

# NEWS IN brief

## Pinochet's secret police chief dies in Chile

Manuel Contreras, the former head of Chile's feared intelligence service under the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, died Friday in a military hospital in Santiago. He was 86. The ex-general had been sentenced to more than 500 years in prison for a string of human rights abuses including the kidnap, torture and murder of opponents. Dozens of people came to the military hospital to "celebrate" the death of one of Chile's most notorious criminals.

## Drought forces Panama Canal restrictions

The Panama Canal will temporarily limit the size of ships using the waterway due to a drought caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, authorities said Friday. The Panama Canal Authority said the maximum ship draft will be cut to 11.89 meters (39 feet) from September 8, affecting 18.5 percent of vessels that normally transit the link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

## Indian president's wife in critical state

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee's wife, who was admitted to the Army Hospital here, is in critical condition, the authorities said yesterday. The president's wife, Suvera Mukherjee, who has been ill for some time, was admitted to the hospital on Friday evening. "She is having respiratory problem. She is a heart patient and has been kept in the ICU," a hospital spokesperson told IANS.



## China teacher gets life over student sex abuse

A Chinese court has sentenced a kindergarten teacher to life in jail for sexually abusing 12 of his students, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday. A court in the northern region of Ningxia sentenced Huang Zhenxin, a teacher at a rural school, for "raping or molesting" his female students, the report said. In May, China executed a former primary school teacher for raping and sexually abusing 26 children at his school, state media previously reported.

## Hong Kong records hottest day in history

Hong Kong yesterday recorded its hottest day since authorities began taking temperature readings 130 years ago, due to the influence of a nearby typhoon. The daily maximum temperature hit 36.3 degrees Celsius, the Hong Kong Observatory said, with higher temperatures recorded in some parts of the city earlier in the day.

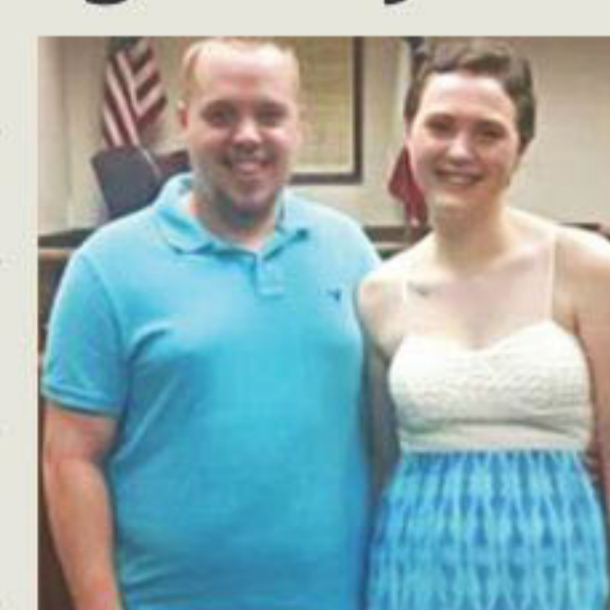
## 'INAPPROPRIATE' COMMENTS TO NEWS ANCHOR Trump dumped from key event

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was dumped from a prime speaking role at an important gathering of conservative activists on Friday for his criticism of Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly after a combustible debate performance. Trump was scheduled to deliver the keynote address yesterday night at a conference in Atlanta organized by Red State, an influential conservative group. Red State chief Erick Erickson said he had disinvited Trump from the event because of what he described as "demeaning" remarks about Kelly who was one of three moderators during the first major Republican debate on Thursday night in Cleveland. During the debate, Kelly asked Trump to respond to derogatory statements he had made in the past about women, calling them "fat pigs" for example. Trump tried to wave off the question and dismissed Kelly

during a raucous debate performance. "And honestly Megyn, if you don't like it, I'm sorry," Trump said. "I've been very nice to you, although I could probably maybe not be, based on the way you have treated me. But I wouldn't do that." Erickson said in a Facebook statement that in a CNN interview Trump said of Kelly: "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever." "His comment was inappropriate," said Erickson. Erickson said he had invited Kelly, one of Fox's highest profile anchors, to attend his conference in Trump's place. Trump was unbowed by the dumping. "This is just another example of weakness through being politically correct," his campaign said in a statement. "For all of the people who were looking forward to Trump coming, we will miss you. Blame Erick Erickson, your weak and pathetic leader. We'll now be doing another campaign stop at another location."

