

1904

United States acquires control of the Panama Canal Zone for \$10 million

1945

US Marines raise American flag on top of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima. Photo of which by Joe Rosenthal later became iconic, inspiring the Marine Corps War Memorial sculpture

1954

1st mass inoculation against Polio with the Jonas Salk vaccine takes place at Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh



1998

Osama bin Laden publishes a fatwa declaring jihad against all Jews and Crusaders

## ... in Brazil, shows CNT poll



as the intervention sent Brazil's financial markets into a tailspin.

The poll showed the Bolsonaro government's bad/terrible negative rating has jumped to 35.5% from 27.2% in October, while disapproval of his personal performance as president has risen to 51.4% from 43.2%.

With his sights set on re-election in 2022, Bolsonaro has blasted "excessive" fuel prices and vowed to tackle electricity prices next, looking to shore up his popularity with an aggressive approach to bringing down Brazilians' cost of living.

On Saturday, the right-wing populist cast rising prices as an attack on him and vowed to revert the trend himself.

## ... kill threat

deeply concerned by the junta's new threat.

"Warning to the junta: Unlike 1988, actions by security forces are being recorded & you will be held accountable," he tweeted.

But protesters appeared undeterred Monday, with thousands gathering in two neighbourhoods of Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city and commercial hub.

"We came out today to join in the protest, to fight until we win," said Kyaw Kyaw, a 23-year-old university student.

"We are worried about the crackdown, but we will move forward. We are so angry."

In the Bahan township area, demonstrators sat on a stretch of road and created a sea of yellow and red banners in support of Suu Kyi.

Yangon residents woke up to a heavy security presence, including police and military trucks on the roads and an embassy district barricaded.

Markets and shops were expected to remain closed in soli-

arity with the protesters.

There were also demonstrations in the cities of Myitkyina and Dawei.

Protesters also took to streets of Naypidaw, the capital, on motorbikes.

### 'Flagrant interference'

Myanmar's generals have responded to the uprising by ramping up gradually ratcheting up the use of force, and the number of political prisoners.

Troops and police have used rubber bullets, tear gas, water cannon and even live rounds on occasion.

Authorities have detained 640 people since the coup, according to the monitoring group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Those targeted include railway workers, civil servants and bank staff who have walked off their jobs as part of the anti-coup campaign.

The junta has also severely curbed internet access overnight for eight straight days, according to the monitoring group Net-Blocks.

Myanmar's foreign ministry on Sunday justified its use of force against protesters, and accused the United Nations and other governments of "flagrant interference" in the country's internal affairs.

"Despite facing the unlawful demonstrations, incitements of unrest and violence, the authorities concerned are exercising utmost restraint through minimum use of force to address the disturbances," it said in a statement.



The United States, Canada and Britain have imposed sanctions on the generals running Myanmar.

## 'I was panicking'

Passenger recalls earlier Boeing 777 jet failure over Japan

Reuters | Tokyo

When Naru Kurokawa heard news at the weekend that an engine had caught fire on a Boeing 777 while over the United States, he recalled his own fear in December when an engine also failed as he was flying over Japan on the same model of jet.

"I was panicking in my head, thinking about how I was maybe going to die," said the 40-year-old, describing his alarm when the Japan Airlines Co Ltd (JAL) Boeing 777 he was on was forced to make an emergency landing about 40 minutes after take off.

"I thought I would go insane if I accepted the thought of death, so I focussed on taking videos of the situation," he said of the Dec. 4 flight to Tokyo that was forced to return to Okinawa airport because of a malfunction in the left engine.

He posted the video on his Twitter account.

On Saturday, a United Airlines Boeing 777 suffered an engine fire, scattering debris over the U.S. city of Denver and prompting Boeing to urge airlines to suspend flights of 777s that use the same Pratt & Whitney PW4000 engines.

Japan's transport ministry ordered JAL and ANA Holdings



United Airlines flight UA328, carrying 231 passengers and 10 crew on board, returns to Denver International Airport with its starboard engine on fire after it called a Mayday alert, over Denver, Colorado, U.S

Inc on Sunday to suspend use of 777s with that engine type while it considered whether to take additional measures.

