

1453

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



1513

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

1917

US President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany

1982

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

Does US

overnight tornadoes also claimed one life in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, and one in Madison County, Alabama, emergency officials reported Tuesday.

At least 154,000 homes were without power yesterday, according to the US Poweroutage site.

The system made its way to the US east coast yesterday, with several mid-Atlantic states were under high wind warnings.

Maximum wind gusts could reach 60 miles (100 kilometers) per hour throughout much of the Appalachians, upper Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic today," the National Weather System said.

Tornadoes are common in the United States, especially in the north and south of the country.

President Joe Biden on Friday visited the Mississippi city of Vicksburg, one of the worst-affected areas in last week's tornado.

In December 2021, tornadoes killed about 80 people in Kentucky.

US position with Assad regime has not changed



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

Assistant Secretary of State for Near 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.

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



Pope Francis leaves the Gemelli hospital

AFP | Rome

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!"

Francis will now begin preparations for Holy Week and Easter, the most important week in the Christian calendar.

The pontiff felt unwell Wednesday after a general audience in St Peter's Square, but his condition improved after he was given antibiotics.

On Friday, the pope visited the children's cancer ward at the hospital, handing out chocolate East-

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

Biden tells Russia to release US reporter

AFP | Washington

President Joe Biden on Friday 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 to Russia regarding Gershkovich, a US citizen, Biden said: "Let him go."

The Wall Street Journal's board of opinion editors called in a piece published Thursday afternoon for the expulsion of Russia's ambassador to the United States, as well as "all Russian journalists working here," describing the move as "the minimum to expect."

"The timing of the arrest looks like a calculated provocation to embarrass the US and intimidate the foreign press still working in Russia," it added.

The Journal's editor in chief, Emma Tucker, sent a note to



US President Joe Biden

the newspaper's staff Friday, saying that "we will carry on doing everything in our power to secure Evan's release."

"Your safety and security are what matters most to me, and we will continue to protect that no matter where you may be reporting from," she added.

Speaking to reporters before leaving to view tornado damage in Mississippi, Biden said that expelling Russian journalists was "not the plan right now."

Gershkovich was detained in Yekaterinburg, around 1,100 miles (1,800 kilometers) east of Moscow, and is being held in

”
The targeting 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

detention in Moscow until May 29 pending trial.

He is believed to be the first foreign journalist held for spying in post-Soviet Russia, and his arrest is expected to escalate the Kremlin's confrontation with the West amid Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, responding to the editorial board's demand that all Russian journalists be expelled, said "the newspaper can say that, but it should not happen. There's just no reason for this."

He said that Gershkovich had been caught "red-handed."

Andrew Tate moved from detention to house arrest in Romania

AFP | Bucharest

Controversial 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



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

As part of the probe, Romanian police have raided several properties connected to the Tate brothers and seized many of their assets, including a collection of luxury cars

of online followers, along with his younger brother and two Romanian women, are under investigation for allegedly "forming an organised criminal group, human trafficking and rape".

Tate, 36, and his brother Tristan, 34, were arrested in late December, and have been held in pre-trial detention ever since, which was again extended last week.

However, an appeals court "rejected the prosecution's proposal to extend the pre-trial detention" and ordered the pair be placed "under house arrest", according to a court ruling.

Accompanied by their Romanian lawyers, the brothers -- who deny all charges brought against them -- were released around midnight (2100GMT) from the police central arrest premises in Bucharest amid chaotic scenes, an AFP journalist reported.

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 wanted in connection with the tragedy, Sara Irene Herreras, a prosecutor specializing in human rights, told a news conference.

She did not identify the mi-



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 fire in a cell where he was being held with 67 other men, apparently in a protest against deportations.

According to the authorities, the deceased were 18 Guatemalans, seven Salvadorans, seven Venezuelans, six Hondurans and one Colombian.

The injured were 10 Guatemalans, eight Hondurans, five Salvadorans and five Venezuelans.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



As we mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, our worst enemy is complacency. The story of human rights is only half-told. We must continue to make human rights real in the lives of people everywhere. #StandUp4HumanRights
@antoniogeterres

02



#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

03



Congress can get us closer to a safer America and future for our kids - By banning assault weapons, expanding background checks, and eliminating gun manufacturers' immunity from liability. It's common sense.
@POTUS

04



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

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)