## 'Get married or go to jail'

A 20-year-old East Texas man jumped into a quickly arranged marriage after a judge told him last month he had a choice of getting hitched or spending 15 days in jail on an assault charge. According to court documents obtained on Friday, Smith County Judge Randall Rogers gave the option to Josten Bundy, of Tyler, Texas, who was arrested in March on a charge of assault causing bodily injury, a misdemeanor. Bundy had gotten into a fight with the ex-boyfriend of his then girlfriend and now wife. The judge said he would grant probation if Bundy married his 19-year-old girlfriend, Elizabeth Jaynes, within 30 days, write Bible verses and attend counseling. If he declined, he would go to jail, according to a transcript of the proceedings obtained by Tyler TV broadcaster KLTV. "Is she worth it?" Rogers asked Bundy, according to the transcripts. The bride's father was angry at the judge for pressuring the pair into marriage and was looking into whether this was judicial misconduct, he told KLTV. "He (the judge) can't do this by court ordering somebody to be married," the bride's father, Kenneth Jaynes, said. The judge was not available for comment. The couple, who had talked about eventually getting married but did not have immediate wedding plans, is happy that they have tied the knot. But did not appreciate being forced into it, they told the broadcaster. They were not immediately available for comment.



## Desert tragedy

French hikers die in US desert, son survives. A French couple died while hiking in the New Mexico desert but authorities rescued their nine-year-old son after finding photographs of him on his dead mother's camera, officials said Friday. David Steiner, 42, and Ornella Steiner, 51, both from the small town of Bourgogne near Reims, had been hiking in the White Sands National Monument on Tuesday afternoon when they apparently died from heat exhaustion, Otero County Sheriff's Detective David Hunter said. "They underestimated the elements," Hunter told AFP, adding that autopsy results were still pending. Park rangers found the mother first while on a routine patrol. They checked her camera and saw that she had been with two other people, Hunter said. Authorities followed her tracks and found the body of the father, with the son nearby. He was dehydrated but responsive and was taken to a local hospital for treatment. The New York Daily News said authorities had contacted the French consulate and the boy's grandmother had flown from France and taken custody of him on Thursday. Otero County Sheriff Benny House told local media that the family had been traveling across the United States, visiting national parks and monuments. National Parks spokesman Patrick O'Driscoll told the newspaper there was no shade or water along any of the trails in the dune-filled White Sands National Monument.

## ISIS executed 2,000 in Iraq's Mosul: Report

The Islamic State group has executed more than 2,000 people in and around the northern Iraqi city of Mosul since seizing it last year, officials said Friday. Parliament speaker Salim al-Juburi confirmed "the execution of more than 2,000 innocent citizens at the hands of the terrorist Daesh organisation," his office said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. According to sources in and around Mosul interviewed by AFP, a total of 2,070 people were executed since IS seized Iraq's second city on June 10, 2014. The names of 2,070 people were posted on a list compiled by the jihadist organisation, part of which was displayed on a wall of the local health ministry branch, several residents said. The list came with an order from ISIS, which has administered Mosul since taking over last year, for the ministry staff to deliver death certificates. A source at the ministry's department of forensic medicine confirmed the list had been received. The source said the people whose names were listed were accused by ISIS of "promoting ideas that distort Islam". A senior security official who used to be based in Mosul and still monitors ISIS activities there gave the same number of 2,070, saying it covered a period starting on June 10, 2014 and applied to the entire Nineveh province. ISIS controls most of Nineveh, of which Mosul is the capital. Among those listed on the ISIS order were policemen, former army officers, local officials, lawyers, journalists, doctors and rights activists. The names show that many women were also executed. ISIS has made no secret of its campaign of executions against those refusing to submit to its rule or who are simply suspected of secretly working against them. It has carried out several public executions, including by decapitation, firing squad, stoning or in at least one case pushing the accused off a high building.



Demonstrators protest in front of the police station to mark the first anniversary of the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot and killed by a Ferguson police officer on August 9, 2014. Brown's death sparked months of sometimes violent protests in Ferguson and drew nationwide focus on police treatment of black offenders.

