Quick Read

Court jails former French priest for sexually abusing boy scouts

PARIS: A French court convicted a former Roman Catholic priest of sexually abusing children and sentenced him to five years in jail, his lawyer said.

Bernard Preynat was found guilty of abusing dozens of boy scouts in the 1980s and early 1990s. Prosecutors had portrayed the 74-year-old as a serial paedophile and said he preyed on children entrusted to his care by their parents.

Preynat told the court he had not understood how grave his acts were nor how traumatic the consequences would be for his victims. "These were non-violent acts, acts of tenderness from which I derived a certain pleasure. It took me time to learn it was wrong and condemned given the age of the children," he testified. Prosecutors had sought an eight-year jail term. **—Reuters**

Japanese man faces verdict in murder of 19 at disabled care home

YOKOHAMA, Japan: A Japanese court hands down its verdict in the case of a man accused of murdering 19 disabled people at a care home in 2016, in one of the country's worst mass killings.

Satoshi Uematsu, a former employee at the facility, does not dispute his involvement in the grisly stabbing rampage that shocked Japan where violent crime is rare. He faces the death penalty if convicted. His lawyers have entered a plea of not guilty, arguing the 30-year-old was suffering a "mental disorder" linked to his use of marijuana. But prosecutors say Uematsu was capable of taking responsibility for the attack at the Tsukui Yamayuri-en centre in Sagamihara town outside Tokyo and should be executed for his crimes. **—AFP**

Nigeria gas explosion kills at least 15

LAGOS: A gas explosion in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos killed at least 15 people, injured many more and destroyed around 50 buildings, emergency services said.

Houses, lorries, cars and motorbikes were torched in the blast.

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"15 bodies have been recovered now. So many people have been injured," national emergency services spokesman Ibrahim Farinloye told AFP, adding that around 50 buildings were also destroyed in the explosion which was followed by a fire.

The blast happened at around 8.00am (0700 GMT), destroying around 50 buildings in the residential district of Abule Ado.

The blast destroyed around 50 buildings in a residential area

The blast destroyed around 50 buildings in a residential area. AFP/Benson IBEABUCHI According to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) the blast was caused by a truck that "hit gas bottles stacked up in a gas processing plant.

"The impact of the explosion was so huge that it led to the collapse of nearby houses and damage to an NNPC pipeline," the company added.

"We are recovering dead bodies as we speak and putting them in bags," said local Red Cross official Adebola Kolawale.

"We have a school here and it?s a residential area. And we have a trade fair here as well."

Among those inspecting the damage was Lagos resident Abibola Ayo. He said that

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from approved contractors of LG&CD Department, Civil Works Division Gujranwala based on single stage single envelope system and on MRS 1st Bi annual 2020, below and above percentage rates are invited for the works mentioned below, from the approved contractors of LG&CD Department Gujranwala for the year 2019-20.

Tender documents can be obtained immediately after publication of this tender notice during office hours from the office of the Executive Engineer LG&CD Civil Division Works Gujranwala, office of the Deputy Director Development M.B.Din and office of the Assistant Engineer, LG&CD Civil Sub Division, Mandi Bahauddin against written request accompanied with attested copies of enlistment / renewal letters, fee receipt, for the year 2019-20, authority letter on letter pad of the contractor/firm, CNIC of the contractor / managing partner of the firm along with registered power of attorney. The last date for issuance of tender forms / document will be the **04.04.2020 up to 3.00 pm.**

Tenders shall be received on **06.04.2020 at 2.30 PM** and will be opened in the hall of Arts Council Commissioner office Gujranwala Division Gujranwala same day at **3.00 PM** in the presence of tendering opening committee and contractors or their representative's conditional tenders shall not be entertained.

The successful bidder who offered rates more than 4.99% below of the estimated cost will have to deposit the additional Performance security within 15 days' from acceptance of tender. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of earnest money without any further notice. This advertisement / tender notice is also available at the website of PPRA.

Tender shall be issued only to those bidders who furnish original copy of the bank receipt of the head tender fee deposited in to the relevant head of account through 32-A Challan Form at the authorized bank.

Earnest Money 5% of Estimated Cost in the name of Executive Engineer, LG&CD Civil Division Works, Gujranwala.

