

## TRUMP: 'IT WOULD BE HELPFUL' IF REPS HELP HIM

**LAS VEGAS:** Donald Trump railed Saturday against efforts by some frustrated Republicans planning a last-ditch effort to try to thwart him from becoming the party's nominee, threatening at one point to stop

fundraising if Republicans don't rally around him. Speaking at a theater at the Treasure Island hotel on the Las Vegas strip, Trump referred to "an insurgent group" trying to deny him delegates at the party's July con-

vention. "Now you have a couple of guys that were badly defeated and they're trying to organize maybe like a little bit of a delegate revolt," he said. "I thought they already tried that."

Trump pushed back against such efforts several times during his speech, claiming they were somehow "illegal" and then dismissing them as a media-generated fabrication. "It's all made up by the press," he said. "It's a hoax, I'm telling you." While Trump dismisses the effort as invented, more Republicans in Congress are saying they will not attend the party convention and are not endorsing his candidacy. Meanwhile, a movement exists among some conservative delegates and operatives to change party rules to allow a different nominee, though it's a longshot effort lacking sufficient backing and a candidate to offer up at an alternative.

Indeed, Trump wondered aloud who his opponents would pick as a replacement, a problem that has plagued the "Never Trump" movement for months. "Who are they going to pick? I beat everybody. But I don't mean beat - I beat the hell out of them," he said. At one point in his speech, Trump asserted without offering evidence that former rival Jeb Bush and a second Republican whom he did

not name were part of the movement opposing him. Neither Bush nor another former rival, Sen Ted Cruz, has endorsed Trump.

### Resistance

Trump has continued to face resistance from Republicans who have voiced increasing concern over his inflammatory rhetoric. And he appeared increasingly frustrated Saturday, saying, "It would be helpful if the Republicans could help us a little bit." The billionaire businessman also threatened that, if Republicans don't come together, he was prepared to stop fundraising and go back to largely self-funding his campaign. "I'd love to do it," said Trump, who has been holding fundraisers across the county this week largely benefiting the Republican National Committee. "You know, life is like a two-way street." A Republican National Committee spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's event drew several thousand people, but many seats remained empty when Trump began speaking because of security screening delays. Even after he took the stage, the line of supporters circled the slot machines on the casino floor. Tourists carrying beer and wearing bikinis watched the

crowds with amusement.

Trump mistakenly blamed the delays on the Transportation Security Administration, which sometimes handles audience screening but was not involved in screening at the Treasure Island hotel. Casino security, metro police and the Secret Service were handling those efforts at the Las Vegas event. "I'm not happy about it, but I have to put up with it," Trump told supporters after erroneously blaming the TSA. "They didn't bring enough machines."

In a late afternoon rally in Phoenix, where temperatures reached 109 degrees, the media-minded real estate developer bragged about the number of magazines that have placed him on their covers in recent months. "I feel like a supermodel, except like times 10," he said. "I'm a supermodel."

Trump has stepped up his criticism of President Barack Obama in the wake of the Orlando nightclub shooting. In Las Vegas, he told supporters: "If you think Orlando was the end of it with this weak attitude and this pathetic president we have, it wasn't, folks." He also offered a warning: "You are going to have problems the likes of which you've never seen unless Donald Trump becomes your president." —AP



**PHOENIX:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally on Saturday. —AP

## TENSION AT ORLANDO FUNERALS WITH PROTESTERS, IRATE DRIVER

### US SENATE INCHES TOWARD GUN CONTROL VOTES

**ORLANDO, Florida:** Funerals for two of the 49 victims killed in the shooting at a nightclub in Florida were marked by tense scenes on Saturday, as an impatient driver was accused of injuring two law enforcement officers and one burial took place under the watch of anti-gay protesters. Two Osceola County Sheriff's deputies on motorcycles were injured at the funeral procession for Jean Carlos Mendez in Kissimmee, Florida, some 32 km south of Orlando, when a driver cut through the cortege and struck them with her car, according to a statement on the sheriff's Facebook page. The deputies were taken to the hospital, where both were in stable condition, said the sheriff's spokeswoman, Twis Lizasuain.

At the funeral of another victim, Christopher Leinonen, at a church close to the center of Orlando, a handful of protesters from the Kansas-based anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church stood silently for about 45 minutes. They were blocked from view of those attending the funeral by about 200 counter-protesters, who cheered when the Westboro members left.

Members of the Orlando Shakespeare Theater used large "angel wings," measuring 8 feet wide and reaching 3 feet over shoulder height, to block out the protesters. The wings, made of white cloth and plastic piping by volunteers from the theater's costume and set shops, first surfaced at the 1998 funeral of Matthew Shepard, a gay

man murdered in Wyoming.

The shooting in Orlando continued to reverberate around the world. More than a thousand people attended a candle-light vigil in Berlin to show solidarity with the victims of the attack and their families. The Brandenburg Gate, long a symbol of division in the city, was lit up in rainbow colors, according to pictures posted on Twitter under the hashtag #berlinfororlando.

