

479 BC

Greco-Persian Wars: Battle of Mycale is won by Greek forces over Persian naval troops on the Ionian coast

1883

Krakatoa volcano, located west of Java in Indonesia, erupts with a force of 200 megatons of TNT, killing approximately 36,000 people



1928

Kellogg-Briand Pact, 60 nations agree to condemn the "recourse to war for the solution of international controversies"

2008

US Senator Barack Obama becomes the first African American to be nominated by a major political party for President of the United States, by the Democratic Party

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



On this day 15 years ago, the horrific terrorist attack on the United Nations House in Abuja claimed the lives of 23 people, including 11 @UN colleagues, and left many more injured. Today & every day, we remember the fallen & their families, and the survivors — and continue to carry their legacy in our hearts & our work.

@antonioguterres

02



I extend my congratulations to Syria for the decisive step taken yesterday in the process of peacefully integrating the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) into the Syrian State. I salute the commitment of President al-Charaa and the sense of responsibility shown by Mazloum Abdi and the SDF in this regard.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



Thank you, Your Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, for your congratulations on Ukraine's Independence Day. I appreciate your wishes on this important milestone — 35 years since our independence was restored. We value our dialogue with the Sultanate of Oman and look forward to further developing our bilateral relations.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



Congratulations #Mozambique for reaching a major milestone in strengthening the regulation of medicines and imported vaccines.

@DrTedros

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

IRAN-OMAN TALKS ON STRAIT OF HORMUZ



Iran and Oman are negotiating the opening of a temporary shipping corridor and the clearance of mines in the blockaded Strait of Hormuz, which both nations border.



They have yet to agree on the conditions for the waterway's reopening as the Middle East war nears the six-month mark, but talks are ongoing.

WHY OMAN?



A US-Iran memorandum of understanding signed in mid-June provided for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz,



and left it up to Iran and Oman "to define the future administration and maritime services" in the waterway,



in discussion with Gulf states and in line with international law.



IS THERE ANY PROGRESS?



According to media reports, the proposed arrangement would see ships entering the Gulf pass through Iranian waters,



while those leaving would use Omani waters, with Tehran retaining oversight.



Iran's Revolutionary Guards also said on Wednesday that they had agreed in negotiations with Oman to share revenues earned from any fees imposed in the strait -- an idea **rejected by Washington**.

**REJECTED
BY WASHINGTON**

Talks continue as both nations work toward a mechanism that ensures safe shipping, regional stability and respect for international law.

Prince Harry and family arrive back in Britain: UK media

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Prince Harry, his wife Meghan and their two children landed Wednesday in Britain, UK media reported, after the shock news emerged last week they would be relocating from the United States.

The couple -- who quit Britain for California six years ago amid a royal feud -- landed in a private jet at Birmingham Airport in central England, The Telegraph newspaper and other media said.

Their spokesman declined to confirm the arrival, telling the BBC "this is not something we would comment on".

The Telegraph reported that the couple plan to stay for "an extended period", living in a home in the Cotswolds region, in central England, having enrolled their children at a school for the coming academic year.

With questions swirling around whether the stay is permanent, reports have noted the couple intend to keep their existing homes in California and Portugal.

Their two children -- Archie, seven, and Lilibet, five -- have already been signed up to start at a private school in early September, according to UK media



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex return in a horse-drawn carriage after attending the Queen's Birthday Parade, 'Trooping the Colour' on Horseguards parade in London

outlets.

The school is "in or close to" the Cotswolds, according to the Daily Mail.

Reconciliation?

Harry, 41, and Meghan, 45 -- whose formal titles are the duke and duchess of Sussex -- swapped Britain for the United States amid a bitter falling-out with his family, which only worsened as Harry published his tell-all memoir "Spare".

A no-holds-barred interview with US talk show hostess Oprah Winfrey also deepened the rift.

The prince appeared to have

mended relations with his cancer-battling father, King Charles III, during more recent UK visits, but Harry reportedly remains estranged from his brother, heir-to-the-throne Prince William and wife Catherine.

