

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Thursday, November 27 2014

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Pope says orders investigation into sexual abuse in Spain

● Pope Francis said yesterday he had personally ordered an investigation into a case of sexual abuse of a minor by priests in Spain because he felt the church should not hide the truth.

Three Spanish Catholic priests and a lay person were arrested in Granada on Monday. The case emerged after a man wrote to the pope telling him of how he had been molested when he was an altar boy.

"I read it. I called the person and I told him 'go to the bishop tomorrow' and then I wrote to the bishop and told him to start an investigation," Francis said in response to a question by a Spanish reporter on his plane from Strasbourg, France, where he had addressed the European Parliament.



Police in major drugs raid: Page Three

OPEN ALL HOURS

● Island council introduces ground-breaking legislation which will allow shops to open when they like and on public holidays.

Palma.—The Lluçmajor council approved legislation yesterday which will give shops the necessary legal framework for more flexible opening hours.

The whole municipality has been declared an area of tourist interest which means that shops will be able to

open all hours. The move has sparked some protests from small retailers but has been welcomed by the majority who believe that it will give them a new weapon to fight falling sales on the high street.

The Palma City Council also wants to extend its Sun-

day opening plan to other parts of the city. At the moment only shops in the Jaime III area can open on public holidays or on Sundays. But the council in the long term wants to change the ruling to include all parts of Palma.



Real Mallorca fans say farewell to old stadium: See Page Three

NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION BILL

Judge says Spanish minister benefited from kickback scheme

● A Spanish investigating judge has accused the health minister of benefiting from a kickback scheme that has already damaged Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's People's Party (PP). The High Court released judge Pablo Ruz's formal ruling the day before Rajoy was due to argue in parliament in favour of a new anti-corruption bill that includes restrictions on party financing.

The ruling said Ruz planned to ask Health Minister Ana Mato whether she knew the provenance of gifts received by her family while she was married to Jesus Sepulveda, then the PP mayor of a district in Madrid.

The document includes a table listing family hotel stays, car rentals, flights, luxury goods and family parties.

Unlike Sepulveda, Mato has not been charged, but yesterday's court documents named her as a suspected beneficiary of crime.

Officials at the Health Ministry could not be reached for comment, though Mato has previously denied any wrongdoing, and Rajoy publicly stated his confidence in her last year when she was identified as part of the kickback investigation.

The PP itself was also named as a suspected beneficiary of the kickback scheme in an earlier stage of Ruz's investigation. Ruz's investigation into the so-called Gurtel case has uncovered a web of payments made to PP politicians in return for business contracts, damaging the government's credibility at a time of acute economic hardship for many Spaniards. Surveys indicate that corruption is the second-biggest concern for the electorate after unemployment, and that disillusionment with the two main political parties has fuelled support for a rising leftist newcomer, Podemos ("We Can").