

WORLD
world**Remains of more than 60 babies, fetuses found**

Reuters | Washington

The remains of more than 60 infants and fetuses were found stashed in a Detroit funeral home, police said on Friday, calling the discovery “deeply disturbing.”

The incident comes about a week after the badly decomposed bodies of 11 babies were found hidden in a false ceiling at a different funeral home in the Michigan city.

No connection between the two cases has yet been established, Detroit's police chief said. He added city, state and federal investigators were looking to form a task force to investigate the improper storage of human remains.

Unrefrigerated boxes containing about 36 sets of remains were recovered from the Perry Funeral Home along with another 27 sets of remains in a freezer, police said.

“This is deeply disturbing,” Detroit Police Chief James Craig told reporters on Friday. “I have never seen anything like this in my 41-1/2 years (on the force), ever.”

Investigators are working to establish ages and identities.

Australia govt loses crucial by-election

Sydney, Australia

Australia's embattled conservative coalition yesterday dealt a spectacular defeat in a crucial by-election two months after it turfed out its latest prime minister, sending it into minority government.

The poll in the wealthy Sydney seat of Wentworth was triggered after former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull of the Liberal Party was ousted in the party coup in August -- the sixth change of national leaders in the last decade.

The result snuffs out the Liberal-National coalition's one-seat majority and sends the country into yet another period of political instability ahead of national elections that have to be called by mid-May next year.

The Australian Electoral Commission said with almost 40 percent of the vote in Wentworth counted, high-profile independent candidate Kerryn Phelps was leading 54.34 percent compared to 45.66 percent for the Liberals' Dave Sharma under Australia's system of preferential voting.

“I think we can say that Kerryn Phelps will win the Wentworth by-election and this has been a pretty bad result for the Liberal Party,” respected veteran analyst Antony Green of national broadcaster ABC said.

Dozens of casualties as explosions rock Afghan

AFP | Kabul, Afghanistan

Explosions rocked polling centres across Kabul yesterday, causing dozens of casualties, as the long-delayed legislative election dissolved into chaos with many voting locations remaining closed due to technical glitches and lack of staff.

At least three people were killed and more than 30 wounded, acting health ministry spokesman Mohibullah Zeer said, hours after the Taliban warned voters to boycott the ballot “to protect their lives”.

The Italian NGO Emergency said 37 people had been taken to its trauma hospital in Kabul, including a dead child.

Despite the threat of militant attacks, voters waited hours for polling centres to open across the war-torn country and many remained closed more than six hours after the election officially began.

After shambolic preparations, missing or incomplete voter registration lists and hiccups with biometric voter verification devices -- which are being used for the first time -- have caused



An Afghan policeman searches voters before casting their votes at a polling centre

lengthy delays at polling centres.

Most polling sites opened late after teachers employed to handle the voting process failed to show up on time, said the Independent Election Commission (IEC), which has promised to extend voting by four hours.

Polling centres that do not open before 1:00 pm (0830 GMT) would reopen on Sunday, the IEC told reporters.

“I came here early to finish and go home quickly, but we have been waiting for an hour and they have not started yet,” Mustafa, 42, told AFP outside a mosque in Kabul.

“The queue is getting longer. They have to register our votes quickly -- we are afraid a bomber or a blast may hit us.”

Rockets and bombs

Almost nine million people have

registered to vote in the parliamentary election, which is more than three years late, but attacks across the country on Saturday are likely to deter many from turning out.

Voting in Kandahar has been delayed by a week following the attack.

As voting got underway Saturday, three rockets were fired into the northern city of Kunduz, a police spokesman said. No casu-

alties were reported.

There also was a rocket attack near a polling station in the western province of Herat that a police spokesman said wounded a child, as well as numerous explosions elsewhere.

Despite the risks, President Ashraf Ghani urged “every Aghan, young and old, women and men” to exercise their right to vote, after casting his ballot in Kabul.

Photos posted on social media showed scores of men and women clutching their identification documents purportedly lining up outside voting centres across the country amid a heavy security presence.

Taliban threats

The Taliban issued several warnings in the days leading up to the poll, calling on candidates to withdraw from the race and for voters to stay home.

At least 10 candidates out of more than 2,500 contesting the lower-house election have been killed.

Most of those standing are political novices, and include doctors, mullahs and journalists. Those with the deepest pockets are expected to win.

US Mega Millions jackpot hits \$1.6 billion after no winners

Washington, United States

Scores of American lottery players were disappointed they hadn't become an overnight billionaire Saturday -- but they'll get another chance to scoop the jackpot, with \$1.6 billion up for grabs in a few days.

The prize for Friday's Mega Millions contest had soared to \$1bn, prompting long lines at

gas stations and 7-11s across the country. But, although there were 15 second-tier winning tickets of at least \$1 million across nine states, nobody won the jackpot -- putting the prize for Tuesday's draw at a record \$1.6 billion.

The previous largest single jackpot of \$758.7m was won last year by Mavis Wanczyk, a 53-year-old mother of two from

Massachusetts.

In 2016, a \$1.58bn Powerball prize was split three ways by ticket holders from California, Florida and Tennessee. Each took home \$528.8m.

The game, which was created in 2002, has seen changes over the years that have reduced the chances of winning, meaning bigger and bigger jackpots.

University to pay \$215m for sex abuse in campus

Los Angeles, United States

The University of Southern California said Friday it had reached an “agreement in principle” to pay \$215 million in compensation over alleged sexual abuse by a campus gynecologist. Dr George Tyndall has denied allegations made by hundreds of women that ranged from rape to inappropriate touching during medical examinations during his 30-

year career.

He was also accused of taking photos of patients' genitals and making lewd remarks about their physiques, as well as racist and homophobic comments. Despite multiple complaints by students and nurses, he was not investigated until 2016, when an internal inquiry was launched following a complaint by a nurse at the center managing reports of sexual aggression.

Prince Harry opens Invictus Games for disabled

AFP | Sydney, Australia

Britain's Prince Harry yesterday opened the Olympic-style Invictus Games for disabled and wounded soldiers at a moving ceremony on the forecourt of Sydney's Opera House, after an intense thunderstorm forced an hour-long delay.

The Duke of Sussex, who climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge on Friday to help raise the Games flag, welcomed more than 500 competitors from 18 nations to an event that he founded.

“Over the last four years the Invictus Games have become about so much more than the thousands of competitors who



Games Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex attend an Invictus Games event

have taken part,” he said on a stage shaped like a boomerang, following a belated traditional Aboriginal welcome ceremony that was held up by torrential rain and lightning.

“Invictus has become about the example of service and dedication our competitors have provided to the world. Our Invictus family has turned these Games into a symbol of strength, honour and optimism for a new generation.” The prince said the concept was particularly relevant in 2018, the centenary of the end of World War I.

“It feels a fitting tribute to the legacy of that generation to continue to support those who have served their country to-

day,” he said. Earlier Saturday, Harry and his pregnant wife Meghan opened an extension to a war memorial in the city before handing out the first Invictus medals in a driving challenge, where France won gold.

The Games might be Harry's brainchild, but they are also special to the couple as it was at the 2017 event in Toronto that he made his first appearance with the American former actress, then dressed in ripped jeans and a casual white shirt.

Founded by Harry in 2014, the Games are an international sporting event for wounded, injured and ill servicemen and women, both active duty and veterans.