# 17 THE WORLD



#### MEANWHILE

### PARTS OF TITANIC BEING LOST TO SEA

Some parts of the wreckage of the Titanic that sank over 100 years ago in the Atlantic Ocean is deteriorating rapidly, according to an international team of deep-sea explorers. Strong ocean currents, salt corrosion and metal-eating bacteria are attacking the ship, which sank in 1912 on its maiden voyage.



### **AUSTRALIA** Court upholds Cardinal Pell

*Melbourne:* An Australian appeals court Wednesday

# verdict against

upheld convictions against Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Catholic to be found guilty of sexually abusing children, in a decision cheered by scores of abuse survivors and victims' advocates demonstrating outside the court. A unanimous jury in December found Pope Francis' former finance minister guilty of molesting two 13-year-old choirboys in Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral more than two decades ago. The Victoria state Court of Appeal rejected his appeal in a 2-1 ruling, with the court's chief justice saying the majority found Pell's accuser to be a compelling "witness of truth."

**HONG KONG** 

China confirms

detention of UK

mission worker

Beijing: A Chinese national

working at Britain's Hong

Kong consulate has been

detained in China's border

city of Shenzhen for violat-

ing the law, the Chinese

foreign ministry said on

Wednesday, likely wors-

ening already strained ties

between Beijing and London. Britain has said it is "extremely concerned"

by reports that the staff member at the consulate in its former colony had

been detained. Simon

Cheng did not return to

work on Aug. 9 after visit-

ing the neighbouring

mainland city of Shenzhen

the previous day, Hong

Kong news website HK01

reported, citing an inter-

view with his girlfriend

Death toll from

Kabul wedding

blast rises to 80

Kabul: The death toll from

a suicide bomb attack on

a wedding reception in

Afghanistan's capital,

Kabul, has risen to 80, two

senior officials said on

Wednesday. The initial

death toll after the

Saturday night blast was

63. but some of the

wounded had died, said

spokesman at the interior

ministry. Among the 160

people wounded at the

wedding blast, many are

in critical condition.

Rahimi,

and family.

**AFGHANISTAN** 

**LALITKJHA** 

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has indicated that American forces will not completely withdraw from warn-torn Afghanistan and America will have "somebody there" to make sure that Taliban does not regain control.

During the presidential election campaign in 2016, Trump had pledged to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan and end America's longest war.

has intensified its efforts to seek a negotiated settlement of America's longest war in Afghanistan where the US has lost over 2,400 soldiers since late 2001, when it invaded the country after the 9/11 terror attacks.

"We will always have intelligence, and we'll always have somebody there," Trump told reporters at the Oval Office



The Trump administration has intensified its efforts to seek a negotiated settlement of the war in Afghanistan. Reuters

tions on the ongoing peace talks at various alternatives.

ing on right now. We're talking about a plan — I don't know whether or not the plan is going to be acceptable to me. Maybe it's not going to be acceptable to them. But we are talking. We have good talks going, and we'll see what happens. This is more

Representatives Ilhan Omar

Representatives Ilhan Omar of

Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of

Child migrants to be detained

of Minnesota and Rashida

**Tlaib of Michigan.** Reuters

Michigan, who are Muslim.

longer under latest US rule

EXPLAINED

We have good talks going, and we'll see what happens. This is more than other presidents have done." - DONALD TRUMP

than other presidents have

**US PRESIDENT** 

done," he said. "We have brought it down.

We are bringing some of our troops back. But we have to have a presence," Trump said, ruling out a complete withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

He was asked, "Could we be back to where we were pre-9/11 with the Taliban in complete and total control of Afghanistan?"

"Well, that's what we have to watch," Trump responded. And if the Taliban were "really right" in what they're saying, they would stop that from happening, because they could stop that from happening very easily, he added. The US, he said, is not really

fighting. It is almost more of a police force over there. "It's been so many years. We are like a police force. We are not supposed to be a police force," he added.