Completion Time As per work order

Community Development Programme (2019-20)

1	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Mouza [illegible]	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village Khaiyan	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village Hardo Saharan	10.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc. of Village Pull Pindi Kalu	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village Jano Chak Kalan and Adjacent Abadies	7.5000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village Chorianwala	3.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village [illegible]	6.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	Construction of Streets Drains Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc Village [illegible] Road	7.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village [illegible]	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village Chananwala	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village [illegible]	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village [illegible]	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
13	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village Ghanian	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village [illegible]	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
15	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Villages [illegible] Kalan	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
16	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village [illegible]	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village Kot Pir	3.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]
18	Construction of Street Drains, Soling Tuff Tiles PCC etc of Village [illegible]	5.000	10000	[illegible]	[illegible]

ASSISTANT ENGINEER
FOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GUJRANWALA

IPL-2803

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Hidayat Ullah Shah, Senior Civil Judge (Family Division), Guardian Judge-I, Lahore, Pakistan

Application for granting permission to the minor namely 'BREEHA ROSALIE' to travel abroad alongwith guardian. Case No 734/6 of 2019.

Title Rukhsan Jan Haque W/O Mozammel Haque R/O Mohallah Sherwani Town, Opp Nishtar Town, Lahore Cantt Lahore VS Public at large etc Notice to Shahzad Faisal S/O Muhammad Arshad Javed R/O Mohallah Telli, Bahawalnagar.

The court has called you again and again, but the implementation seems difficult, therefore this ad is being issued for you to appear in this court on 17-03-2020 at 9:00 am yourself or through your lawyer. Otherwise the action would be taken against you and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Altaf Hussain s/o Muhammad Jameel allottee of plot No 246, measuring 3-marla situated in Area Development Scheme, Muridke has appointed Mubasher Latif s/o Abdul Latif vide dastavaiz No 1785, Bahi No 4, jild No 182, dated 01-03-2005, Sub-registrar Nighat Town, Lahore as his power of attorney in respect of the above named power of attorney submitted an application in this office for transfer of above said plot. Now the above named attorney has submitted an application to this office for transfer of the above plot in favour of Muhammad Atif s/o Sultan Ahmad. If any has any objection, he or she should reach undersigned within 15 days.

Deputy Director PHATA, Sub-Region, Sheikhupura

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Muhammad Tahir Chaudhry S/o Ali Ahmed Choudhry R/O H / 92/P Al Haroon College Jhang Road Faisalabad.

Allottee of Shop No 15/Y Measuring 0.73 Marla in Housing Scheme No 3 Sahiwal has appointed Abdul Musawar Muzamil S/o Malilk Muhammad Ashraf as his General power of Attorney registered by the Sub Registrar Sahiwal Vide No. 75/4 dated 01.02.2018

The attorney attends to transfer this plot in the name of Mr. Muhammad Javed S/o Muhammad Ashraf R/o Chak No 187/9-L Tehsil and Dist Sahiwal.

If any has any objection/legal rights of any sort in this regard, he should furnish the same in writing the under sighed along with his original National Identity Card within 15 days from the publication of this notice. After the expiry of this notice period no excuse what so ever will be listen to and the Dept will not be responsible in any way.

Deputy Director, Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency Sub Region, Sahiwal.

Italy hit by 368 new coronavirus deaths, hospitals in crisis

ROME: Italy reported a one-day record death toll and leaders warned of a bed and artificial respirator shortage in the European epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic.

Official data showed the number of fatalities shooting up by 368 to 1,809 - more than half of all the cases recorded outside China.

With 24,747 cases and 1,809 deaths by Sunday, Italy's experience has offered an alarming example for other European countries which have begun seeing sharp rises in cases over recent days.

Lombardy, the heavily populated area around the financial capital Milan, has been the worst-affected region with 1,218 deaths. Of those, 252 were recorded in the last 24 hours. The Vatican took the drastic step of cancelling Easter week celebrations that were set to begin on Apr 5 as the country of 60 million braced for an extended crisis.

Only occasional joggers and a few locals carrying grocery bags could be seen on the streets of Rome on a sunny afternoon of Italy's first weekend under effective lockdown. "I am not really interested in what people tell us about religion," pensioner Roman said after the Vatican announced that its Easter observances "will take place without the physical presence of the faithful".

