

Triplets Born, But Two Are Conjoined

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A South Texas woman has given birth to triplet girls, with two of the babies conjoined at the pelvis.

Dr. Haroon Patel, a pediatric surgeon at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, said Monday that it will likely be at least six months until the conjoined babies, who share a colon, will be separated.

Catalina, Ximena and Scarlett were born Saturday at Corpus Christi Medical Center-Bay Area, said hospital spokeswoman Lisa Robertson. She said the conjoined girls — Ximena and Scarlett — were transferred Sunday to Driscoll.

Patel said the conjoined babies, who were in good condition Monday at the hospital, will need to get "bigger and stronger" before undergoing separation surgery. He also said doctors will need time to work on a plan to separate the girls.

Robertson said the girls were born to Silvia Hernandez of Brownsville via cesarean section, at about 34 weeks. A normal pregnancy is about 41 weeks. Each baby weighed 4 pounds, 11 ounces. They were breathing without respirators.

No Camera To Provide Clues In Crash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years ago, federal accident investigators recommended that the government require video cameras in locomotive cabs to record engineers' actions. But it didn't happen. Now, that's left a gap in unraveling last week's fatal Amtrak derailment.

It's an old story for the National Transportation Safety Board. Accidents occur, people die and there is a clamor for action. Later, when attention moves elsewhere, recommendations frequently lag for years. Some are never realized.

In the Amtrak crash, the train was equipped with a "black box" data recorder and a camera focused on the track ahead. Information from those devices shows that in the last minute before the crash the train accelerated rapidly, reaching 106 miles per hour just before entering a curve where the speed limit was 50. Maximum braking power was applied in the last few seconds, but it was too late.

The train derailed, leaving eight people dead, about 200 injured and a mangled mess of rail cars. Amtrak service between Philadelphia and New York didn't resume until Monday.

What investigators would like to know is why the train accelerated. Was it a deliberate act by the engineer? An accident? Or was there some other reason?

Charges Filed Against Gang Members

WACO, Texas (AP) — About 170 members of rival motorcycle gangs were charged with engaging in organized crime Monday, a day after a shootout at a Texas restaurant that killed nine people and wounded 18.

The crowd of suspects was so large that authorities opened a convention center to hold them all before they were arrested, police said.

Sunday's melee at the Twin Peaks restaurant in Waco drew a broad police response that included placing officers atop buildings and highway overpasses to watch for other bikers rushing to the scene to retaliate.

McLennan County Justice of the Peace W.H. Peterson set bond at \$1 million for each suspect. He defended the high amount, citing the violence that quickly unfolded in a shopping market busy with a lunchtime crowd.

"We have nine people dead, because these people wanted to come down and what? Drink? Party?" Peterson said. "I thought it was appropriate."

Wingsuit Fliers Jump To Deaths

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two wingsuit fliers who leaped from a cliff in Yosemite National Park were trying to zoom through a notch in a ridgeline and were airborne for about 15 seconds when they slammed into a rocky outcropping and were killed, a friend said Monday.

Dean Potter, 43, and Graham Hunt, 29, were experienced at flying in wingsuits — the most extreme form of BASE jumping, a sport so dangerous enthusiasts keep lists of the dead.

On Saturday, wearing the "flying squirrel" outfits that have fabric stitched between the arms and body and between the legs to keep them aloft, Potter and Hunt leaped off Taft Point, 3,500 feet above the valley floor. They would have been traveling at speeds close to 100 mph as they aimed for the narrow gap in the ridge.

Their bodies were found in a notch they had already flown through about a dozen times, professional climber Alex Honnold said. No one knows exactly what went wrong. A gust of wind or a slight miscalculation could have sent them off course, hurtling into rock.

"What they were doing is pretty routine for them," Honnold said. "Not like a once-in-a-lifetime performance."

Obama Gets His Own POTUS Account

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is embracing short-form communication. Twitter has a new @POTUS account.

With a frugal 92-character message — 48 short of maximum permitted — Obama on Monday declared: "Hello, Twitter! It's Barack. Really! Six years in, they're finally giving me my own account."

The account name — @POTUS — stands for the common acronym used for President of the United States.

The White House says the tweets on that account will come exclusively from the president. The Obama-affiliated Organizing for Action group has an @BarackObama account and the White House has an @WhiteHouse handle, both mostly written by staff. Obama has on rare occasions used them, signing his personal messages with his initials, BO.

The move is the latest by a White House particularly attuned to social media and new technology. But Twitter, with its ability to be anonymously interactive, is a new forum for the president, even one who carries his own BlackBerry.

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN AND SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Islamic State militants searched door-to-door for policemen and pro-government fighters and threw bodies in the Euphrates River in a bloody purge Monday after capturing the strategic city of Ramadi, their biggest victory since overrunning much of northern and western Iraq last year.

Some 500 civilians and soldiers died in the extremist killing spree since the final push for Ramadi began Friday, authorities said.

Responding to a call from Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, hundreds of Iranian-allied Shiite militiamen rushed to a military base near Ramadi, the capital of overwhelmingly Sunni Anbar province, to prepare for an assault to try to retake the city, Anbar officials said.

The order came despite Obama administration concerns that the presence of Shiite fighters in the Sunni-dominated region could spark sectarian bloodshed. Until now, the defense of Anbar has been in the hands of the Iraqi military fighting alongside Sunni tribesmen, who al-Abadi's Shiite-led government had vowed to arm and support — something it has done only sporadically.

The Shiite militias have been key to victories against the Islamic State group on other fronts north of Baghdad in recent months. But they have also been widely criticized over accusations of extrajudicial killings of Sunnis, as well as of looting and torching Sunni property — charges militia leaders deny.

