

Conservative Challenger Wins Polish Vote

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Conservative challenger Andrzej Duda has won Poland's presidential election and ousted the incumbent in a runoff vote, according to official results Monday.

Duda, a right-wing member of the European Parliament, won with 51.55 percent of the vote, the State Electoral Commission said.

President Bronislaw Komorowski, allied with the ruling pro-business Civic Platform, garnered 48.45 percent in the second round of voting on Sunday.

Turnout was 55.34 percent in this nation of more than 37 million people. Duda, a 43-year-old lawyer with experience in the government, will be taking office in August, for a five-year term.

Duda, a Roman Catholic, traveled on Monday to the Jasna Gora shrine in Czestochowa, and prayed there.

Malaysia: Camps Contained 139 Graves

WANG KELIAN, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian authorities said Monday a cluster of abandoned jungle camps used by human traffickers contained 139 suspected graves as well as barbed-wire pens likely used to cage migrants, shedding more light on a regional trade that preyed on some of Southeast Asia's most desperate people.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said forensics experts were exhuming the suspected graves found at 28 vacated camps in the hilly jungle area on the border with Thailand where trafficking syndicates were known to operate.

"It is a very sad scene," Khalid told reporters at a police outpost in the town of Wang Kelian several kilometers (miles) from the camps, one of which appeared large enough to hold about 300 people. "I am shocked. We never expected this kind of cruelty."

At one forest camp, police found several parts of a decomposed body inside a wooden pen. The parts were placed into white bags and brought to Wang Kelian, and district police chief Rizani Ismail said they would be examined by forensics experts. Police said they would begin digging up other suspected graves — mounds of earth, covered with leaves and marked by sticks — on Tuesday.

"We have discovered 139 of what we believe to be graves," Khalid said. "We believe they are victims of human trafficking."

Cleveland Reaches Deal Over Policing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The city of Cleveland has reached a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department over a pattern of excessive force and civil rights violations by the police department, a senior federal law enforcement official said Monday.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly of the settlement ahead of the official announcement, expected this week, and spoke on condition of anonymity.

News of the settlement comes two days after a white police officer was acquitted of manslaughter for firing the final 15 rounds of a 137-shot police barrage through the windshield of a car carrying two black, unarmed suspects in 2012.

The suspects' backfiring vehicle had been mistaken for a gunshot, leading to a high-speed chase involving 62 police cruisers. Once the suspects were cornered, 13 officers fired at the car.

The chase prompted an 18-month Justice Department investigation. In a report released in December, the department required the city to work with community leaders and other officials to devise a plan to reform the police department, which a judge must approve and an independent monitor will oversee.

Twister Kills 13 In Mexico Border City

CIUDAD ACUNA, Mexico (AP) — A tornado raged through a city on the U.S.-Mexico border Monday, destroying homes, flinging cars like matchsticks and ripping an infant from its mother's arms. At least 13 people were killed, authorities said.

In Texas, 12 people were reported missing after the vacation home they were staying in was swept away by rushing floodwaters in a small town popular with tourists.

The baby was also missing after the twister that hit Ciudad Acuna, a city of 125,000 across from Del Rio, Texas, sent its infant carrier flying. Rescue workers began digging through the rubble of damaged homes in a race to find victims.

The twister hit a seven-block area, which Victor Zamora, interior secretary of the northern state of Coahuila, described as "devastated."

Mayor Evaristo Perez Rivera said 300 people were being treated at local hospitals, and up to 200 homes had been completely destroyed. Three people were unaccounted for.

3 Children Injured In Florida Waterspout

MIAMI (AP) — A waterspout uprooted an inflatable bounce house with three children inside it on a South Florida beach Monday, but the youngsters were ejected before it flew above palm trees across four lanes of traffic into a parking lot, police said.

All three children were tossed to the sand while another occupied bounce house nearby also took flight westward over the state road and landed in the same lot, authorities added.

