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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

At Least One Dead in Sochi's Flash Floods

By The Moscow Times

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A person standing under an umbrella looks at a partially submerged truck on a street flooded after heavy rains in Sochi, Russia, June 25, 2015.

SOCHI — Flash floods brought the Black Sea resort of Sochi to a standstill on Thursday and apparently killed at least one person as it halted trains and left cars half-submerged in the city where Russia staged the Winter Olympics.

See the Photo Gallery: Flash Floods Hit Olympic City Sochi

Policemen, who had been sent to evacuate people from some areas outside Sochi after several hours of torrential rain, found one male corpse, a regional Internal Ministry said in a statement on Thursday evening.

Russian Railways said train service had been partly restored after a halt to the station in Adler,

the district that hosted many of the Olympic events. Sochi Airport has also resumed partial operation by Thursday evening, the news agency Interfax said.

A Reuters cameraman said some roads were impassable and people were trying to retrieve parked cars that had been left almost completely under water. Others were clearing flooded cellars and courtyards where the water was knee-high.

State-run Russia Today television said the Formula One race track at Adler was also hit by the flooding.

"There's no water, no gas, no electricity. They say it could be back tonight or maybe tomorrow," said Alla Atakyan, a resident of Adler.

Rain also affected other areas of southern Russia, including the wheat producing and exporting region of Krasnodar, which started harvesting a few days ago.

"The situation is difficult but the rain should stop in two or three days and dry weather is expected next week," said Dmitry Rylko, head of the IKAR agriculture consultancy.

"There is a possibility that wheat quality will be damaged in some areas but we do not expect any disastrous consequences," he said.

Further south, in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, severe flooding last week killed at least 19 people in the capital Tbilisi and caused extensive damage. Dozens of animals escaped from Tbilisi zoo, including a tiger which killed a man before being shot dead.

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