Trump reiterated his claim that the US could win the war easily. "We could win that war in a week if we wanted to fight it. But I'm not looking to kill 10 million people. I'm not looking to kill 10 million Afghans, because that's what would have to happen, and I'm not looking to do that," he said. PTI

shows either a total lack of

knowledge or great dislovalty."

noted that accusations of disloy-

alty have long been made against

Iews, including in Europe during

the 1930s. Ann Lewis and Mark

Mellman of Democratic Majority

for Israel called it "one of the most

Jews have faced over the years.

False charges of disloyalty over the

centuries have led to Jews being

A number of Jewish groups

## **US President cancels** Denmark visit after being rebuffed in his bid to buy Greenland

Trump says Danish PM's refusal 'nasty'

**AGENCIES** 

COPENHAGEN, AUGUST 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's decision to cancel a visit to Denmark next month after the prime minister described his plan to buy Greenland as "absurd" took the Danish royal palace by surprise, a spokeswoman said Wednesday. Lene Balleby told *The* 

Associated Press Wednesday that the news was "a surprise" to the royal household, which formally had invited Trump to visit Denmark Sep. 2 and 3 as part of a European trip. She had no fur-"Denmark is a very special

country with incredible people, but based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time." Trump said.

Trump announced his decision by tweet after the Danish Prime Minister dismissed the notion of selling the semi-autonomous territory to the US as "an absurd discussion".

Later on Tuesday, Trump expressed his displeasure at the Danish Prime Minister's reaction. "It was not a nice way of



Danish PM Mette Frederiksen had said the idea of US buying **Greenland was absurd.** Reuters

doing it. She could have just said no, we'd rather not do it," Trump said.

"She's not talking to me, she's talking to the United States of America." There was no immediate

reaction from the Danish government. Former government ministers were quick to speak out, however. Martin Lidegaard, a former

foreign minister, told broadcaster TV2 that it was "a diplomatic farce" and said Trump's behavior was "grotesque" and he was "throwing a hissy fit."

Trump's cancellation was "deeply insulting to the people of Greenland and Denmark," former Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt on Twitter.



10 tonnes of trash was collected from the Everest this year. Reuters

### Nepal prohibits single-use plastic in Everest region

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** KATHMANDU, AUGUST 21

SINGLE-USE plastics have been banned in the Everest region to reduce the vast amounts of waste left by trekkers and mountaineers, Nepali authorities said Thursday.

In addition to seeing a record number of climbers this year, a government-led cleaning initiative on Everest — the world's highest mountain — also collected over 10 tonnes of trash.

The new ban in Khumbu Pasang Lhamu rural municipality, home to Mount Everest and several other snow-capped mountains, covers all plastic of less than 30 microns in thickness as well as drinks in plastic bottles, and will be effective from January.

"If we start now, it will help keep our region, the Everest and the mountains clean long term," local official Ganesh Ghimire said. The region receives over

50,000 tourists every year, including climbers and trekkers. The local body will work with

trekking companies, airlines and the Nepal Mountaineering Association to enforce the ban. Environmentalists are also

concerned that the pollution on Everest is affecting water sources down in the valley. Six years ago, Nepal intro-

duced a \$4,000 deposit per team of climbers on Everest that would be refunded if each climber brought down at least eight kilos of waste, but only half of the climbers return with the required amount.

# WORLD We'll always have somebody there: Trump on Afghan troop withdrawal

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

The Trump administration

on Tuesday. He was responding to gues-

**JONATHAN LEMIRE &** 

**DARLENE SUPERVILLE** 

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

SHOWING A fresh willingness to

play politics along religious lines,

US President Donald Trump said

Iews who vote for Democrats

show "either a total lack of knowl-

quick uproar from critics who said

the Republican president was

trading in anti-Semitic stereo-

types. It came amid Trump's on-

going feud with Democratic

Trump's claim triggered a

edge or great disloyalty".

