

Weather caused harbor ferry to capsize; three still missing

By Brian Witte
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — The Navy reservists whose quick work saved 21 people aboard a water taxi that capsized described the horrific scene in which they made their rescue: survivors clinging to the overturned vessel in frigid, choppy water pounded by rain, telling them more were trapped below.

One woman was killed in Saturday's accident in Baltimore Harbor and three people, including a child, were missing, but the reservists said Sunday they were relieved the loss of life wasn't even greater.

The sailors rushed to the scene after seeing the boat in trouble. After passengers clinging to the water taxi told them others were trapped underneath, the rescuers used a ramp on their troop landing ship to lift the water taxi partly out of the water, Petty Officer Jeffrey King said.

"Brother, it was like the end of the 'Titanic' movie once that thing lifted up," King said. "I mean those bodies just floated up."

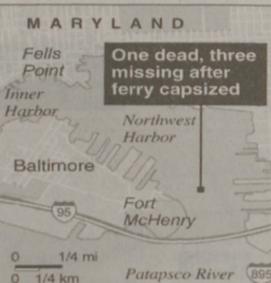
Lt. Cmdr. Art Eisenstein said he jumped into the water and grabbed a little girl who was unconscious and floating face-down.

"Just to hear that she's still with us is just amazing," Eisenstein said.

Water temperatures were in the low 40s, and heavy rain was pouring from black clouds as survivors

Search continues for missing

Divers searched the Baltimore harbor for three bodies after a water taxi capsized Saturday killing one. The pontoon boat flipped over during a storm with high winds.



SOURCE: Associated Press

were pulled out of the water.

"It was pretty hateful," Petty Officer Henry Zecher said. "I'm relieved that we were able to save as many lives as we were."

Two people, including an 8-year-old girl, were critically injured when the 36-foot pontoon boat overturned with 23 passengers and two crew members.

The ferry had just set off across the harbor from historic Fort McHenry on the way to the city's Fells Point when it was caught by wind gusting to 50 mph. The boat, which was at full capacity, was equipped with life preservers but passengers are not required to wear them.

"No one on the craft had time

to get their life preservers on," said police Maj. Fred Bealefeld.

Twenty-two people were removed from the water but one woman died at a hospital. Seven remained hospitalized Sunday. The water temperature was in the low 40s.

On Sunday, recovery crews used boats, helicopters, sonar and dogs trained to find submerged bodies in the search for the three missing people.

The missing were a man, a woman and a child, said Baltimore Fire Chief William Goodwin.

He said the dogs indicated they may have detected something near the spot where the boat overturned, and sonar was used to scan the area.

Investigators said they were looking at the weather and the condition and operation of the vessel as possible factors in the accident.

NTSB Chairman Ellen Engleman-Conners said officials were interviewing survivors and witnesses, and were awaiting voluntary toxicology tests conducted Sunday on the captain and first mate.

She said divers stopped their recovery efforts about 6 p.m. Sunday and would resume Monday morning.

Engleman-Conners said the boat would be removed from the water so investigators could do complete hull and steering system inspections. She said an initial inspection found that the steering system appeared to be intact.

Congressional races overshadow Texan presidential primary

By Kelley Shannon
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — With the Democratic presidential nominee assured, the Texas primary drama turns to what many Lone Star State voters are infinitely familiar with — new congressional districts.

Candidates for Congress in Tuesday's primary are squaring off in Republican-drawn districts that received federal court approval in January and could give the GOP an advantage in the state's 32-member congressional delegation.

Republican legislators pushed through the new districts last year, despite two out-of-state boycotts by Democrats.

Also before the voters are a race for Texas

Railroad Commission and contests for the Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, State Board of Education and Texas Legislature.

"As Texans and Americans, we should remember that democracy is dependent on a

single act — the act of voting. There are plenty of reasons to go to the polls on March 9th," Texas Secretary of State Geoff Connor said.

Ten candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination appear on the ballot, but John Kerry is the only major candidate still in the race.

President Bush is the only Republican presidential candidate on the ballot.

Early voting for the primary ran for two weeks and concluded Friday. Connor said the rate of early voting varied across the state. He predicted a total of nearly 1.7 million people, or 14 percent of the state's 12.26 million registered voters, will cast ballots.

In congressional primary races, two incumbent

Democrats are fighting to stay in office in districts that cover parts of the Texas-Mexico border.

The winning Democrat faces either Republican Rebecca Armendariz Klein, former chair of the Texas Public Utility Commission, or minister Regner Capener.

"As Texans and Americans, we should remember that democracy is dependent on a single act — the act of voting."

— Geoff Connor
Texas Secretary of State

NEWS IN BRIEF

Insurgents fire rockets on U.S. coalition area

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Insurgents fired at least seven rockets on the U.S. coalition headquarters in Baghdad Sunday night, hitting a hotel used by U.S. occupation officials and wounding one American, the military said. It was the biggest attack on the Green Zone in weeks.

A series of explosions echoed across central Baghdad from the strike, sirens blared, and smoke and flames were briefly visible in the Green Zone, the heavily guarded area where the U.S.-led coalition is based.

Five rockets hit the Al-Rasheed hotel, where some civilian contractors are living and a coalition dining hall is located. A U.S. civilian contractor was wounded, the military said.

Shots fired at rally to demand trial for ousted Haitian leader

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Gunshots erupted Sunday at a protest to demand that ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide be tried for corruption and fomenting violence. At least four demonstrators and a foreign journalist were killed.

Witnesses blamed Aristide militants, but that could not immediately be confirmed. The shooting occurred as crowds gathered in front of the presidential National Palace.

Witnesses said they saw Aristide supporters shooting at the crowd in front of the National Palace, and they complained that peacekeepers did nothing to prevent the violence.

After the shooting, a truck with speakers bolted to its frame paraded around the palace, blasting music. One man speaking over a truck loudspeaker shouted at the U.S. Marines: "People are dying every day in this country. You have to do something about it."

Gay bishop takes over as head of diocese

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — With three mighty thumps on the church door Sunday, V. Gene Robinson knocked and was welcomed into St. Paul's sanctuary, where he officially became the Episcopal Church's first openly gay bishop.

Sunday's investiture ceremony does not carry the same weight as Robinson's consecration, which rocked the Episcopal Church in November. But it gave a capacity crowd of more than 600 the chance to welcome the new leader of the Diocese of New Hampshire with whistles, shouts and a standing ovation.

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Sun 9p, Tue 7p

Biol 114

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Keeney-Kennic
Sun 12a

Chem 101

Magnuson
Tue 6p

Chem 102

Sun 3p

Chem 102

Sun 3p

Chem 102

Conway
Thu 6p

Chem 102

Peck
Mon 12a

Chem 107

Chem 228

Hogg
Mon 9p

Chem 228

Sulikowski
Sun 9p

Chem 228

Tiner
Sun 5p

Econ 203

Nelson
Mon 4p

Econ 322

Sun 3p

Finc 309

Joyner
Sun 7p; Sun 7p, Mon 7p, Mon 7p

Finc 341

Joyner
Sun 7p; Sun 7p, Mon 7p, Mon 7p

Info 303

Darcey
Mon 3p, Tue 10p

Math 141

Sun 9p; Mon 9p; Tue 7p; Wed 7p

Math 141

Sun 9p; Mon 9p; Tue 7p; Wed 7p

Math 142

Sun 6p; Mon 6p

Math 142

Sun 6p; Mon 6p

Math 152

Wed 10p

Math 152

Wed 10p

Mgmt 309

Wesson
Tue 9p

Mktg 309

Tue 10p

Mktg 309

Tue 10p

Mktg 321

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Phys 201

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