

One dead in LA hostage drama

Gunman surrendered after a woman was killed in the supermarket shooting

AFP | Los Angeles

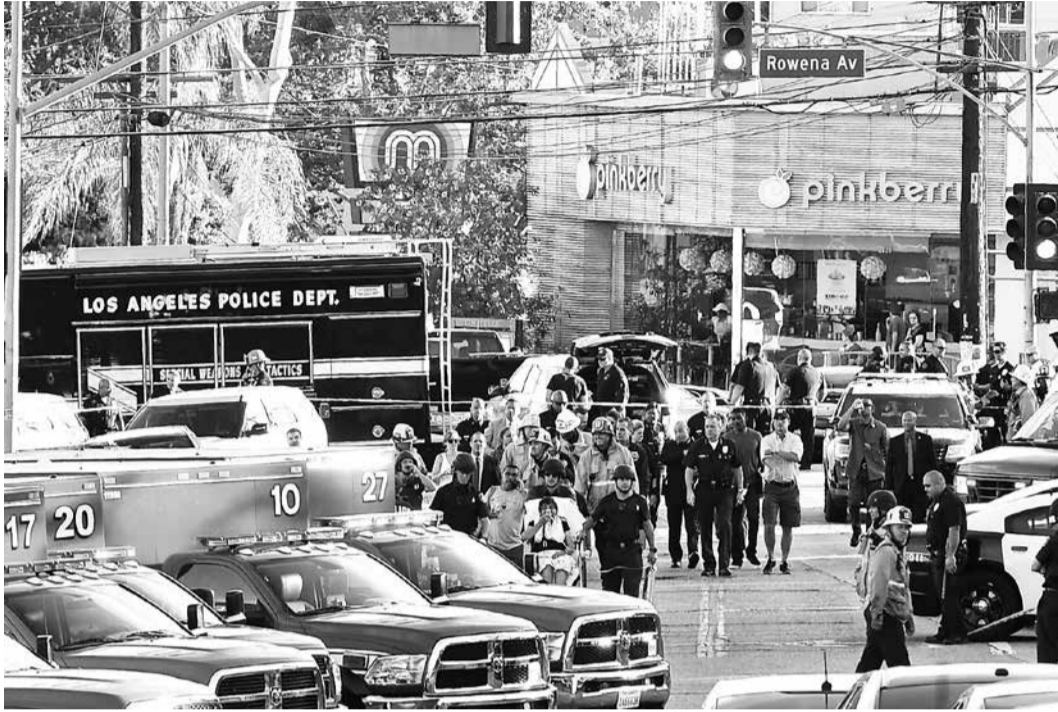
A gunman took hostages inside a supermarket in Los Angeles on Saturday after a gun battle with police, leaving a store employee dead before the suspect handcuffed himself and surrendered, police said.

The drama began at another location when a man became "involved in a family dispute which resulted in him shooting his grandmother and a female," Sergeant Barry Montgomery told journalists.

"That suspect fled the location in his grandmother's vehicle, taking that female victim with him," and eventually entered a Trader Joe's supermarket in the Silver Lake neighbourhood, he said.

While police chased him, the suspect "fired on officers multiple times" before an "additional gun battle" outside the Trader Joe's, Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore told reporters.

"Inside the store a young woman was shot and killed,"



Police officers and members of the Los Angeles Fire Department escort a woman on a stretcher after a suspect barricaded inside a Trader Joe's supermarket in Silverlake, Los Angeles

Moore said, adding that officers rescued her but she could not be revived.

There were contradictory reports about whether the victim, whom US media identified as

store employee Melyda Corado, was shot by the gunman or in the crossfire with the police.

The gunman took "numerous victims, of citizens as well as store employees, hostage," the chief said.

Officers freed some workers and customers, while the hostage-taker released others himself.

About three hours after the ordeal began, negotiations led to the man "handcuffing himself and coming outside and surrendering to SWAT officers," the police chief said.

During the earlier shootout the suspect was wounded in the arm, Mayor Eric Garcetti said.

The incident injected chaos -- and scores of police and fire vehicles -- into the busy commercial area of shops and apartment buildings.

'Bullets flying everywhere' Don Kohles was standing outside the store when the suspect's car slammed into a pole.

Then Kohles heard two shots. He ran into the exit door of the Trader Joe's, looked back at the street and saw two police officers shooting at a man, he said.

Trump aide's 'Russia ties' alleged in secret US documents

AFP | Washington

The FBI believed that a former Trump campaign advisor had ties to Russia as it sought to influence the 2016 US presidential election, top secret documents released to US news organizations revealed on Saturday.

The October, 2016 application to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court named Carter Page, a former foreign policy advisor to the campaign of Donald Trump, according to the documents which The New York Times published.

Dozens injured in police clashes at Nepal healthcare protest

AFP | Kathmandu

Dozens of protesters in Nepal have been injured in clashes with police at a demonstration in support of a hunger-striking doctor seeking better healthcare in the impoverished Himalayan country.