**ANDY SULLIVAN** 

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

THE TRUMP administration on

Wednesday unveiled new rules

that would allow officials to de-

tain migrant families indefinitely

while judges consider whether

to grant them asylum in the US.

tain to draw a legal challenge,

would replace a 1997 legal agree-

ment that limits the amount of

time US immigration authorities

can detain migrant children. The

agreement is generally inter-

preted as meaning families must

blame the so-called Flores

Settlement Agreement for a

spike in immigration, saying it

encourages migrants to bring

children with them so they can

be released into the US while

Security officials, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said the

new rule would have a deterrent

effect by showing prospective

immigrants that they will not

Department of Homeland

their court cases are pending.

Administration officials

be released within 20 days.

The new rules, which are cer-

with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Trump said he would like to look "One of the alternatives is go-

Trump: Democrat-voting Jews uninformed or disloyal Again attacks congresswomen Omar and Tlaib; Jewish groups slam comment

> Trump has closely aligned himself with Israel, including conservative PM Benjamin Netanyahu, while the congresswomen are outspoken critics of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. Tlaib is a US-born Palestinian American; Omar was born in Somalia.

> "Where has the Democratic Party gone? Where have they gone where they are defending these two people over the state of Israel?" Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Tuesday. "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it

Pediatrics has repeatedly said

that detention is not suitable

for children, who may suffer

numerous negative physical

and emotional symptoms.

Officials said the families would

receive mental health treat-

down on immigration, legal

and illegal, central to his presi-

Trump has made a crack-

ment and other services.

dency. **REUTERS** 

**Flores settlement** 

overturned

THE FLORES Settlement Agreement of 1997 capped the number of

days migrant children could be held in detention at 20 and also

mandated that they must be put in licensed facilities that meet a

Flores, a Salvadoran 15-year-old who fled to the US to be with her

aunt. She was arrested at the border, handcuffed, put in a deten-

Civil Liberties Union on her behalf eventually led to the Flores set-

tlement. The Trump administration's new law, allowing officials to

indefinitely detain migrant children and get rid of the requirement

for state-licensed facilities, overturns the Flores settlement.

necessarily get released into the

country if they show up at the

wait several months for their

cases to work their way

through immigration court,

DHS officials said, and the new

rule would allow DHS to keep

those families at detention

The American Academy of

Families typically have to

border with children.

facilities.

tion facility and strip searched. A lawsuit filed by the American

set of standards. The settlement was named after Jenny Lisette

dangerous, deadly accusations

murdered, jailed and tortured." At Trump's urging, Israel last week blocked Omar and Tlaib from entering the country. AP

# India fights UK Ambedkar memorial closure

**ADITIKHANNA** LONDON, AUGUST 21

THE INDIAN government has lodged an appeal against a local UK council's attempt to close down a memorial dedicated to Bhimrao Ambedkar in north London, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the UK in November 2015.

Ambedkar House, at 10 King Henry's Road in north London where the architect of the Indian Constitution and Dalit rights activist lived in 1921-22 during his student days at London School of



Economics, is housed within a four-storey residential property.

Camden Council, the local authority, recently rejected an application filed by the Indian authorities to convert the residuring his visit to the **UK in 2015.** 

It was

inaugurated

by PM Modi

"The four-storey property does not have permission to be used as a museum and must be returned to residential use,"

museum/memorial.

dential property into an official

cer's report in reference to the planning application made by the Indian authorities. "In terms of balancing the loss of residential floor space

notes the Camden Council offi-

against the cultural benefits there is nothing to suggest that an alternative site could not be found — Dr Ambedkar lived there for a comparatively short time," it adds. The council agrees that a pro-

vision for a museum would be within its planning policy, but it was being refused because that would cause a loss of residential floor space. PTI

## Pak submits compliance report to FATF

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** 

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 21

PAKISTAN HAS submitted compliance report on its 27-point action plan to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as three separate evaluations currently in progress will determine the country's possible exit from the grey list of the anti-money laundering watchdog by October, according to a media report.

The Asia-Pacific Group — the regional affiliate of the FATF — is currently conducting in Canberra (Australia) five-year mutual evaluation of Pakistan's progress on upgrading its systems in all areas of financial and insurance services and sectors, a senior government official told *Dawn*.