Authorities are still investigating what motivated Omar Mateen to kill 49 people at the popular gay nightclub Pulse in the early hours of last Sunday, perpetrating the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history. Mateen was later killed in a shootout with police. The shooting has sparked a new push

for gun control legislation and Congress is expected to vote on proposals starting next week, including one on stopping people on terrorism watch lists from buying guns.

Democrats, including President Barack Obama, are framing gun restrictions as a national security issue after Mateen professed loyalty to Islamist militants. But authorities believe he was "self-radicalized" and acted without any direction from outside networks.

### Troubled Past

US Federal Bureau of Investigation agents on Friday questioned a member of the Florida mosque attended by Mateen, as new information surfaced revealing the killer had exhibited chronic behavioral problems during his youth. Academic records obtained by Reuters showing Mateen was frequently suspended as a student added to a disturbing portrait of the long-troubled gunman. Mateen, a 29-year-old private security guard, has been described by his first wife as an abusive, mentally disturbed man with a violent temper.

Others who knew him recalled Mateen, a US citizen and Florida resident born in New York to Afghan immigrants, as a quiet, socially awkward individual who kept largely to himself. The FBI has acknowledged interviewing Mateen in 2013 and 2014 for suspected ties to Islamist militant groups but concluded he posed no threat. Still, evidence in the Orlando case points to a crime at least inspired by extremist ideology.

Authorities have said Mateen paused a number of times during his three-hour siege at the Pulse nightclub to place cell phone calls to emergency 911 dispatchers and to post Internet messages professing support for various Islamist militant groups. US officials have said his second wife, Noor Salman, had known of his plans to carry out the attack and a federal grand jury was convened to decide whether to charge Salman. —Reuters



**NEW YORK:** This file photo taken on June 7, 2016 shows Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton sharing a moment on stage with her husband, former US president Bill Clinton, during her primary night event at the Duggal Greenhouse in Brooklyn Navy Yard. —AFP

## CLINTONS 'OVER THE MOON' ABOUT BIRTH OF GRANDCHILD

**WASHINGTON:** Hillary and Bill Clinton welcomed the birth of their second grandchild Saturday, gushing that they are "over the moon". "We are overjoyed to be grandparents again with the arrival of our grandson, Aidan Clinton Mezvinsky, born on Saturday, June 18, 2016," the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and her husband, the former president, wrote in a statement. "We are all over the moon as Chelsea and Marc welcome Charlotte's little brother to the world and grateful for our many blessings," they added. "Chelsea and Aidan are both doing well and enjoying this very special time together."

Chelsea, 36, had announced via Twitter a short time earlier that she and husband Marc Mezvinsky had become parents to a baby boy. "Marc and I are overwhelmed with gratitude and love as we celebrate the birth of our son," she tweeted. The former first daughter delivered at Lenox Hill Hospital on Manhattan's Upper East Side. She gave birth to her first child, daughter Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky, in 2014.

Hillary Clinton has boasted about being a grandmother as one of the achievements of which she is most proud. "Until it happened to me, I just could not understand the impact," she was quoted as saying at a campaign event earlier this month. "It is truly like falling in love all over again. There is nothing like it. It's transformational and until you did it, it is hard to know," she added. "And it has for me been an absolutely life-changing experience."

Chelsea Clinton is the vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by her father to address global health issues and other causes. She married Mezvinsky, 38, in 2010. Both studied at Stanford University. An investment banker, he is the son of two former Democratic members of Congress. Hillary Clinton is not the only presidential candidate to have welcomed a new grandchild on the campaign trail. Ivanka Trump, the daughter of Clinton's Republican rival Donald Trump, gave birth to a third child in March. The baby is Trump's eighth grandchild. —AFP



**PUERTO RICO:** Accompanied by grieving family members, Luis Angel Candelario bids farewell to his brother Angel Candelario, a 28-year-old nurse and National Guard member, at his gravesite at the Guanica municipal cemetery on Saturday. —AFP

## OBAMA TOUTS ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD ON FAMILY OUTING TO NATIONAL PARKS

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK:** US President Barack Obama and the first family celebrated America's cherished natural heritage Saturday during a weekend tour marking the 100th anniversary of the nation's vaunted national park system. Obama, also using the occasion to tout his environmental record, is the first sitting president since John F. Kennedy in 1962 to visit California's Yosemite National Park. Obama has made protecting nature areas one of the hallmarks of his presidency. Since 2009, he has set aside as protected areas more than 265 million acres (100 million hectares) of public lands and waters across the country, more than any of his predecessors did. A large part of that involves a marine sanctuary around islands and atolls in the Pacific.

In doing so, he relied on the Antiquities Act, a law signed in 1906 by then president Theodore Roosevelt, a fervent advocate of preserving the country's natural

resources. For Obama, who has made the fight against climate change a priority of his two terms in office and complains of systematic obstructionism by the Republican-controlled Congress, the law has been key to circumventing his opponents on environmental issues.