## Typhoon aims China after killing five in Taiwan

Typhoon Soudelor moved towards China yesterday, weaker but still packing a punch, after killing at least five people and leaving a trail of destruction in Taiwan. The typhoon ripped up trees and triggered landslides in Taiwan, and knocked out power to 1.5 million homes. Rivers broke their banks under torrential rain and towering waves pounded the island's coastline. In mainland China, which faces Taiwan across a narrow strait, at least 250,000 people have been evacuated from the coastal provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang ahead of the typhoon's arrival which is forecast for yesterday evening. Already, strong winds and heavy rain have cut off power and destroyed farm crops along China's eastern coast, state media reported. "The tap water has stopped. The electricity is out. I'm hiding at home and scared to go outside," housewife Pan Danyun, who lives in Fujian's Fuzhou city, told AFP. Taiwanese authorities said five people had died in the storm including a firefighter in southern Pintung county and a man in the coastal town of Suao who was hit by a falling billboard. An eight-year-old girl and her mother had become the first fatalities when they were swept out to sea and died as the storm approached on Thursday. The dead girl's twin was also missing in the same incident, while another nine-year-old girl was injured but survived. A total of four people were missing and more than 60 injured, Taiwan's Central Emergency Operation Center said. Billed as the biggest typhoon of the year earlier in the week, Soudelor -- named after a legendary Micronesian chief -- has since weakened. But Soudelor was still packing winds of up to 144 km per hour (89 mph) as it crossed the strait between Taiwan and mainland China.

## SECOND DEATH IN JEWISH ARSON ATTACK Hamas calls for confrontation

The father of a Palestinian toddler killed when their home was firebombed by Jewish extremists last week died Saturday from injuries he suffered in the attack, prompting a Hamas call for "confrontation". The July 31 attack in the village of Duma led to angry Palestinian protests and an international outcry over Israel's failure to curb violence by hardline Jewish settlers. Saad Dawabsha died in hospital in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba where he was being treated for third-degree burns for the past eight days, Palestinian official Ghassan Daghlas said. Dawabsha's wife Riham and four-year-old son Ahmed are still fighting for their lives in another Israeli hospital, near Tel Aviv, after the attack that killed 18-month-old Ali. The Dawabsha family's small brick and cement home was gutted by the fire, and a Jewish Star of David spray-painted on a wall along with the words "revenge" and "long live the Messiah".

"Nothing will stop these murderous settler attacks and... we cannot wait until they come into our villages and our homes," Hossam Badran, spokesman of the Palestinian Islamic movement Hamas, wrote on Facebook from his base in Qatar yesterday. "Our people in the West Bank have only one choice: that of open and comprehensive confrontation against the occupation." Israeli media reported that the army was on alert for possible unrest in the occupied territory and for "Palestinian revenge attacks." The United Nations also called for restraint. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has condemned the attack as "terrorism in every respect", and vowed to spare no effort in catching those responsible. He ordered a crackdown on Jewish extremism that has seen three people detained, but no one has so far been accused of carrying out the firebombing. Several thousand mourners turned out to lay Dawabsha to rest, many carrying Palestinian flags, others with portraits of little Ali and the rest of the family.



Indian women dance at a tribal performance in Hyderabad on the eve of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples yesterday. The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on August 9 each year.

## COLORADO CINEMA MASSACRE Killer escapes death penalty, gets life in jail without parole

The American gunman who stormed a Batman movie premiere and killed 12 cinemagoers escaped the death penalty Friday but will spend the rest of his life behind bars. A Colorado jury failed to unanimously agree on execution for 27-year-old former graduate student James Holmes, obliging the judge to impose a sentence of life without parole. Last month, the killer had been convicted on 12 counts of murder in the first degree and scores more charges including murder, attempted murder and explosives possession. But defense counsel argued he has a mental illness and urged jurors to show clemency, an appeal apparently headed by at least one of the panel of nine women and three men. On each of the 12 murder counts that could have merited the death penalty, the

jury said in a statement read to the court: "We do not have a unanimous final sentencing verdict on this count." District Judge Carlos Samour thanked jurors for their service and set August 24 to 26 as the dates for Holmes's formal sentencing. Holmes attacked the packed premiere of "The Dark Knight Rises" at the Century 16 theater in Aurora on July 20, 2012, spraying bullets into the dark auditorium. He killed 12. Prosecutors said that the shooter deserved the death penalty because he had "meticulously" planned the attack, listening to loud techno while attacking victims to prevent himself from hearing them scream. The jury previously dismissed the idea that mental illness was a factor given the severity and grotesque nature of the massacre. More people would've died if it weren't for Holmes' weapon jamming, an AR-15 with 218 bullets unfired.