The children were injured, but alert and conscious when they were taken to a hospital, Fort Lauderdale Police spokesman Keven Dupree said.

On Monday evening, police issued a statement that two of the children were treated for minor fractures and released while a third was in stable condition and being held overnight for observation at Broward Health Medical Center. Their identities weren't released.

Video on local television stations showed the waterspout — a whirling column of air and water mist — moving from the ocean onto the sand of Fort Lauderdale beach, tossing a canopy and rolling one of the bounce houses before lifting it into the air.

Calif. Looks To Aussies For Drought Advice

SYDNEY (AP) — California has turned to the world's driest inhabited continent for solutions to its longest and sharpest drought on record.

Australia, the land poet Dorothea Mackellar dubbed "a sunburnt country," suffered a torturous drought from the late 1990s through 2012. Now Californians are facing their own "Big Dry," and looking Down Under to see how they coped.

Australia also faced tough water restrictions — along with dying cattle, barren fields and monstrous wildfires that killed 173 people. But when the rains finally returned, Australians had fundamentally changed how they handle this precious resource. They treat water as a commodity to be conserved and traded, and carefully measure what's available and how it's being used. Efficiency programs cut their average daily use to 55 gallons, compared with 105 gallons per day for each Californian.

Memorial Day

At Arlington, President Pays Tribute To The Fallen

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — President Barack Obama on Monday saluted Americans who died in battle, saying the country must "never stop trying to fully repay them" for their sacrifices. He noted it was the first Memorial Day in 14 years without U.S. forces engaged in a major ground war.

Speaking under sunny skies to some 5,000 people in an amphitheater on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said the graveyard is "more than a final resting place of heroes."

"It is a reflection of America itself," he said, citing racial and religious diversity in the backgrounds of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve "the ideals that bind us as one nation."

His appearance is an annual rite for presidents at the cemetery nestled among verdant hills overlooking the Potomac River. It came months after the end of the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan, where the number of stationed troops has been reduced to about 10,000 from a peak of more than 100,000.

His tribute also took place against a backdrop of the increasingly complex U.S.-led effort to help Iraq defeat the Islamic State extremist group, which has been gaining momentum in recent weeks by capturing Ramadi there and taking Palmyra in neighboring Syria.

Obama made no mention of America's participation with other nations in the effort to stop the Islamic State. His effort there has come under intensifying criticism since the fall of Ramadi with lawmakers calling for a bigger show of American force there, including ground troops.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter had said in a nationally broadcast interview aired Sunday that Iraqi forces "showed no will to fight" and fled as the Islamic State ad-



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/TNS

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Martin Dempsey, from left, Defense Secretary Ash Carter and President Barack Obama attend a Memorial Day event at Arlington National Cemetery Monday in Arlington, Va.

vanced on Ramadi. The White House said in a statement that Biden's call "recognized the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces over the past 18 months in Ramadi and elsewhere."

In his remarks at Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said most of the remaining troops should be removed from Afghanistan by the end of 2016.

He recognized the more than 2,200 "patriots" who sacrificed themselves in Afghanistan, including the final two to be killed before the U.S. combat mission ended late last year. He also recognized the first American killed during the "new mission" to train Afghan forces, an Army medic who died in April.

Earlier, troops stationed in that war-racked country observed a moment of silence in honor of fallen comrades there.

The Arlington observance was among a host of Memorial Day events nationwide featuring parades, picnics and tributes.

Presaging Monday's solemn event at Arlington was the roar of motorcycle engines throughout the

nation's capital on Sunday as thousands of bikers saluted veterans with Rolling Thunder's "Ride for Freedom." That was followed by a concert of patriotic music Sunday evening and Obama's private breakfast Monday at the White House with representatives of veteran and military family service organizations. A Memorial Day parade also was held Monday in downtown Washington.