"I'm interested in what people tell us about our health." Milan's Lombardy region governor Attilio Fontana said the situation in areas around Italy's financial capital was "getting worse". "We are close to the point where we will no longer be able to resuscitate people because we will be out of intensive care unit beds," Fontana told Italy's Sky TG24 channel. "We need those machines (doctors) use to ventilate lungs, artificial respirators that unfortunately we cannot find," Fontana said.

"As soon as those respirators arrive from abroad, we will be ready to go on the attack." The Lombardy region has recorded 1,218 of the deaths officially attributed to COVID-19 over the past three weeks - more than the rest of Europe combined.

The region of 10 million - slightly smaller but more economically productive than neighbouring Switzerland to the north - also has 13,272 reported infections and 767 people in intensive care.

Chaos at US airports as COVID-19 medical screenings jam up returning Americans

Chaos gripped major US airports as Americans returning from coronavirus-hit European countries overwhelmed authorities attempting to process the surge.

Frustrated passengers complained of hours-long lines, crowded and unsanitary conditions and general disarray in the system for screening people for symptoms of the virus. "Very close quarters," Ann Lewis Schmidt told CNN, describing conditions at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. "So if we didn't have the virus before, we have a great chance of getting it now!" Schmidt said. US airports have been hit with a flood of Americans, many of them students, since restrictions on travel from Europe ordered by US President Donald Trump took effect at midnight on Friday. Similar conditions were reported at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport and in Dallas.

The original 30-day US ban on travel from the 26 countries in Europe's Schengen border-free zone took effect on Saturday, but excluded Britain and Ireland. They were subsequently included.

New York City closes public schools over COVID-19 concerns

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the closure of public schools in America's biggest city, bowing to pressure after strongly resisting the move aimed at curbing the coronavirus pandemic.

"I regret to announce that as of tomorrow our public schools will be closed," de Blasio told a news conference, saying they would stay shuttered until Apr 20, and potentially for the remainder of the school year. The mayor had argued against the closures, fearful of the impact on the economy and on the support services that the city's schools provide for many of their 1.1 million students. But pressure on the mayor had steadily risen, coming from parents, educators and local hospital officials. **—AFP**

ROME: An Italian Carabinieri car checks the traffic of the street around ancient Colosseum, in central Rome, during COVID-19 outbreak.

Germany to reintroduce border controls with five countries

BERLIN: Germany will reintroduce border controls with France, Austria, Switzerland, Luxemburg and Denmark from Monday morning due to the coronavirus crisis, interior minister Horst Seehofer said.

"The spread of the coronavirus is progressing quickly and aggressively ... one of the most important measures will be to cut off the chain of infection," Seehofer told reporters as he announced the new border controls. The measures will take effect at 8.00am (0700 GMT) Monday, with goods and cross-border commuters exempt. German citizens and people with a residency permit will be allowed to return to the country.

People "without a significant reason to travel" and those suspected of having been infected with the virus will not be allowed to cross the affected borders, he said. Seehofer stressed the new controls would be temporary, and would be reassessed "from time to time". But the high point of the coronavirus crisis had not yet been reached, he warned, urging citizens to avoid social contact. The decision had been taken after the Robert Koch Institute, which is responsible for public health in Germany, had declared that the French border region of Alsace-Lorraine as a risk area. "This sparked a lot of questions and unrest in the neighbouring states," he said. Paris, meanwhile, said the decision had been taken in coordination with the French government. Goth French and German officials said the border closure would not be total. Czech police officers inspect cars during sanitary checks on drivers at the border crossing between Germany and Czech Republic, near the German village of Furth and the Czech village Nova Kubice. Christof STACHE/AFP

"We are going to limit border crossings to the strict minimum, while allowing people and merchandise to go through. It's not a closure," a French interior ministry source told AFP. In Berlin, national police chief Dieter Romann also said: "We are not closing the borders". While Germany's measures only apply to five countries, other neighbouring countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic have also closed their borders or introduced severe restrictions. With Europe now considered to be the epicentre of the pandemic, pressure had been mounting from some politicians to reintroduce borders controls before Sunday's announcement. Germany has so far recorded 4,838 confirmed infections and 12 confirmed deaths. **—AFP**