

## ● AUSTRALIA

## Envoy returns after executions

AUSTRALIA'S ambassador to Indonesia has returned to Jakarta, five weeks after he was recalled in protest over the country's execution of two Australian citizens.

Convicted drug-traffickers Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran were executed by firing squad on April 29. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott described the executions as "cruel" and "unnecessary".

Paul Grigson's removal was the first time Australia has recalled an ambassador over the execution of its nationals.

Ministerial visits to Indonesia were also suspended and the government has not said if these have recommenced.

## ● BELGIUM

## Baby born from frozen ovary

**A WOMAN in Belgium has become the first in the world to give birth to a baby conceived using ovarian tissue that was frozen when she was a child.**

The 27-year-old had an ovary removed at the age of 13 before invasive treatment for sickle cell anaemia.

This included chemotherapy, which caused her remaining ovary to fail following the treatment.

Experts hope this procedure could help other young patients. The woman gave birth to a healthy boy in November last year.

## ● UNITED STATES

## Abortion murder charge dropped

A GEORGIA prosecutor says he has dismissed murder charges against a 23-year-old woman accused of inducing an abortion by taking pills.

Dougherty County District Attorney Greg Edwards said Kenlissia Jones of Albany has been released. But she still faces a misdemeanour charge of dangerous drug possession.

A police report said Jones took pills to terminate her pregnancy after breaking up with her boyfriend. She was arrested on Saturday. Abortion rights advocates and opponents alike were stunned by the charge.

Georgia prohibits prosecution of women for feticide in cases involving their own pregnancies.



Debris is seen near shops damaged during a foiled suicide attack in Luxor, Egypt

## ● ITALY

## Arrests over city hall contracts

**SIX people have been arrested in a corruption inquiry into Rome city hall contracts, sparking protests against the city's mayor Ignazio Marino.**

Among those arrested was a senior official from the agency responsible for archaeological sites in Rome.

Calls from opposition protesters from the anti-establishment Five Star movement for the mayor to step down were swiftly rejected by Marino.

An estimated 100 people are being investigated in the "Mafia Capital" inquiry.



Relatives mourn the death of executed Aftab Bahadur

## ● PAKISTAN

## Man convicted at 15 executed

PAKISTAN has executed a man who was 15 when he was sentenced to death for murder.

Aftab Bahadur was hanged in Lahore yesterday. Campaigners say he was tortured into confessing and have branded the move "a travesty".

Bahadur was convicted of a double murder in 1992. At that time the death sentence could be passed on 15-year-olds – the minimum age was raised to 18 in 2000.

Director of human rights group Reprieve Maya Foa said: "To the last, Pakistan refused even to grant his lawyers the few days needed to present evidence which would have proved his innocence.

"This is a travesty of justice."

## ● CHINA

## Actress sued for 'staring on TV'

**A CHINESE actress is being sued by a man who claims she "stared at him too intensely" through his television.**

The lawsuit was filed by a man in Shanghai after he watched Zhao Wei – one of China's biggest stars – in the series Tiger Mom, and said her stare caused him "spiritual damage".

Changes making it harder for courts in China to reject suits have led to concerns over the increase in frivolous claims – with a 29 per cent rise in cases reported since they came into effect on May 1.

# Terror attack foiled at ancient Luxor temple

Fears that bombing near popular site will hinder tourism

## ● EGYPT

BY STEPHEN KALIN  
AND YARA BAYOUMY

**A** SUICIDE bomber blew himself up near Egypt's ancient Karnak temple – one of the country's most popular tourist sites – in the southern city of Luxor yesterday, wounding four Egyptians.

Although officials said no tourists were wounded, the attack at Karnak is the second in just over a week on a major tourist site in Egypt and security has been stepped up at the country's antiquities.

Security sources are speculating that militants are shifting focus to target the country's economic recovery, which is largely dependent on tourism. The number of tourists visiting Egypt in the last 18 months has been increasing after slumps following the revolution that ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011 and the overthrow by the military of Islamist president Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

Since the military toppled Morsi, militants have killed hundreds in a campaign targeting mostly police and soldiers.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi,

who as army chief ousted Morsi after mass protests against his rule, has promised Egyptians he will revive an economy battered by turmoil since an uprising ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule in 2011.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which revived memories of 1997 when Islamist militants killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians at another temple nearby.