North Dakota marked the 25th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the state's Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan. Gov. Jack Dalrymple directed all state agencies to fly the U.S. and state flags at half-staff, a practice put in place across the country. In South Dakota, Gov. Dennis Daugaard asked state residents to observe the president's request that Americans unite in prayer at 11 a.m. local time and that a moment of silence be observed at 3 p.m. for the National Moment of Remembrance.

Obama traveled by motorcade in late morning from the White House to Arlington and began his outing by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the

Unknowns. He bowed his head briefly and listened with others to the playing of "Taps."

Obama said most Americans don't understand the sacrifice made by the 1 percent of the population that serves in the all-volunteer Armed Forces. But when he meets with "Gold Star" families that have lost loved ones through military service, Obama said he hears "their pride through their tears."

"I see that their hearts are still broken, and yet still full of love," he said. "They do not ask for awards or honors. They do not ask for special treatment. They are unfailingly humble. In the face of unspeakable loss, they represent the best of who we are."

Obama said the markers at Arlington signify the blessings many Americans enjoy.

"It's a debt we can never fully repay," he said, "but it is a debt we will never stop trying to fully repay."

Introducing Obama, Carter, the defense secretary, said, "We, your fellow Americans, lack the words to describe what you feel today because

try as we may, and try as we do, we can never fully know. But we do know what your sacrifice means to us."

BY KEVIN FREKING
AND SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Joe Biden reassured Iraq's government on Monday of U.S. support in the fight against the Islamic State group, telephoning Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi with thanks for "the enormous sacrifice and bravery of Iraqi forces" one day after Defense Secretary Ash Carter questioned the Iraqi military commitment.

Biden's call followed harsh criticism from Iraqi and Iranian quarters after Carter questioned Iraqi forces' "will to fight" the surging Islamic State group.

A White House statement on Monday describing Biden's call said the vice president welcomed an Iraqi decision to mobilize additional troops and "prepare for counterattack operations." Biden also pledged full U.S. support to "these and other Iraqi efforts to liberate territory from ISIL," the statement said, using an acronym for Islamic State.



Biden

secretary had "incorrect information," while Gen. Qasim Soleimani, the head of the elite Quds forces in Iran's Revolutionary Guard, offered his own critical assessment of U.S. forces.

The heated exchanges came after the loss of Ramadi and amid other gains by the IS in recent days. The statements laid bare fissures among countries that have become allies of convenience against the militants. The criticism from both Iraq and Iran began when Carter told CNN's "State of the Union" that Iraqi forces "vastly outnumbered" the Islamic State group, but still "showed no will to fight" and fled the IS advance on the capital of Anbar province.

On Monday, Saad al-Hadithi, a spokesman for

al-Abadi, said his government was surprised by Carter's comments.

"We should not judge the whole army based on one incident," al-Hadithi told The Associated Press.

Al-Hadithi said the Iraqi government believes the fall of Ramadi was due to mismanagement and poor planning by some senior military commanders in charge. However, he did not elaborate, and no action has been taken against those commanders.

In Iran, the daily newspaper Javan, which is seen as close to the Revolutionary Guard, quoted Soleimani as saying the U.S. didn't do a "damn thing" to stop the extremists' advance on Ramadi.

"Does it mean anything else than being an accomplice in the plot?" he reportedly asked, later saying the U.S. showed "no will" in fight-

ing the Islamic State group.

Soleimani said Iran and its allies are the only forces that can deal with the threat. "Today, there is nobody in confrontation with (the Islamic State group) except the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as nations who are next to Iran or supported by Iran," he said.

So far, the American approach to the conflict has been to launch airstrikes as part of an international coalition it leads, as well as equipping and training Iraqi forces. But U.S. officials also have become uneasy with Iran's growing role in the conflict.

While Iraqi officials criticized Carter's comments, his assessment was comparable to one that Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, made last week: "The ISF was not driven out of Ramadi. They drove out of Ramadi."

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