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Packed Russian vessel sinks

More than 100 are missing and feared dead after the riverboat goes down.

SERGEI L. LOIKO REPORTING FROM MOSCOW

More than 100 people were missing and feared dead after the sudden sinking of a passenger cruiser on the Volga River on Sunday, Russian officials said.

The 56-year-old double-deck pleasure cruiser Bulgaria was carrying 188 people — 142 passengers and 46 crew — when it went under about two miles from the shore of the Volga, in central Russia near the regional capital of Kazan, about 450 miles east of Moscow.

Two bodies were quickly recovered, officials said, and about 80 passengers had been rescued, 13 of whom were rushed to hospitals, said Irina Andrianova, Russian Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman, in televised remarks.

Divers found the ship lying on its side at the bottom, about 60 feet down, and were seeking to determine whether anyone inside was still alive.

"According to our divers chances to find people alive are minimal," Andrianova said.

Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu ordered dozens of rescue workers to determine whether survivors had managed to make it to any of 13 nearby islands. Bright lights bathed the area to assist in the search.

The ship may have sunk because it was overloaded, a law enforcement source told Interfax news agency. The tragedy occurred during a thunderstorm accompanied [See Russia, AA2]



ROMAN KRUCHININ Associated Press

DISTRAUGHT: Family members and friends help a survivor of the sinking of the pleasure cruiser Bulgaria, which was carrying 188 people when it went down in the Volga River near Kazan, central Russia.

Royal couple visit skid row

William and Catherine paint with students and see dances at arts center

ALEXANDRA ZAVIS, KATE MATHER AND TONY BARBOZA

Growing up poor in South Los Angeles, Lorenzo Perez never imagined he would one day dance for British royalty.

"I didn't think there was still kings and queens," said Perez, 19, who got his chance on Sunday. "It's like a Disney movie."

On the last day of their whirlwind visit to the United States, Prince William and his wife, Catherine, saw a less glitzy side of Southern California, visiting a children's arts center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles' skid row and a job fair for military veterans and

their families in Culver City. The appearances highlighted some of William's charitable interests: helping homeless youth, promoting the arts and supporting troops.

Sunday's itinerary contrasted with the couple's previous engagements, which included a charity polo match near Santa Barbara and red-carpet dinners with Hollywood celebrities.

The day began with a morning reception in Beverly Hills to raise money for the

Tusk Trust, an African wildlife conservation group.

The couple then rode across town, escorted by Cynthia Harnisch, president of Inner-City Arts, a nonprofit that provides free arts instruction to poor children. The drive ended in the gritty neighborhood that has become known as the country's homeless capital.

As the motorcade of SUVs and motorcycles passed San Julian Street, Harnisch said, the royal couple

seemed "astonished" by the number of people on the streets.

When they pulled into the leafy campus, they were greeted by half a dozen elementary school students holding hand-painted a welcome banner. Catherine wore a navy and white crocheted top over an ivory pleated skirt by the British retailer Whistles.

Sneh Chachra, who studies at the center with her [See Royalty, AA4]

Former sex slave recalls tragic life

Jaycee Dugard tells of harrowing abduction, rapes and giving birth in a backyard shed.

MARTHA GROVES

As 14-year-old Jaycee Dugard struggled in a crude backyard shed to deliver her baby daughter, the serial predator who had abducted and raped her stepped in to unwrap the umbilical cord that trapped the infant.

"She was beautiful," Dugard said of the child she birthed three years into her captivity in Northern California. "I felt like I wasn't alone anymore. I knew I could never let anything happen to her."

In an exclusive interview with Diane Sawyer broad-

cast Sunday on ABC, Dugard, displaying remarkable poise and smiling often, provided chilling details about the 18-year ordeal she endured at the hands of her captors, an increasingly deranged parolee named Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy, who aided the abduction and condoned his rapes.

Dugard's memoir, "A Stolen Life," to be released Tuesday, tells how the Garridos informed her she was pregnant when she was 13. At the time, she knew she was putting on weight and waddling, but she didn't know why.