Thousands took to the streets in solidarity with Dr Govinda KC, who has been on a hunger strike for nearly a month demanding reforms in the medical sector and education.

Protestors from Nepal Tarun Dal, the youth wing of the opposition party Nepali Congress, were injured when police fired multiple rounds of teargas and used batons as they entered a restricted area near the parliament in capital Kathmandu.

Forest fires destroy 800 hectares in Latvia

AFP | Riga, Latvia

Fires raging for five days have destroyed more than 800 hectares (2,000 acres) of western Latvia, authorities said Sunday, with continuing extremely high temperatures hampering firefighters' efforts.

Satellite images showed the fires have wiped out 170 acres of forest, 257 hectares of scrubland and nearly 400 hectares of peatland.

Thousands swim between continents in famed Istanbul race

AFP | Istanbul

Thousands of people, some serious racers but others plucky amateurs, swam from Asia to Europe across the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul yesterday in Turkey's most iconic swimming race.

About 2,400 swimmers took part in the Samsung Bosphorus Cross-Continental Swim, organised by the Turkish Olympic Committee, for the 30th race since the tradition began in 1989.

The event is hugely popular, with only a limited quota for international swimmers, who snatched up all their available places in less than half an hour after registration opened, organisers said. Swimmers came from 55 different countries.

The competitors were taken by one of Istanbul's famous ferries to the start of the race on the Asian side of the city in the shoreside district of Kalinca.

When the race began they moved off the ferry onto a pontoon to dive -- or for the more nervous jump -- into the waters of the Bosphorus that divides Europe and Asia.

From there it was a tough 6.5-kilometre (four-mile) swim in the direction of the Sea of



Known in Turkish as Bogazici (the Strait), it links the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara and, with the Dardanelles Strait (in Canakkale), separates Europe from Asia. It is a former river valley which was drowned by the sea at the end of the Tertiary period

Marmara to Kurucesme on the European side of the city, close to the first bridge to span the Strait which is now named after the victims of the July 15, 2016 failed coup.

Navigating the current

The Bosphorus is usually thronged with oil tankers, cargo ships and ferries making it one of the most choked shipping lanes in the world.



Swimmers jump in the Bosphorus river as they take part in the Bosphorus Cross Continental Swim event

But the Strait was closed to traffic for the duration of the race, allowing swimmers an uninhibited passage across the waters, which were dotted with individual swimmers and the white crests in their wake.

The current pushes swimmers towards their destination, but good navigation is key because if they lose their way the swimmers risk being swept away and missing the finish.

A team of rescue boats kept a careful eye on the progress of the swimmers.

"The hardest thing is the current," said swimmer Viktoria Reshetilova, one of many from Russia, which formed the largest foreign contingent.

"The toughest part is not to be swept away and miss the finish. The best is being part of a movement."

Osman Sirin, a Turkish

46-year-old, expressed pride at the finish.

"The most difficult were the waves, especially during the last two kilometres. The best thing is being here now!"

The fastest swimmer was Turkish Cypriot Dogukan Ulac, who swam the 6.5 kilometres in just 46 minutes and 58 seconds.

The fastest woman was Hilal Zeynep Sarac, who finished in 50 minutes and 30 seconds.

Inflatable 'Trump Chicken' to sail off coast of San Francisco

The Hill | Washington

A 33-foot tall inflatable blimp depicting President Trump as a chicken will set sail on Sunday off the coast of San Francisco.

The chicken is dressed in black-and-white prison strips and labeled "Prisoner 45," the Bay Area KRON 4 News reported Saturday.

The Trump Chicken reportedly first made its debut last year during the San Francisco Tax March and even came to the



The inflatable 'Trump Chicken' dressed as a prisoner

White House in February.

Most recently the Trump Chicken was spotted on an "Alcatraz Prison Transport" boat floating around the infamous prison island complex.

A GoFundMe page was established to help raise money for the chicken's adventures and cover the cost of rental boats.

Earlier this month, a 20-foot inflatable "Trump Baby Blimp" made its debut in the United Kingdom during Trump's visit.

The orange diaper-clad baby holding a cell phone flew over

London and Edinburgh.

British museums are now bat-

ling over which will get to add the blimp to its collection.

New Jersey activist Didier Jimenez-Castro has raised more than \$23,000 in an effort to fly the "Trump baby" blimp over Trump's Bedminster, N.J., golf course, where he regularly spends his weekends.

Another fundraiser was launched to bring the "Baby Blimp" to Washington, D.C., during Trump's military parade.

A 15-foot inflatable "Trump Rat" also appeared in Washington in 2017.

45

The 33-foot inflatable blimp shows Donald Trump as a huge chicken wearing a black-and-white outfit labelled Prisoner 45, which refers to Trump being the United States' 45th president