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Cosby faces criminal charges in assault case

Entertainer is accused of indecent contact with a woman he 'mentored'

BY CHRISTINE HAUSER AND DANIEL VICTOR

The authorities in Pennsylvania announced criminal charges on Wednesday against the entertainer Bill Cosby stemming from a woman's accusation that he drugged and sexually abused her at his home in a suburb north of Philadelphia, in 2004.

Kevin Steele, Montgomery County's district attorney-elect, said that Mr. Cosby faces a felony charge of aggravated indecent assault. He said the investigation involved a "relationship" between Mr. Cosby and the victim, Andrea Constand, that came about from her work with the basketball team at Temple University, Mr. Cosby's alma mater.

Mr. Cosby became a "mentor" and "friend" to Ms. Constand, Mr. Steele said, and at one point she went to his home in Cheltenham Township. According to the accusations, Mr. Cosby urged her to take pills and drink wine until she was unable to move, after which he committed the assault.

"The evidence is strong and sufficient to proceed," Mr. Steele said. He added: "A person in that state cannot give consent."

Mr. Cosby's lawyer, Monique Pressley, had no immediate comment but said a statement would be coming later Wednesday.

Ms. Constand's lawyer, Dolores M. Troiani, expressed "appreciation" to law enforcement in a statement on Wednesday, praising them for "the consideration and courtesy they have shown Andrea during this difficult time."

Mr. Cosby was expected to be arraigned on Wednesday.

Mr. Steele said his office was examining evidence related to other alleged victims, but the charges related to just one.

COSBY, PAGE 6



A funeral on Wednesday for a man killed during fighting in Dargecit, a town in southeastern Turkey. The government had imposed a curfew amid military action against Kurdish rebels.

In Turkey, fight against rebels takes heavy toll

ISTANBUL

Major military campaign against Kurdish militants levels cities in southeast

BY CEYLAN YEGINSU

A major Turkish military operation to eradicate Kurdish militants from their strongholds in Turkey's restive southeast has turned dozens of urban districts into bloody battlefields, displacing hundreds of thousands of civilians and shattering hopes of reviving peace as an old and bitter war reaches its deadliest level of violence in two decades.

Over the past week, Turkish tanks and artillery have relentlessly pounded Kurdish targets across several cities in the southeast, killing at least 200 militants and more than 150 civilians, according to human rights groups and local officials.

Their descriptions of the fighting and mass destruction in populated areas, which are off-limits to journalists, depict war zones not unlike the scenes of devastation ravaging parts of neighboring Syria to the south.

Several Turkish cities are under tight lockdown, and many residents have become trapped without food or electricity as violent clashes between Kurdish militants and Turkish security forces have intensified.

Militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or P.K.K., have dug trenches and erected barricades and are using heavy



The Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is seeking more nationalist support.

Trump turns attacks on another Clinton

Onetime friend Bill now fair game as treatment of women enters campaign

BY AMY CHOZICK

For years, President Bill Clinton was the best friend Donald J. Trump always hoped to have.

When scandal engulfed Mr. Clinton's White House, Mr. Trump leapt to the president's defense. "He's probably got

the toughest skin I've ever seen, and I think he's a terrific guy," Mr. Trump told CNN.

Then there were Mr. Trump's pitches to the former president to settle in a gilded Trump building in Manhattan when he and Hillary Clinton left the White House. They moved to Westchester instead. His overtures for them to vacation at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla., were also rebuffed. The Clintons preferred the Dominican Republic.

When Mr. Clinton had trouble joining a conservative Westchester golf club,

Mr. Trump boasted that he welcomed the former president to a newly built Trump National Golf Club, a five-minute drive from the Clintons' Chappaqua, N.Y., home.

"He's a great gentleman, a good golfer and a wonderful guy," the real estate developer said of Mr. Clinton, who, in reality, is a so-so golfer known for taking mulligans.

In the past week, any semblance of a friendship between Mr. Trump and Bill Clinton came to an ugly end as the former president and his wife's presidential

campaign found themselves in a muddy battle over sexism with the Republican candidate who has upended this election cycle with his insults and attacks.