It allows the president to move swiftly to preserve threatened areas, which can be transformed into national parks if Congress gives the go ahead. The Grand Canyon, Death Valley and vast swaths of Alaska have benefited from the law. Before Obama, 16 presidents have used the measures. Only three, all of them Republicans, did not do so: Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Before leaving office in January, Obama could sign off on other protection projects awaiting his signature, such as an expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea marine reserve in Hawaii, declared a decade ago by

George W. Bush and home to many endangered species. Over the years, such presidential designations have often triggered conflicts because they end up prohibiting exploration and development of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal on the protected lands or in protected waters.

Some lawmakers question the legal foundation of the Antiquities Act and what they see as a carte blanche for the president. These lawmakers complain of poor management of federal lands and stymied economic development. They have tried in vain several times to have the law erased. But the national park system remains hugely popular in the United States. The 400-odd parks received a record 305 million visitors last year. The system turns 100 on Aug. 25.

"We have more work to do to preserve our lands and culture and our history. We're not done yet," Obama said in a speech against the spectacular backdrop of Yosemite Falls, the highest waterfall in the park. "For this centennial, we're asking all Americans to find your park so everyone, including those from underserved communities, can experience these wonders."

### 'Spectacular'

On Friday, the president and his family visited Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, which features more than 100 caves, three of them open to the public. The Obamas visited the Big Room, a large cave chamber located 230 m underground and filled with stalactites and stalagmites. It is also a sanctuary for hundreds of thousands of bats. "Spectacular," Obama said. "How cool is this?" he added as he turned to journalists, although the comment seemed aimed more at his teenage daughters, Malia and Sasha.

Several hours later, after flying over waterfalls and granite peaks, the first family traveled to Yosemite, known for its giant redwood trees. At one point, he and first lady Michelle stopped to chat with some kids at a park facility under bright, sunny skies and Mrs Obama asked them what they would do to scare away bears. As the kids started yelling, the president said: "Oh, I would get out of here!" —AFP



**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, California:** US President Barack Obama speaks by the Sentinel Bridge in the Yosemite Valley in front of the Yosemite Falls, which is the highest waterfall in the park on Saturday. —AP

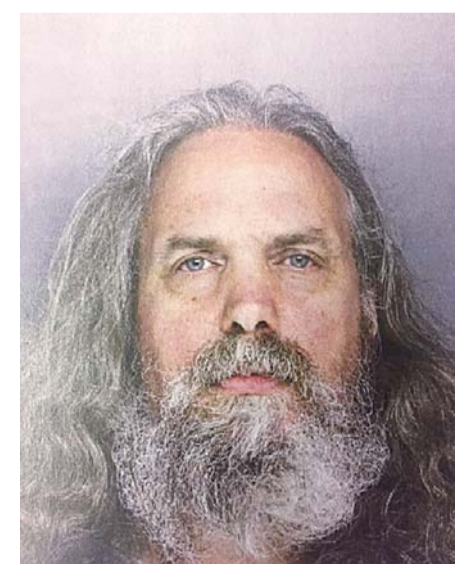
## MAN CHARGED WITH RAPE AFTER RECEIVING 'GIFT' OF US TEEN

**NEW YORK:** The authorities in Pennsylvania have charged a man with raping a teenage girl with whom he fathered two children after receiving her as a "gift" from her parents, US media said Saturday. Police arrested Lee Kaplan, 51, in the town of Feasterville - around 30 km northeast of Philadelphia - on Thursday on charges including statutory sexual assault and corruption of a minor, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The teen's parents and her nine sisters also lived in Kaplan's home. The 18-year-old teen was the oldest among her siblings. Child welfare authorities removed the young mother, her two young daughters and her nine sisters. The victim's parents, Daniel and Savilla Stoltzfus, gave her to Kaplan four years ago in gratitude "for helping (the) family out of financial ruin," according to criminal complaints. She was 14 years old at the time. Her two children are three years old and six months old.

Her parents have also been arrested, news reports said. They and Kaplan are being held on \$1 million bail each. The Stoltzfuses told police they were going to lose their farm until Kaplan "comes along and gives them money somehow." Bucks County District Attorney David Heckler told the Inquirer. The teen previously lived in an Amish town in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with her parents and siblings before the family was kicked out of the community for unknown reasons, the authorities said.

Although Kaplan and the 18-year-old were not married, they acted as husband and wife, officials said. The girls rarely went outside, neighbors told local media. None of the children appears to have attended school and it was unclear if they had ever been to a doctor. However, officials said they saw no visible signs of abuse or poor health.



**Lee Kaplan**

The authorities said an anonymous phone call had tipped them off. Local media identified the caller as Jen Betz, a neighbor. She told television station WPVI she had seen several young girls living in the home all wearing blue dresses and appearing afraid. "I just wasn't gonna let go," Betz said. "I saw a couple girls last week standing in the driveway. They just looked unhappy and sad and again in the blue dresses, and I've been telling my husband for years something isn't right, something isn't right."

Suspicious neighbors had complained about the home three years ago, local television station CBS3 reported. "I really can't believe it, because I really thought it was his own daughter," another neighbor told the station. —AFP