

## world

# Taiwan probes train crash that killed 18

● Crash on the popular east coast line injured another 187 people

● The crash was the worst rail accident in Taiwan since 199

● Train services have partially resumed

AFP | Yilan, Taiwan

Taiwan's president pushed for a swift investigation yesterday after an express train derailed on a coastal tourist route, killing 18 people as it sent sleeping passengers flying from their seats.

The crash on the popular east coast line injured another 187 people Sunday and left the Puyuma Express lying zig-zagged across the tracks in the island's worst rail accident for a quarter century.

Among those who died, the youngest was nine years old. Two students aged 12 and 13 from a junior high school in Taitung -- where the train was headed -- were also killed, according to the transport ministry.

"Everyone is concerned about the cause of the incident and I've asked prosecutors to clarify the situation... and the cause soon," President Tsai Ing-wen told reporters as she visited the scene of the accident Monday.

A task force and forensic units will determine whether the derailment was "an accident or human error" prosecutor Chiang



A general view shows the location where a Puyuma Express train derailed in Yilan, eastern Taiwan



**We felt that the speed was too fast, then there was a crashing sound and we flew off (from the seats)**

CHIU, A PASSENGER

Passengers who survived the accident recalled how the train had been shaking intensely during the journey and was going "very fast" before it derailed.

"The train stopped twice and we were told that there were problems that needed repair but the train restarted not long after," one passenger who identified herself as Mrs Chiu told reporters. "We felt that the speed was too fast, then there was a crashing sound and we flew off (from the seats)," she said, adding that many passengers were sleeping at the time.

An official from the Taiwan Railways Administration said the train driver had reported a pressure device used for braking had malfunctioned 30 minutes

before the accident, but that it should not have caused the train to go too fast.

Local resident Huang Changhan, 61, told AFP he had been at a nearby hillside temple with a group of people who had rushed to help.

"There was a big bang, and black smoke, the scene was horrible, beyond words," he said.

"We rushed to the scene to help carry the kids and elderly people. There was blood all over, everyone was busy helping people," he said.

Video footage of the aftermath of the crash, broadcast on local Taiwan television, showed passengers smashing a window from inside and kicking it through to escape.

# 63 fetuses found at funeral home



The Perry Funeral Home on Trumbull Avenue in Detroit

AFP | Detroit, United States

Police in the US city of Detroit have found 63 fetuses at a funeral home during a widening investigation of alleged malpractice at such facilities, US media reported.

"This is larger than we might know," The Detroit News quoted Police Chief James Craig as saying. "It's unbelievable."

He spoke to reporters after officers on Friday raided Perry Funeral Home, where they found the remains of 36 fetuses in boxes and an additional 27 in freezers.

Michigan state regulators

suspended the home's license, a week after investigators found the remains of 10 fetuses in a false ceiling at another funeral home in the city.

"We're widening our investigation," Craig said, as cited by the News.

One parent has sued Perry Funeral Home, and other agencies, alleging that the home stored the remains of stillborn and live birth babies at a university morgue for up to three years without notifying parents, the News said.

It added that the lawsuit further alleges the funeral home billed for services and burials that weren't performed.

# Migrant caravan continues march towards US



Sources: AP, BBC, Reuters

Picture: Associated Press

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Thousands of Central American migrants who managed to cross from Guatemala into Mexico have vowed to continue marching northwards with hopes of making it to the United States.

The Associated Press reports that 2,000 migrants took the decision to continue their journey. The Mexican authorities have accepted small groups for asylum pro-

cessing and granted some 45-day visitor permits to others. Some have boarded transport organised by the Guatemalan authorities to return to Honduras voluntarily.

The migrant caravan, which started out more than a week ago with less than 200 participants, has swelled to an estimated 5,000 Sunday after many migrants found ways to cross into southern Mexico as police blocked the official crossing point.

# Meghan rejoins Prince Harry to meet fans

AFP | Fraser Island, Australia

Meghan, the pregnant wife of Britain's Prince Harry, emerged from her break from official duties yesterday to greet excited fans on the stunning World Heritage-listed Fraser Island during the royal couple's Australian tour.

The Duchess of Sussex skipped most of the day's events on the island off Queensland state, after a packed tour that has seen the pair travel to Sydney, Melbourne and the



Britain's Prince Harry (R) poses for a photo with Indigenous Australian Joe Gala (C) during his visit to Fraser Island

regional town of Dubbo since touching down in Australia last Monday. But she appeared in the late afternoon for a public meet-and-greet with her husband, delighting the large crowd at Kingfisher Bay.

Wearing a striped linen maxi dress with a thigh-high split, reportedly by sustainable LA brand Reformation, the pair walked down the jetty and received more baby gifts -- including quilts and stuffed toys -- from the locals. One 16-year-

old boy, who was carrying the sign "Meghan Markle you make my world sparkle" was so excited that he had met the Duchess that he forgot what she said to him.

"She was just really thankful," he told *news.com.au*.

Earlier, the couple arrived in Queensland by plane before travelling to the island separately. Harry boarded a barge, while the Duchess of Sussex took a different vessel and then retreated to a private residence.

# Doctors find 122 nails in Ethiopian's stomach

AFP | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ethiopian doctors extracted over a hundred iron nails and other sharp objects from the stomach of a patient in the capital Addis Ababa at the weekend.

Dawit Teare, a surgeon at St. Peter's Specialised Hospital, said the 33-year-old patient suffers from mental illness and had apparently consumed the items, including 122 four inch (10 centimetre) nails, four pins, a toothpick and pieces of broken glass.

"The patient has been suffering from mental illness for the last 10 years and had stopped taking his medication two years ago, one probable reason he started consuming inanimate objects," Dawit told AFP after the two-and-a-half hour operation.