"If Hillary thinks she can unleash her husband, with his terrible record of women abuse, while playing the women's card on me, she's wrong!" Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter on Monday.

The criticism of Mr. Clinton's personal life comes as Mrs. Clinton is increasingly relying on the former president, mentioning him in almost every speech

TRUMP, PAGE 6



Dejaillon Arruda at home in Santa Cruz do Capibaribe, Brazil, with his daughter Luiza, who was born with microcephaly, a rare condition in which a baby's head is abnormally small.

Mosquito-borne virus panics Brazilians

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Spike in rare birth defect alarms pregnant women and officials urge caution

BY SIMON ROMERO

A little-known virus spread by mosquitoes is causing one of the most alarming health crises to hit Brazil in decades, officials here warn: thousands of cases of brain damage, in which babies are born with unusually small heads.

Many pregnant women across Brazil are in a panic. The government, under withering criticism for not acting sooner, is urging them to take every precau-

tion to avoid mosquito bites. One official even suggested that women living in areas where mosquitoes are especially prevalent postpone having children.

"If she can wait, then she should," said Claudio Maierovitch, director of the department of surveillance of communicable diseases at Brazil's health ministry.

The alarm stems from a huge surge in babies with microcephaly, a rare, incurable condition in which their heads are abnormally small. Brazilian officials registered at least 2,782 cases in 2015, compared with just 147 in 2014 and 167 the year before.

At least 40 of the infants have died, and some Brazilian researchers warn that cases could multiply in the months ahead. Those babies who survive may face impaired intellectual development

for the rest of their lives.

Brazilian researchers say that an obscure mosquito-borne virus that made its way to the country only recently — Zika — is to blame for the sudden increase in brain damage among infants.

But other virologists caution that more testing is needed to prove the dangerous link between the virus and brain damage, leaving the full extent of the threat to the country, and the hemisphere, unclear.

"Why this may have happened in Brazil and not elsewhere is at this stage difficult to answer," said Alain Kohl, a virologist at the University of Glasgow who studies Zika.

"Perhaps it was never properly registered in other areas, or the situation in Brazil is indeed different," he added, citing

BRAZIL, PAGE 6

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

Police charges seldom lead to jail

In 2015, 18 officers in the United States were charged in fatal shootings, research shows. But despite heavy sanctions, police departments have resisted change. WORLD NEWS, 4

Possible foreign hand in Paris terror

The attacks in November that left 130 people dead may have been coordinated or tracked from abroad, according to French police reports. WORLD NEWS, 3

China's national drink heads West

By volume, baijiu is the most widely consumed spirit in the world. But for many non-Chinese drinkers, it is also the most challenging. BUSINESS, 15

The new racism in Germany

A recent racist rant by a right-wing politician may bode ill for Germany's stable, stolid mainstream, Anna Sauerbrey writes. OPINION, 8



CULTURE CLASH Hindu monks on a mountain near Shinde, India, where a Chinese company secured 250 acres of farmland, causing political and religious ripple effects. BUSINESS, 14

ONLINE AT INYT.COM

A new look at Mao-era premier

A book says that the first premier of the People's Republic of China, Zhou Enlai, may have been gay and that this could explain his careful relationship with Mao Zedong. nytimes.com/asia

The terrible beauty of brain surgery

A writer and photographer witness operations during which the patients are conscious. nytimes.com/magazine

Pint-size diplomacy at play

Samantha Power, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, invited a family of Syrian refugees to her official residence. Her children and theirs soon hit it off. nytimes.com/nyregion

A resounding symbol of triumph

Morgan State's marching band caught the eye of the photographer Jules Allen, whose work aims "to describe African-American culture as a celebration of victory." nytimes.com/sports

NEWSSTAND PRICES table with columns for country and price

IN THIS ISSUE table with columns for section and page number

CURRENCIES table with columns for currency and rate

STOCK INDEXES table with columns for index and value

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