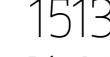
TODAY IN HISTORY



Turkish forces under Sultan Mehmed II begin the siege of Constantinople (Istanbul), which falls May 29



Explorer Juan Ponce de León claims Florida for Spain as the first known European to reach Florida

US President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany

Several thousand Argentine troops seize the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands from Great Britain

loes **I US**

vernight tornadoes also med one life in Pontotoc nty, Mississippi, and one Iadison County, Alabama, rgency officials reported erday.

least 154,000 homes were nout power yesterday, acling to the US Poweroutage site.

s the system made its way he US east coast yesterday, ral mid-Atlantic states were er high wind warnings.

Aaximum wind gusts could roach 60 miles (100 kilome-) per hour throughout much e Appalachians, upper Ohio ey and Mid-Atlantic today," National Weather System ned.

ornadoes are common in the ed States, especially in the re and south of the country. esident Joe Biden on Friday ted the Mississippi city of ing Fork, one of the worstreas in last week's tornado. December 2021, tornadoes ed about 80 people in Ken-

US position with Assad regime has not changed



Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf **Ashen Tharaka TDT** | Manama

ssistant Secretary of State for ANear Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf, stressed that US position with the Assad regime has not changed. Highlighting the new sanctions on 20th March that rely on export and production, she said, "We do not intend to normalize with the regime ourselves."

The US has already started regular discussion with their partners regarding this issue and exposed the focus of further sanctions against Syria.

These facts were revealed at a recent virtual press briefing over Zoom with Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf, about her recent travel to Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, and Tunisia.

From March 15 to 23, Leaf has travelled among those countries to reaffirm the US commitment in the region under President Biden's vision.

Biden tells Russia to release US reporter

AFP | Washington

 $\mathbf{P}^{ ext{resident Joe Biden on Friday}}_{ ext{called for Russia to release}}$ Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who is being held on espionage charges. while rebuffing a call from the paper's editorial board to expel Russian journalists from the United States.

Asked by White House reporters what his message was US President Joe Biden to Russia regarding Gershk- the newspaper's staff Friday, "Let him go."

The Wall Street Journal's board of opinion editors called United States, as well as "all reporting from," she added. Russian journalists working here," describing the move as leaving to view tornado dam-"the minimum to expect."

cation to embarrass the US and now." intimidate the foreign press still working in Russia," it added.

Emma Tucker, sent a note to Moscow, and is being held in been caught "red-handed."



ovich, a US citizen, Biden said: saying that "we will carry on detention in Moscow until May doing everything in our power 29 pending trial. to secure Evan's release.

in a piece published Thursday what matters most to me, and ing in post-Soviet Russia, and afternoon for the expulsion we will continue to protect that his arrest is expected to escalate of Russia's ambassador to the no matter where you may be the Kremlin's confrontation Speaking to reporters before war in Ukraine.

age in Mississippi, Biden said ry Peskov, responding to the ed-"The timing of the arrest that expelling Russian jour- itorial board's demand that all looks like a calculated provo- nalists was "not the plan right Russian journalists be expelled,

in Yekaterinburg, around 1,100 There's just no reason for this." The Journal's editor in chief, miles (1,800 kilometers) east of



American citizens by the Russian government is unacceptable. We condemn the detention of Mr. Gershkovich in the strongest terms

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY KARINE JEAN-PIERRE

He is believed to be the first "Your safety and security are foreign journalist held for spywith the West amid Moscow's

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitsaid "the newspaper can say Gershkovich was detained that, but it should not happen.

He said that Gershkovich had

Andrew Tate moved from detention to house arrest in Romania AFP | Bucharest

🕇 ontroversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother were released after three months detention in Romania and moved to house arrest while they are investigated for alleged human trafficking and rape

Tate, a British-American former kickboxer with millions



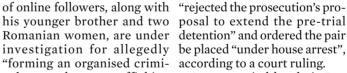
As part of the probe, **Romanian police** have raided several properties connected to the Tate brothers and seized many of



Andrew Tate (C) and his brother Tristan Tate (L) walk out of the central arrest centre of Bucharest police

his younger brother and two posal to extend the pre-trial Romanian women, are under detention" and ordered the pair investigation for allegedly be placed "under house arrest", "forming an organised crimi- according to a court ruling. nal group, human trafficking and rape".

Tate, 36, and his brother -- who deny all charges brought Tristan, 34, were arrested in against them -- were released late December, and have been around midnight (2100GMT)



Accompanied by their Romanian lawyers, the brothers



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s we mark the 75th **A**anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, our worst enemy is complacency. The story of human rights is only halftold. We must continue to make human rights real in the lives of people everywhere. #StandUp4HumanRights

@antonioguterres



COVID19 exacerbated long-standing health workforce challenges that continue to threaten health systems. Ahead of the 5th Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, my @LinkedIn piece reflects on how to go beyond applause & really support #healthworkers.

@DrTedros



¶ongress can get →us closer to a safer America and future

Pope Francis leaves hospital, quips 'I am still alive'



Pope Francis leaves the Gemelli hospital

AFP | Rome

A jovial Pope Francis joked with well-wishers yesterday as he left hospital after a three-night stay for bronchitis, and headed back to the Vatican to prepare for Christianity's most important week.

The 86-year-old pontiff, who was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on Wednesday with breathing difficulties, got out of the car transporting him and smiled and joked with the crowd. Asked by someone how he felt, he quipped twice with a big smile "I am still alive!"

rations for Holy Week and Easter, baby boy the most important week in the Christian calendar.

day after a general audience in St distraught parents whose young Peter's Square, but his condition daughter had just died. improved after he was given antibiotics.

children's cancer ward at the hos- Square, the start of a busy week of pital, handing out chocolate East- events leading up to Easter.



The Gemelli hospital is the favoured choice of pontiffs to the point of being dubbed "Vatican 3" by pope John Paul II, who was treated nine times at Gemelli and spent a total of 153 days there

Francis will now begin prepa- er eggs and baptising a weeks-old

As he left yesterday, he reached out to bless sick people, and The pontiff felt unwell Wednes- stopped to hug and pray with

The Argentine pope confirmed yesterday he will preside over On Friday, the pope visited the Palm Sunday mass in St Peter's their assets, including a collection of luxury cars

since, which was again extend- premises in Bucharest amid ed last week. However, an appeals court ist reported.

held in pre-trial detention ever from the police central arrest chaotic scenes, an AFP journalfor our kids - By banning assault weapons, expanding background checks, and eliminating gun manufacturers' immunity from liability. It's common sense.

@POTUS



Don't Look Up ... but AGI instead of comet @elonmusk

An altar is seen outside the immigration detention center where 39 migrants died during a fire in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state, Mexico

grant accused of starting the lans, seven Salvadorans, seven wanted in connection with the fire in a cell where he was be- Venezuelans, six Hondurans tragedy, Sara Irene Herrerias, ing held with 67 other men, and one Colombian. The injured were 10 Guatedeportations. malans, eight Hondurans, five

According to the authorities, Salvadorans and five Venezue-



Mexico detains migrant accused of starting fire that killed 39

AFP | Mexico City

Mexican prosecutors said that they had arrested a migrant accused of starting a fire that killed 39 people at an immigration detention center near the US border.

Three immigration officials and a private security guard have also been detained as part of a homicide investigation into the blaze that started on Monday night.

Authorities have accused the people in charge of the facility in Ciudad Juarez of doing nothing to evacuate the detainees.

An arrest warrant was outstanding for another guard a prosecutor specializing in apparently in a protest against human rights, told a news conference.

She did not identify the mi- the deceased were 18 Guatema- lans.