A naive, toothy-grinned blond when she was taken captive at age 11 in 1991, Dugard is now 31 with brown, shoulder-length hair and impossibly young skin — the result, she said, of years [See Dugard, AA4]



JILL BELSLEY ABC News

QUESTIONS: Diane Sawyer, left, speaks with Jaycee Dugard in her first interview since being kidnapped near her South Lake Tahoe home when she was 11.



RICK LOOMIS Los Angeles Times

HARD TIMES: Catherine Carrasco, 53, holding a neighbor's child, Fatima Leon, lives with three children in a two-bedroom apartment.

A community of single parents in Santa Ana

A portion of the city's Willard neighborhood has the highest number of such households in Orange County. It's an anomaly.

NICOLE SANTA CRUZ

Welcome to Census Tract 750.03. Nestled in north Santa Ana, this is a piece of the Willard neighborhood, where neutral-colored apartment complexes, tri-plexes and four-plexes dominate the landscape.

This tract also is ground zero for single-parent households — 1,711 — in a city that outranks every other in Orange County in the proportion of such households, according to the latest U.S. Census.

Numbers don't tell the whole story. For in this slice of Willard, children outnumber adults, and issues of immigration and crime seep into daily life. Here, poverty is the norm rather than the exception, and residents grapple with feeling unsafe.

"It's just a hard place to live," said Jon Pedersen, pastor of nearby St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church. "It's a

hard place to provide for your family."

Its central location near malls, schools and a grocery store make it a magnet for people who are barely getting by. Families move here and sometimes end up staying for decades, migrating up and down a block, from one apartment to the next.

Though crime in Santa Ana is down 32% since 2002, the city is usually skipped by the tourists who visit Orange County for Disneyland and South Coast Plaza. To be sure, Santa Ana is not the image that comes to mind when thinking about the sprawling county of about 3 million and its postcard-perfect coastline.

Although Orange County has the lowest proportion of single-parent households in Southern California, Santa Ana stands as the highest in that category in the county, with 12,023, or 16%. Laguna Woods, a small city in South County, has the fewest, 21, or 0.2%.

The roots of this anomaly can be found in Santa Ana's decades-long history as a magnet for immigrants.

This part of the county was converted from orange groves to single-family housing to apartments, said G.U. [See Santa Ana, AA4]

SHERIFF WANTS TO TAKE PAROLE DUTY

In a proposal critics call a power grab, Baca says his agency could provide better oversight than the probation officers.

ROBERT FATURECHI

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca was inside the governor's office with about a dozen other sheriffs and probation chiefs from across the state when he floated an unusual idea.

The working assumption had been that the thousands of parolees being passed from the state to the local level would be handled by county probation officers, who already do that sort of work. And indeed, in 57 of 58 counties they will be.

But Baca announced that in L.A. County, he wanted them. The proposal was unprecedented: No law enforcement agency in the nation, officials say, handles parole or probation supervision, a task decidedly more oriented toward social work.

Baca says his plan would allow offenders uninterrupted rehabilitation services, starting in his jails and continuing post-release. But his critics, including the county's chief probation officer, are describing it as a power grab. If Baca is successful, he'll likely get to use the anticipated state funding to add some 300 new employees at a time when hiring has gone dry.

"My feeling is there's a lot of money at stake here and he can put more law enforcement officers on the streets. I think that's his goal," said L.A. County Probation Chief Don Blevins.

Baca says his pitch is motivated solely by public safety, but he acknowledges that the arrangement would set up a unique melding of two very different bureaucratic cultures.

His proposal surprised local probation officials. "There was a certain degree of defensiveness," Baca said. "It's kind of a cultural clash for probation officers to think law enforcement can do the same work they do."

Baca's idea, which has [See Parolees, AA5]



Sam Denoff, TV writer, dies

The Emmy winner, who worked on "The Dick Van Dyke Show," was 83. AA5

Panetta cites Iranian arms

Weapons supplied by the nation are behind attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq, he says. AA2

- Complete Index .....AA2
Lottery .....AA2
California .....AA3
Obituaries .....AA5

Weather: Sunny and cooler today; patchy morning fog, Downtown L.A.: 79/65. AA8