette, sit down, have a drink," she told *The New York Times* in 2016. "In Jean Luc's movies, you were doing everything at once. And sometimes you wouldn't shut the door all the way. Sometimes your cigarette wouldn't light on the first try." It was, she recalled, "more like being than acting."

Whether playing a street-walker or a terrorist, Karina managed to look flirtatious, with her dark hair, wispy bangs, heavy eyeliner and lycée-chic wardrobe of sailor-uniform tops, knee socks,

lots of plaid and perky headwear, from berets to boaters.

She went on to make about three dozen other films, and took up directing with the 1973 film *Vivre Ensemble*. "I wanted to see if I could do it. That's all," she told *The Guardian* decades later. She also directed, wrote and starred in her last film, *Victoria* (2008), about a woman with amnesia travelling in Canada.

Karina also pursued a singing career, with late-1960s hits like *Sous le Soleil Exactement* and *Roller Girl*, written by Serge Gainsbourg. And she wrote four novels, including *Golden City* (1983), which she described to the quarterly

Film Comment as "a kind of thriller, with gangsters."

But she was still best known for her earliest film roles.

Hanne Karin Bayer was born on Sept 22, 1940, in Solbjerg, Denmark, a suburban town on the country's east coast. Her father left the family a year after her birth. Her mother ran a dress shop.

At 14, she dropped out of school, sang in cabarets and worked as a television model. At 17, she ran away from home — hitchhiking to Paris — and was discovered by the casting director of an advertising agency while sitting at Les Deux Magots, the fashionable Left Bank cafe. During a

photo shoot for Elle magazine, she met the fashion designer Coco Chanel, who advised her to change her name.

Godard, a film critic at the time, saw her in a movie theater ad for a Palmolive bath product. When he subsequently offered her a small part in his first full-length film, "Breathless" (1960), she objected to doing a nude scene.

Godard called again and cast her in his next film, "Le Petit Soldat." Because she was a minor at the time, under French law she had to seek permission from her estranged mother, who flew to Paris to sign the contract. **NYT**