

# War criminal 'takes poison' in court

## The Hague

**A**Bosnian Croat war criminal died yesterday after apparently drinking poison in dramatic courtroom scenes after UN judges upheld his 20-year jail term, Croatian media said, throwing the tribunal into chaos during its final judgement.

Slobodan Praljak, 72, died in hospital, according to Croatia's state-run news agency HINA after he drank from a brown bottle at the hearing at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.

After the judges upheld a 20-year jail term originally imposed in 2013, Praljak, 72, a former military commander of a breakaway Bosnian Croat statelet, shouted out angrily: "Praljak is not a criminal. I reject your verdict."

He then raised a small brown bottle to his lips, and tipped it into his mouth in full view of the cameras filming the appeal hearing for the six Bosnian Croat political and military leaders.

The hearing was then quickly suspended as Praljak's lawyer shouted out: "My client says he has taken poison."



Croatian former general Slobodan Praljak

Resuming a few hours later amid confusion, presiding judge Carmel Agius revealed Dutch authorities had already launched an investigation into the incident.

"Courtroom one is now a crime scene," Agius said, but giving no details on what had happened to Praljak except to say he was not in court.

Court officials also told *AFP* they had "no comment" on what had happened.

Earlier, *AFP* journalists had seen an ambulance arrive outside the tribunal in The Hague, and several emergency rescue workers rushed into the building carrying backpacks.

In the complex ruling the judges upheld the jail terms against all six defendants, including a 25-year sentence imposed on Jadranko Prlic, the former prime minister of the Bosnian Croat statelet, known as Herzog-Bosna.

Praljak was specifically charged with ordering the destruction of Mostar's 16th-century bridge in November 1993, which judges in the first trial had said "caused disproportionate damage to the Muslim civilian population".

A symbol of Bosnia's devastation in the war, the Ottoman-era bridge was later rebuilt. (*AFP*)

# Age of Jesus Christ's Purported Tomb Revealed

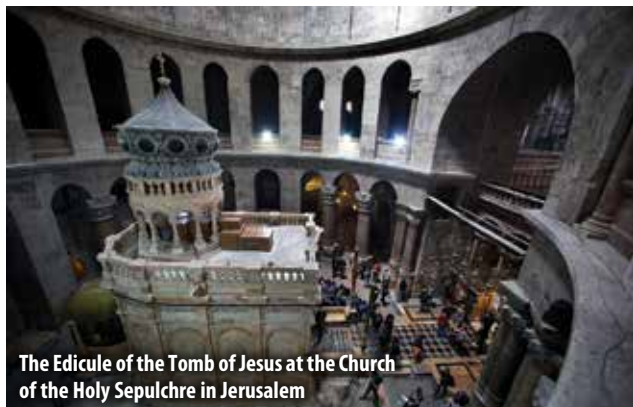
## Jerusalem

**T**he tomb in which Jesus Christ may have been buried dates back nearly 1,700 years, scientists have discovered.

Tests carried out on the remains of a limestone cave in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem, date it back to around 345 CE, *National Geographic* reported.

Previous evidence had only dated the tomb back 1,000 years, to the Crusader period.

Although it's impossible to definitively say whether the tomb is the burial site of a Jew known as Jesus of Nazareth, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is largely accepted as the site of



The Edicule of the Tomb of Jesus at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem

Christ's burial.

The research, carried out by the National Technical University of Athens, does not offer further evidence as to whether Jesus was actually

buried in the tomb, but it is consistent with the historical belief that the ancient Romans constructed a monument at the site around 300 years after his death. (*Independent*)

## #PollToday



Do you think US should be more alert as North Korea finally has a missile that has entire US in range?

Yes  No  Cant Say



I know that many in Myanmar bear the wounds of violence, wounds both visible and invisible. We may think that healing can come from anger and revenge. Yet the way of revenge is not the way of Jesus."

Pope Francis

## Rest in sight

Bali airport reopens as wind clears ash



The airport on the Indonesian holiday island of Bali reopened as wind blew away ash spewed out by a volcano, giving airlines a window to get tourists out.

Philippine troops kill 14 Maoist rebels

Philippine soldiers have killed 14 Maoist guerrillas in an offensive south of the capital, Manila, days after President Rodrigo Duterte ended peace talks with the rebels

Police foil 'attack' on school in Australia

Two teenagers have been charged with planning an attack at a school in Australia using guns and explosives in an act police alleged was designed to harm "a large number".

Afghanistan executes five members of gang

Afghanistan executed five members of a gang involved in kidnapping and murder, as the government of the war-torn nation struggles to curb criminals who target foreigners and wealthy locals

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## North Korea says new missile can hit entire US



South Korea's Hyunmoo II missile is fired during an exercise at an undefined location in the east coast of South Korea

## Seoul

**N**orth Korean leader Kim Jong Un said yesterday his country had achieved full nuclear statehood after what he said was the successful test of a new missile capable of striking anywhere in the United States.

The intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch snapped a two-month pause in testing by the North and poses a new challenge to US President Donald Trump who has vowed such a capability "won't happen".

North Korean state television brought out Ri Chun Hee, a star presenter who only appears for significant developments, to announce the landmark.

"Kim Jong Un declared with pride that now we have finally realised the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force, the cause of building a rocket power," she said.

"The great success in the test-fire of ICBM Hwasong-15 is a priceless victory won by the great and heroic people of the DPRK," she said, using the official abbreviated name for North Korea.

Yesterday's missile was more sophisticated than any previously tested, state media said.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) announced that Seoul held a missile exercise minutes after Pyongyang launch. (*AFP*)

## Egypt's Sisi tells army to restore Sinai security in 3 months



Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi

## Cairo

**E**gyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Wednesday ordered his military command to use all force necessary to secure the Sinai peninsula within the next three months following a militant attack on a mosque that killed more than 300 people.

No group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack in which authorities say gunmen carrying an Islamic State flag opened fire after setting off an explosive. It was the worst militant attack in Egypt's modern history.

Egyptian forces have battled an Islamic State affiliate for several years in North Sinai, where militants

have killed hundreds of police and soldiers.

"It is your responsibility to secure and stabilize Sinai within the next three months," Sisi said addressing his new chief of staff in a speech that gave no details on any operations. "You can use all brute force necessary."

Islamic State's Wilayat Sinai branch has claimed some of the most deadly attacks in Egypt. The group was made up in 2014 of former fighters of a local jihadist group and has staged raids on the security forces for more than three years.

Sinai has become one of Islamic State's last holdouts after military defeats in Iraq and Syria.. (*Reuters*)