Harry and Meghan met the king in July, during a brief British visit -- the first time in four years the couple's children had met their grandfather.

But they did not meet William and Kate, and whether the feuding siblings will reconcile has been among the many questions thrown up by their return

'Master of Escapes' caught in Spain after 4th prison break

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Spanish police have arrested a fugitive dubbed the "Master of Escapes" after he broke out of prison four times, most recently from a maximum-security facility in Italy, authorities said yesterday.

The man, wanted by Italy under a European arrest warrant, escaped from the jail there in December by sawing through window bars and lowering himself with knotted bedsheets, Spain's National Police said in a statement.

Police said he had previously escaped from prisons in Terni and Parma in Italy and from a Belgian prison, where he used a human pyramid to scale the walls.

"It sounds like something out of a film, but sometimes reality is stranger than fiction," police said in the statement.

The man was arrested in the northeastern Spanish city of Tarragona after police tracked him to a neighbourhood where he was believed to be living.

Authorities said he resisted arrest and that several people accompanying him tried to intervene, with one allegedly



injuring two officers.

Spanish police gave only the man's initials, T.T., which correspond to those of Toma Taulant, an Albanian national known in Italian media as a "mago della fuga", or "escape wizard".

Taulant escaped from a maximum-security prison in Milan in December.

He was serving a prison sentence due to expire in 2048 for a series of offences including violent robbery, theft and drug dealing, according to Italian media reports.

The fugitive was carrying false identification documents and two 500-euro (\$582) notes suspected of being counterfeit, Spanish police said.

A judge ordered him to be held in provisional custody without bail pending extradition proceedings to Italy.

India plans first tokenised bond issue in September, sources say

Reuters | Mumbai

India will launch tokenised corporate bonds next month, as it tests the use of blockchain technology to enable instant settlement of bond transactions, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said on Monday.

The notes, to be issued for the first time by state-owned power financier REC (RECM. NS), would place India alongside markets such as Europe and Hong Kong in using the technology for issuance and settlement.

Tokenised bonds are securities whose ownership, issuance, trading and settlement are recorded digitally on a blockchain or distributed ledger, allowing transactions to be completed almost instantly.

India's markets regulator and central bank are working together on pushing the technology, according to the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity as the discussions are ongoing and confidential.

REC will issue tokenised bonds worth less than 5 billion rupees (\$57 million) in the offering, the sources said.

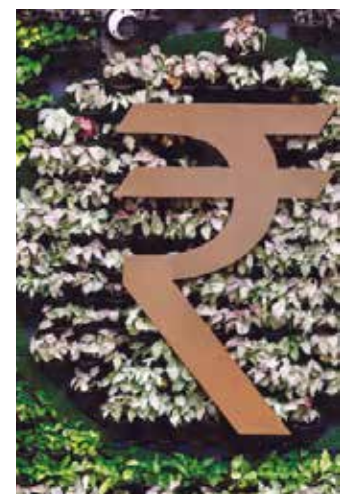
The offering is expected to be unveiled at an annual financial technology event in Mumbai next month, one of the sources said.

India's central bank digital currency will be used to buy the tokenised bonds, one of the sources said.

Details about the issuer, timeline and framework have not been reported previously.

"The offering would be made available to only a select group of investors at the pilot stage," one of the sources said.

Reuters could not ascertain the names of the investors.



The central bank, markets regulator and REC did not respond to emails seeking comment.

NEW BOND FRAMEWORK

To tap the bonds, investors will need to access two digital accounts: a wholesale digital currency wallet provided by a bank, and a new electronic securities wallet, the sources said.

Indian depositories are developing an e-wallet, a first of its kind, called DEMAT 2.0, which will record bond holdings on a distributed ledger technology chain.

"Subsequent trades can take place only between participants that hold both compatible CBDC and securities wallets," one of the sources said.

The bonds will have an initial three-month lock-in and exchanges are expected to develop a secondary market for the tokenised bonds by December, one of the sources said.

The securities will not be traded on the conventional electronic book provider platform, the sources said.

Depositories NSDL and CDSL did not immediately respond to Reuters queries.