

Man dies after rail incident

A MAN died in West Lothian yesterday after he was hit by a train.

Officers from British Transport Police and Lothian and Borders Police attended Winchburgh junction after they received a report that a man had been struck by the 2.30pm Edinburgh to Glasgow train.

Paramedics also attended the incident, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. A spokeswoman for BTP said the death was being treated as non-suspicious and that a file would be sent to the procurator fiscal.

MEANWHILE, the body of a man, believed to be a missing climber, was found on Glen Doll in the early hours of yesterday morning.

A 69-year-old man from Dundee set off alone to the area, within the Cairngorms National Park, on Friday. When he failed to return on Friday evening, his family raised the alarm.

It's thought he may have been swept away in an avalanche. The body has not been formally identified.

Scots doctor reunited with 'shoebox baby'

Newborn Niki saved from certain death

A SCOTTISH doctor has been reunited with a young African woman he saved from certain death 19 years ago.

Niki Tucker, originally from the Ivory Coast in West Africa, was an abandoned newborn — weighing just 2lbs 4oz — found by Scottish doctor Keith Thomson during a mercy mission to the African nation in 1991.

Niki had been left by her mother in a makeshift medical centre. She was close to death, suffering severe dehydration.

But Dr Thomson

EXCLUSIVE

By Euan Duguid

stepped in to provide lifesaving treatment — with Niki spending the first month of her new life being nurtured back to health in a shoebox inside a ship's cabin!

Now, almost two decades later, the pair have been reunited in Sierra Leone — taking Niki's story full circle.

In the capital Freetown Niki, who now hopes to draw on her own experiences to become an adoption counsellor, has joined the Dundee-born doctor in his quest to bring hope to a country where infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world.

Speaking from the West African country



■ Suzanne Tucker, Niki Tucker and Dr Keith Thomson are reunited.

last night, Niki said, "I'll be forever grateful to Dr Thomson for what he did."

Niki's astonishing story began in December 1991 when Dr Thomson was serving onboard Anastasis, the hospital ship for Scots-backed medical charity Mercy Ships, docked at the Ivory Coast port of Abidjan.

Impoverished

The consultant anaesthetist, who currently works at Basingstoke Hospital in Hampshire, was taking part in a month-long voluntary stint in the charity's mission to bring life-changing surgery to the impoverished country.

He came across baby Niki when he and Canadian couple Suzanne and Peter Tucker, also

volunteers on the ship, travelled to a nearby island to attend a church meeting on the morning of Sunday, December 15.

Also there that morning was a local African midwife, who had two babies with her — one healthy and one who was severely dehydrated and dangerously underweight.

The visiting trio were told the baby had been abandoned by her mother immediately after birth.

Suzanne and Peter were adamant they

wanted to adopt the baby girl and the Scottish doctor agreed to break the rules and take her back to the hospital ship to be rehydrated.

Without his intervention she would have died.

Speaking from Sierra Leone last night, Dr Thomson recalled, "I had a blazing row with a colleague because we were not meant to bring random babies on board."

"Eventually it was agreed that I could have 24 hours to try to save her life."

Tiny Niki was adopted by the Tuckers and spent the first month of her life in a shoebox in their cabin.

She now lives with her adoptive parents on Vancouver Island in Canada where she hopes to go to University next year.

Last night, Suzanne Tucker, who is also in Sierra Leone with Dr Thomson, said, "We couldn't be more proud of the woman Niki has become today — and we couldn't be more thankful to Dr Thomson for what he has done."

■ NIKI has joined Dr Keith Thomson in his current stint in Sierra Leone onboard Mercy Ship's latest vessel, the Africa Mercy, the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship.

The ship is in the country for 10 months to provide health care.

Dr Thomson has also organised a

parallel conference about anaesthesia with midwives and anaesthetists from all over the country attending.

One in 10 Sierra Leonean babies do not live to see their first birthday.

Visit www.mercyships.org.uk for more information or to donate.

Red Nose Day's £74m record

A RECORD £74 million had been raised for Comic Relief as the BBC's Red Nose Day extravaganza drew to a close.

A host of famous faces, including David Cameron, Gordon Brown, Susan Boyle and a quintet of comedians spoofing Take That, helped entertain viewers.

The total so far — £74,360,207 — is the most raised on the night in Red Nose Day's 23-year history.

Last night the Government pledged £10 million to Comic Relief as Mr Cameron did his bit to help by making an appearance in a sketch.

The funding promised by the Government will go towards Comic Relief's work in improving health and education across Africa. Its contribution matched Comic Relief's commitment to spend £10 million in these areas.

Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles set a new world record by staying on air for more than 50 hours and raised more than £2 million for Comic Relief in the process.

The star started his broadcast on Radio 1 with his sidekick "Comedy" Dave Vitty on Wednesday morning and finally came off air at 10.30 am on Friday.



■ Chris Moyles.

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