"Watching videos of the United Airlines flight and engines in flames brought back the fear I experienced," said Kurokawa, a web director and musician from Okinawa.

He had been making a video from his seat next to the window on the left side of the plane as he heard a loud ripping noise followed by a huge shake.

An employee of the Okinawa Times newspaper Minako Kuroshima, who was also on that JAL plane, wrote after-

wards that a pilot told passengers the plane was flying with only the right engine.

The JAL plane made an emergency landing. There were no injuries among the 11 crew or 178 passengers, local media reported.

Japan Transport Safety Board said on Dec. 28 that two of the left engine's fan blades were found damaged, one from fatigue fracture. Damage was also seen in other parts of the plane including the engine cowl and fuselage. A safety board spokesman said on Monday the investigation into the JAL incident was continuing.

## Iran threatens to enrich uranium to 60% purity

Reuters | Dubai

Upping the ante in a standoff with Washington, Iran's Supreme Leader yesterday threatened to enrich uranium up to 60% purity.

"Iran's uranium enrichment level will not be limited to 20%. We will increase it to whatever level the country needs...We may increase it to 60%," state television quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying.

He also accused Americans and Europeans of using unjust language against Iran, white threatening to hang on to its stance. "Our stance will not change," Khamenei said.

He repeated a denial that Iran would ever seek to build nuclear weapons.



An Iranian soldier stands guard inside the Natanz uranium enrichment facility, 322km (200 miles) south of Iran's capital Tehran

Khamenei also added that the Islamic Republic had never pursued the construction or use of nuclear weapons as this was forbidden by its religion.

Blinken, addressing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, said in a pre-recorded speech: "The United States remains committed to ensuring that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon. Diplomacy is the best path to achieve that goal."

Biden has said that if Iran came back into "strict compliance" with the 2015 pact, his administration would do the same, according to Blinken.

"Working with allies and partners, we will also seek to lengthen and strengthen the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or nuclear deal) and address other areas of concern, including Iran's destabilising regional behaviour and ballistic missile development and proliferation," Blinken said.

## ... n TV head-to-head with Prince Harry and Meghan

March, but it has been cancelled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead, the 94-year-old monarch, who heads the association of 54 nations, will deliver a televised message as part of a programme entitled "A Celebration for Commonwealth Day", which will be broadcast on the BBC on March 7, the Abbey said.

There will also be contributions from heir-to-the-throne

Prince Charles and from the next in line, Prince William, with his wife Kate.

That means it will air hours before Harry and Meghan's much anticipated tell-all, their first in-depth interview since they moved to the United States, will be broadcast on CBS.

Winfrey's scoop comes at a time when the couple have been making international headlines with the announcement that they



are expecting a second child and news that they are quitting their royal roles for good.

"We are so pleased that this rich and vibrant BBC programme with the Royal Family and the Abbey at its heart will celebrate our global connections at a time when we are all so physically isolated," said David Hoyle, the Dean of Westminster. Harry and Meghan attended the Commonwealth Day service in person last year.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



If there's one message I want to cut through to everyone in this country, it's this: The vaccines are safe. For yourself, your family, your community, our country — take the vaccine when it's your turn and available. That's how we'll beat this pandemic..

@POTUS

02



Cowardly Republicans, afraid of democracy, want to make it harder for people to participate in the political process. What are they afraid of? Our job is to make it easier to vote, increase voter turnout and strengthen our democracy. Together, we will end voter suppression.

@BernieSanders

03



I am deeply saddened and extremely concerned by the attack today on a humanitarian convoy outside Goma, #DRC which left three people dead, including the Italian Ambassador to the Flag of Congo - Kinshasa. My condolences to all their families as well as the government and people of #Italy.

@DrTedros

04



Tomorrow and my brother Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, I chair a ministerial retreat .. during which we will discuss the state's priorities for the next 50 years ..

@HSHskMohd

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