This round is not directly linked to Pakistan's performance on its commitments with the

FATF on money laundering and terror-financing, but its assessment report can indirectly impact the country's position to move out of the grey list.

The assessments, represented from Pakistan by State Bank of Pakistan Governor Bagir Reza, will conclude on August 23, the daily said.

Pakistan has submitted its compliance report on 27-point action plan committed with the FATF to the APG, which is reviewing its compliance on about seven areas mostly relating to financial and insurance services and facilities as part of an ongoing five-year review cycle.

against money laundering and terror financing by outfits and non-government entities through banking and non-banking jurisdictions, capital markets, corpo rate and non-corporate sectors.

These areas cover safeguards

### **CONTRACEPTIVES IN SHORT SUPPLY**

# Venezuela's economic crisis pushes women into 'forced motherhood'

CHRISTINE ARMARIO CARACAS, AUGUST 21

DR SATURNINA Clemente pulls up to the small clinic in the impoverished Caucaguita neighbourhood armed with one of Venezuela's most sought-after commodities: Hormonal im-

plants to prevent pregnancy. In a country where contraceptives are in short supply, word in the shantytown on the outskirts of Venezuela's capital spreads quickly. The lucky get on a list run by community leaders. The less fortunate hope there

will be extras. The veteran doctor has 104 implants and there won't be enough

for everyone. As a physician at the nation's largest pediatric hospital, Clemente knows first hand that the consequences for those who don't get one are high.

"It's a sense of impotency, of frustration," she says. "You see that it's not enough, that the demand is much higher."

As Venezuela's crisis deepens, women are bearing the brunt of the nation's upheaval. Despite promises by the socialist government to provide every woman access to family planning, recent surveys and interviews with health professionals indicate access to contraceptives

remains incomprehensive. International organisations like the UN Population Fund have begun stepping in by importing tens of thousands of contraceptives this year, but their work is still limited. It's an ordeal with increasingly international ramifications, as a growing number of pregnant women flee to countries like Colombia seeking care they cannot get in Venezuela.

"Women are getting pregnant and don't have options," said Luisa Kislinger, a women's rights activist. "They're forced into motherhood." Nicol Ramírez is 15 and al-

ready a mother. Her name is on Clemente's list, but to get an implant she needs to show a negative pregnancy test. The young mom and her older sister frantically call their mother. They need



Dr Saturnina Clemente (left) at work. AP

40,000 bolivars, the equivalent of about \$3, in order to do the simple test at a nearby laboratory.

"The situation in this country

isn't one for having children," Ramírez says, balancing her baby daughter on one hip. "I'm still a girl myself."

to steadily increase during his During the late Hugo Chávez's presidency, Venezuela's governtime in power. "There was a major advance ment expanded services aimed at helping poor mothers by providing monthly cash transfers. Chavez lavished praise on

would help promote his vision. The 1999 constitution he advanced guarantees "full family planning services" to women among a host of other benefits.

women and hailed the so-called

"revolutionary mothers" who

"The socialist revolution should be feminist," he declared. Despite those initiatives,

Chávez's government made only modest advances, at best, in improving contraceptive access. Government data shows that teenage pregnancies continued

with the constitution, with getting all these new rights and state obligations," said Rachel Elfenbein, the author of an upcoming book on social programs created under Chávez for women. "But when it came to implementation, if and where it

happened, it was patchy." President Nicolás Maduro has struggled to advance his predecessor's agenda amidst a crippling economic contraction worse than the US Great Depression. Few if any women still get cash transfers except for occasional "bonuses" equivalent

to a dollar or two. Maternal

death rates rose over 65 per cent between 2015 and 2016. "Under Maduro we've seen

an unprecedented setback, Kislinger said. Health professionals believe Venezuela could cut its high ma-

ternal mortality rate by a third doing one thing: Providing contraceptives. The extent of Venezuela's

birth control shortage and the impact on women is difficult to quantify in part because the government has not released information on key indicators like teenage pregnancy since 2012. According to those now dated figures, just over 23 per cent of all births in Venezuela were to women under the age of 20. AP