

1587

Queen Elizabeth I of England signs death warrant for her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots

1979

Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran after 15 years in exile

2003

Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrates during reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard.



2021  
Military stage a coup in Myanmar, detaining civilian leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi and declare a one-year state of emergency

# in outskirts in east



Firing it towards positions of Russian in the outskirts of Bakhmut, Donetsk

away from defending Bakhmut.

F-16: BIDEN SAYS NO  
The West has so far refused to send weapons that could be used to attack deep inside Russia, a line countries still seem unwilling to cross. US President Joe Biden responded with a flat "No" when asked by reporters at the White House on Monday if Washington would send F-16s.

Macron said any move to send jets would depend on factors including the need to avoid escalation and assurances the aircraft would not "touch Russian soil".

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki also did not rule out a possible supply of F-16s to neighbouring Ukraine, in response to a question from a reporter before Biden spoke.

Morawiecki said in remarks posted on his website that any such transfer would take place "in complete coordination" with NATO. Poland has long pushed for more aggressive military support for Ukraine.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson said on Tuesday London did not believe its own jets would be useful.

"The UK's ... fighter jets are extremely sophisticated and take months to learn how to fly. Given that, we believe it is not practical to send those jets into Ukraine," the spokesperson told reporters.

# ast kills 100



the damages

the attack, but Sanaullah said a breakaway faction of the TTP called Khurasani had claimed responsibility.

The TTP denied responsibility, though it has stepped up attacks since withdrawing from a peace deal with the government last year.

The policy to release militants under a amnesty as part of the deal has resulted in the bombing, Sanaullah said, adding that some of the militants who were set free also included some on death row.

The bombing took place a day before an IMF mission arrived in Islamabad for talks on a stalled \$7 billion bailout.

## Airbus and Qatar edge towards agreement in A350 dispute

Reuters | Paris

Airbus (AIR.PA) and Qatar Airways are edging towards an agreement to settle a bitter dispute over grounded A350 jets, two people familiar with the matter said yesterday.

After months of public feuding, there is no guarantee that an agreement can be reached, after previous attempts to avoid a high-profile trial in London this year were abandoned.

But two of the sources said the tone appeared more encouraging and negotiations had accelerated after some political activity and an uneventful four-way meeting between the two sides and their respective regulators in Doha last week.

"There will be an agreement," one of the sources said, while another cautioned that the talks were still ongoing.

Diplomatic sources told Reuters this month that French President Emmanuel Macron and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani had spoken again about the dispute in recent weeks.

## Abbas blames Israel for violence

Reuters | Jerusalem

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas blamed Israel yesterday for a sharp escalation of violence in the West Bank as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged calm on both sides and reaffirmed Washington's commitment to a two state solution.

Calling for "the complete cessation of unilateral Israeli actions, which violate the signed agreements and international law", Abbas reiterated the Palestinians' longstanding demand for Israel to end its occupation. "We are now ready to work



Blinken meets with Abbas in Ramallah

with the US administration and the international community to restore political dialogue in order to end the Israeli occu-

lation of the land of the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital," he said in a statement.

## France hit by new wave of strikes against Macron's pension reform

● Reform would raise retirement age to 64 from 62

● Schools, transport networks, refinery deliveries affected

● Macron: Reform vital to ensure pension system's viability



Passengers stand on a platform during a strike by Paris transport network (RATP) workers at Saint-Lazare metro station in Paris

Reuters | Paris

Striking workers disrupted French refinery deliveries, public transport and schools yesterday in a second day of nationwide protests over President Emmanuel Macron's plan to make people work longer before retirement.

Huge crowds marched through cities across France to denounce a reform that raises the retirement age by two years to 64 and poses a test of Macron's ability to push through change now that he has lost his working majority in parliament.

On the rail networks, only one in three high-speed TGV trains were operating and even fewer local and regional trains. Services on the Paris metro were thrown into disarray.

Marching behind banners

reading "No to the reform" or "We won't give up," many said they would take to the streets as often as needed for the government to back down.

"We won't drive until we're 64!" bus driver Isabelle Texier said at a protest in Saint-Nazaire on the Atlantic coast.

"For the president, it's easy. He sits in a chair ..., he can work until he's 70, even," she said. "We can't ask roof layers to work until 64, it's not possible."

After Jan. 19, when more than a million people took to the streets on the first nationwide strike day, unions said initial data from protests across the country showed a bigger turnout.

"It's better than on the 19th ... It's a real message sent to

the government, saying we don't want the 64 years," Laurent Berger, who leads CFTD, France's largest union, said ahead of the Paris march.

Opinion polls show a substantial majority of the French oppose the reform, but Macron intends to stand his ground. The reform is "vital" to ensuring the viability of the pension system, he said on Monday.

Some felt resigned amid bargaining between Macron's ruling alliance and conservative opponents who are more open to pension reform than the left.

"There's no point in going on strike. This bill will be adopted in any case," said 34-year-old Matthieu Jacquot, who works in the luxury sector.

## Huge crowds welcome pope to Congo for start of Africa trip

Reuters | Kinshasa

Huge crowds cheered for Pope Francis as he travelled into the Democratic Republic of Congo capital Kinshasa in his popemobile yesterday, beginning a visit that will highlight the human cost of decades of conflict in the vast central African country.

Francis is the first pope to visit Congo since John Paul II in 1985, when it was still known as Zaire. About half of Congo's population of 90 million are Roman Catholics.

Tens of thousands of people lined the route from Kinshasa airport into town, with some breaking away to chase the pope's convoy while others



Pope Francis waves as he is welcomed by residents of Kinshasa



Residents of Kinshasa celebrate

chanted and waved Congolese and Vatican flags in one of the most vibrant welcomes of his foreign trips.

At the airport earlier, the 86-year-old pope, who struggles to walk due to a chron-

ic knee ailment, was lowered from his plane, then pushed in a wheelchair onto a red carpet leading to the terminal. Congolese Prime Minister Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde greeted him, then accompanied him inside.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Two-thirds of the population of Yemen - 21.6 million people - will need humanitarian assistance & protection services this year. While Yemen is no longer in a state of full-scale war, this is not the time to step back from its people.

@antoniogeturres

02



The Economic Survey presents a comprehensive analysis of India's growth trajectory including the global optimism towards our nation, focus on infra, growth in agriculture, industries and emphasis on futuristic sectors.

@narendramodi

03



Starlink is now available in Nigeria - the first African country to receive service! <http://starlink.com/map>

@elonmusk

04



Hard work never stops

@Cristiano



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