In the face of the Islamic State group's brutality, some Sunnis appeared ready to



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

accept help even from the Shiite militiamen.

"We welcome any group, including Shiite militias, to come and help us in liberating the city from the militants," said Sunni tribal leader Naeem al-Gauoud, who fought to defend Ramadi and criticized what he called "lack of good planning by the military."

But Abu Ammar, another Anbar native who owns a grocery store in Ramadi, said he saw no difference between the Islamic State group's brutal practices and those of Shiite militiamen.

"If the Shiite militias enter Ramadi, they will do the same things being done by Daesh," he said, using an Arabic acronym for the militant group. "In both cases, we will be either killed or displaced. For us, the militias and IS militants are two faces of the same coin."

The fall of Ramadi prompted Iran's defense minister, Gen. Dossein Dehghan, to make a surprise visit to Baghdad for urgent talks with Iraqi leaders. He met with al-Abadi, who praised Iran's support for Iraq in the face of the militants.

The loss of Ramadi was a stunning defeat for Iraq's

security forces and military, which fled as Islamic State extremists overwhelmed their last hold-out positions despite the support of U.S.-led airstrikes. Online video showed Humvees, trucks and other equipment speeding out of Ramadi, with soldiers desperate to reach safety gripping onto their sides.

Since Friday, when the battle for the city entered its final stages, an estimated 500 people have been killed, both civilians and military, said a spokesman for the Anbar provincial government, Muhannad Haimour. The figures could not be independently confirmed, but Islamic State militants have in the past killed hundreds of civilians and soldiers in the aftermath of their major victories.

Some 8,000 people also fled the city, Haimour said. It was not immediately clear how many people remained in Ramadi — once a city of 850,000 that has been draining population for months amid fighting with the extremists besieging it. An enormous exodus took place in April, when the U.N. estimates some 114,000 residents streamed out of Ramadi and surrounding villages.

On Monday, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said more than 6,500 families had fled in recent days, with the hospital in the nearby city of Khaldiya reporting many casualties.

Ramadi's streets were deserted a day after the city's fall, with only a few people venturing out of their homes to search for food, according to residents reached by The Associated Press.

They said IS militants were going door-to-door with lists of government sympathizers, and were breaking

into the homes of policemen and pro-government tribesmen, particularly those from the large Al Bu Alwan tribe, some 30 of whom had been detained. Homes and stores owned by pro-government Sunni militiamen were looted or torched.

The residents spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals by the militants.

Sunday's defeat in Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad, recalled the collapse of Iraqi forces last summer in the face of a blitz by the extremist group, when it took the northern city of Mosul and swept over much of the north and west of the country. Later, IS declared a caliphate, or Islamic state, in areas under its control in Iraq and neighboring Syria.

Backed by airstrikes from a U.S.-led coalition since August, Iraqi forces and allied militias have recaptured some of the areas seized by the Islamic State over the past year. But the new defeat in Anbar calls into question the Obama administration's hopes of relying solely on air power to support Iraqi forces in the battle against IS, as well as whether these forces have sufficiently recovered from last year's stunning defeats.

The White House conceded Monday that the loss of Ramadi was "indeed a setback" and reassured Baghdad that it will help Iraqi forces take it back.

The United States, said White House spokesman Eric Schultz, always knew this would be a long fight with ebbs and flows. "Our aircraft are in the air right now and searching for ISIL targets. They will continue to do so until Ramadi is retaken," he said.

Nigerian Military: 10 Boko Haram Camps Destroyed

BY MICHELLE FAUL AND IBRAHIM ABDULAZIZ

Associated Press

YOLA, Nigeria — The Nigerian military says it destroyed 10 Boko Haram forest camps over the weekend, but the Islamic extremists killed a man and abducted several women as they attacked a recently recaptured town, according to witnesses.

Soldiers killed many militants and captured heavy weaponry in Saturday's offensive in northeastern Sambisa Forest, said spokesman Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade of the Ministry of Defense. One soldier was killed by a land mine when troops overran 10 Boko Haram camps, Olukolade said.

kolade said.

This comes after a surge in attacks by the Islamic extremists including suicide bombings, assaults on a business school and villages and a repelled night-time raid by hundreds of fighters on the biggest military base in northeast Nigeria.

Also Saturday, some militants attacked villages and the town of Sabongari Yandulam in northeast Yobe state, a survivor, farmer James Musa, said Monday. Local official Maina Ularanu confirmed the attack and said one man was killed and six women abducted.

Olukolade and other Nigerian officials had said Boko Haram's main fighting force was trapped in the vast

Sambisa Forest following a 14-week multinational offensive that drove them out of dozens of towns and villages where they had declared an Islamic caliphate. But some must have escaped to press last week's attack on Giwa Barracks in Maiduguri, the biggest northeastern city, 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the forest.

The forest offensive had destroyed some 20 other camps and allowed soldiers to free about 700 captured girls and women before getting bogged down by land mines and other booby traps, soldiers told The Associated Press. They insisted on anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to reporters.

"The operation to clear the terrorists in Sambisa and other forests is continuing, as troops in all fronts have been alerted to be on the lookout for fleeing terrorists," Olukolade said. "The Nigerian air force is maintaining an active air surveillance to track the movement of terrorists."

During the government offensive, there has been no word on the fate of boys and young men kidnapped by Boko Haram.

The Defense Ministry has made no comment about the latest Boko Haram surge, which has killed at least 60 civilians in the past 10 days.

With Fondest Memories

We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Saturday, May 23rd we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.

Aneta Burrows
Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

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Dan, Ann & Sarah

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

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- Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
- Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
- The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.
- Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
- Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
- May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
- May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
- You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
- May God's graces shine over you for all time.
- You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
- We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
- May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
- I have written my own message and it is included.

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To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo. (One Name Per Ad)

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