It took Mubarak years to stamp out an Islamist insurgency in the 1990s that targeted mostly tourists, members of the security forces and senior government officials.

Fears that militants, who have pledged allegiance to Islamic State, may shift focus towards tourism targets arose just over a week ago when gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead two members of Egypt's tourism and antiquities police force near the Giza pyramids.

Antiquities Minister Mamdouh al-Damaty said yesterday he had ordered security to be tightened at ancient sites across Egypt.

Security sources told Reuters that security had already been stepped up following the shooting near the Giza pyramids.

"Our investigations confirmed to us that those who are behind

the terrorists want to target police and hit the Egyptian economy at the same time," one of the sources said.

He said the militants wanted to "grab the world's attention" by carrying out their attack to coincide with a pan-African trade conference in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh, which the World Bank president and Sisi were attending.

"They knew there was an important conference in Sharm el-Sheikh," the source said.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement on Karnak that three "terrorist elements" were stopped from passing a security cordon by security forces protecting the temple.

Two assailants were killed, one of them by detonating a bomb he was carrying. The third was wounded by gunshots to the head, the ministry said.

The interior minister told MENA later on Wednesday that the assailants carried five explosive devices, guns and ammunition.

Bazaar shop owners and two policemen were among the four people wounded, security sources said. Images from the scene of the explosion showed what appeared to be body parts on the ground in front of a tourist

shop and atop a public restroom.

Uniformed and plainclothes police gathered nearby, and ambulances were parked beside tourist buses.

German tourist Nico Würtz said he was visiting Karnak at the time. "We were sightseeing in the temple when we heard an explosion and then shooting.

"Police asked us to seek shelter. We were afraid but nothing happened," he said.

"We will continue our vacation. Egypt is a great place, many things to see and sunshine all the time. But there is also some fear now," Würtz added.

Police cordoned off the blast site and interviewed witnesses. One tourism worker near the temple told Reuters: "Tourism was already weak. This attack will kill it."

The latest violence will hamper Egypt's efforts to win back tourists and foreign investors who only recently welcomed Sisi's economic reforms such as slashing fuel subsidies.

Separately, security sources said two small roadside bombs were discovered by security forces in the Cairo area, while a soldier has been killed by gunmen in the North Sinai town of Rafah, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip.



Photograph: Reuters

## ● VATICAN CITY

# Pope backs new sexual abuse tribunal

BY PHILIP PULLELLA  
IN VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis yesterday approved an unprecedented Vatican tribunal to judge bishops accused of covering up or failing to prevent sexual abuse of minors, but one victims' group branded the move "too little, too late".

A statement said the tribunal would come under the auspices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican's doctrinal arm, "to judge bishops with regard to crimes of the abuse of office when connected to the abuse of minors".

Victims' groups have for years been urging the Vatican

to establish clear procedures to make bishops more accountable for abuse in their dioceses, even if they were not directly responsible for it.

Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi told reporters the bishops could also be judged if they had failed to take measures to prevent sexual abuse of minors.

The complaints against the bishops would initially be investigated by one of three Vatican departments, before being judged by the doctrinal tribunal.

The US-based Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) said the Pope should have gone much further. "[The Pope] could have sacked

dozens of complicit bishops. He has, however, sacked no one," SNAP said in a statement.

Anne Barrett Doyle of BishopAccountability.org, an independent group that helps tackle the issue in the Catholic Church, cautiously welcomed the announcement.

"For the first time there may be a clear road map for disciplining bishops who conceal or enable child sexual abuse. But the path already promises to be bumpy. How can the Vatican discipline enablers when its own top ranks are occupied by them?"

The worldwide scandal has seen known abusers shunted to other parishes instead of being defrocked and handed over to authorities.



Pope Francis has come under fire despite the move