

Date Maya/Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar starts dating from (as corresponds to the Julian Calendar).

Ferdinand Magellan's Spanish expedition aboard the Vitoria returns to Spain without their captain. First to circumnavigate the earth.



US President William McKinley is shot by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist, while visiting the Pan-American Exposition in New York

World War I: First Battle of the Marne begins, French and British forces prevent German advance on Paris (till the 12th Sept)

# Human trafficking in Ukraine

...st on X, formerly Twitter, government was "acting in the name of the law" against human trafficking. ... part of the war in Ukraine, ministry said, adding that it was "acting in the name of the law" against human trafficking in any form of human trafficking for the purpose of human trafficking for the purpose of human trafficking against any human trafficking against any human trafficking.

what it described as testimonies from two teenagers who said they had been tricked into working alongside the Russian army on construction sites in Ukraine. In a video message posted on the newspaper's website, one of the teens called for help getting out as quickly as possible. America TeVe said the video message was sent from a bus transporting the pair from Ukraine to the Russian city Ryazan along with Russian servicemen. "We can't sleep (because) at any moment they can come back and do

something to us," said another young man, who claimed to have been beaten. Another Cuban man told the media outlet that he had signed up with Moscow's armed forces hoping to legalize his status in Russia. Moscow and Havana have boosted ties recently, with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel meeting his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow at the end of last year. In June, Cuban Defence Minister Alvaro Lopez Miera was received by his counterpart Sergei Shugov.

## French helicopter on trial for brazen jailbreak



French helicopter Alouette II abandoned by French armed robber Redoine Faid after his escape from prison in Reau

cell to the waiting helicopter, which took off without any shots being fired. The entire operation took 10 minutes. Police later found the helicopter abandoned. He was re-captured three months later, hiding in the home of friend of a relative. Faid, who broke out of jail once before in 2013, taking warden's hostage and blowing up the prison gate, faces life imprisonment for the repeat offence. He has a history of robberies involving armoured vehicles and hostage-taking and at the time of

the jailbreak was already serving a 25-year sentence for a botched heist in which a policewoman got killed. Eleven suspected accomplices, including members of his family, are on trial alongside Faid, charged with helping him in the escape and during the subsequent three months it took police to catch him. Access to the courtroom was under special protection on Tuesday and mobile phone signals scrambled, officials said. Faid made no statements to investigators in the run-up to the trial, except to say he was sorry that his accomplices had been caught up in the trial. Reau prison has since installed security lines over the courtyard to prevent any more jailbreaks by air.

## Jill Biden contracts Covid: White House



Washington, United States

US First Lady Jill Biden on Monday tested positive for Covid-19, the White House said. President Joe Biden tested negative. The 72-year-old first lady is experiencing "only mild symptoms," her office said, and will remain in the couple's home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Jill Biden last tested positive for Covid a year ago. President Biden, 80, was administered a Covid test Monday evening and tested negative, the White House said, adding that he will continue regular testing and monitor for symptoms. The United States has been experiencing a rise in Covid cases and hospitalizations in recent weeks.

## Iran arrests Mahsa Amini uncle ahead of death anniversary

AFP | Paris, France

Iranian authorities yesterday arrested an uncle of Mahsa Amini, the young Iranian Kurdish woman who died in custody sparking months of protests, just ahead of the first anniversary of her death, reports said. Safa Aeli, 30, was arrested by security forces in the family's hometown of Saqez in western Iran and taken to an unknown location, the Kurdish-focused Hengaw rights group, France-based Kurdistan Human Rights Network

and the 1500tasvir protest monitor said in separate statements. Hengaw said Iranian authorities deployed a convoy of five vehicles filled with members of the security forces to forcibly enter Aeli's residence, without presenting any legal documentation. Media based outside Iran have said that the town of Saqez is under particular scrutiny ahead of the anniversary, with hotels told not to accept outsiders and new security cameras being set up including around Amini's grave.

## India astir over rumoured plans to change country's name

AFP | New Delhi, India

India was buzzing with speculation yesterday over rumoured plans to scrap official usage of the country's English name, after a state-issued invite sent to world leaders referred to it as "Bharat". Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself typically refers to India as "Bharat", a word dating back to ancient Hindu scriptures written in Sanskrit, and one of two official names for the country under its con-

stitution. This weekend India hosts the G20 summit of world leaders, capped with a state dinner that invitation cards said would be hosted by the "President of Bharat". The government has called a special session of parliament for later in the month while remaining tight-lipped about its legislative agenda. But broadcaster News18 said unnamed government sources had told it that BJP lawmakers would put forward a special resolution to give precedence to the name "Bharat".

## Biden taps political veteran Lew as Israel envoy

Lew, an Orthodox Jew who observes the weekly sabbath, will play a key role in managing the relationship as Biden attempts to broker a potentially historic deal for Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel.

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Joe Biden yesterday nominated former treasury secretary Jack Lew as ambassador to Israel, tapping a veteran political player with close ties to the Jewish state at a turbulent time between the allies. Lew, an Orthodox Jew who observes the weekly sabbath, will play a key role in managing the relationship as Biden attempts to broker a potentially historic deal for Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel. The nomination comes after a spike in tensions with Biden openly criticizing an overhaul of the judiciary by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in what critics say is a threat to democracy by the most right-wing government in Israel's history. Lew will need confirmation from the Senate, where Biden's Democratic Party retains control but Republicans ahead of the 2024 US election could fight against the nomination. In a formal statement, the White House cited the "disting-



Jack Lew

guished career in public service" of Lew, who has served in successive Democratic administrations. Under Barack Obama, Lew -- a trained lawyer -- served as treasury secretary and earlier as White House chief of staff, director of the Office of Management and Budget and as a deputy secretary of state to Hillary Clinton. David Makovsky, a distinguished fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said that Lew, while more of a budgetary than foreign policy expert, would be the first former cabinet secretary to become ambassador to Israel. "Having him there is a signal by the president that he greatly values the bilateral relationship and that he wants someone of stature," said Makovsky, a longtime friend of Lew. "It's going to come at a difficult time," he said. Lew would succeed Thomas Nides, another veteran Democratic political operative who made headlines with his unusually blunt language on Netanyahu's judicial reforms.

## China: two held after smashing hole in landmark



Representative picture

the Ming-era wall, which was described as a "relatively intact" section of significant research value. Images on Chinese state

TV showed the aftermath of the scene, where a dusty road had been cut through a long, raised section of ground that appeared

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Construction of the Great Wall, which is split into sections that in total stretch for thousands of kilometres, first began in the third century BC and continued for centuries.

to be the remnants of the ancient barrier. "Currently, the two suspects have been criminally detained in accordance with the law, and the case is continuing to be investigated," according to CCTV.



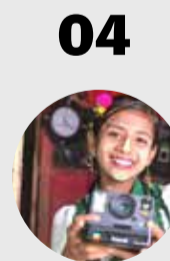
TOP 4 TWEETS 01 Africa can be a renewable energy superpower. Now is the time to bring together African countries with developed countries, financial institutions and technology companies to create a true African Renewable Energy Alliance. @antonioguerres



TOP 02 Teachers play a key role in building our future and inspiring dreams. On #TeachersDay, we salute them for their unwavering dedication and great impact. Tributes to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary. @narendramodi



TOP 03 The Facebook caved to far left pressure groups and now allows them to silently dictate policy in exchange for ad money @elonmusk



TOP 04 These young refugees are sharing their stories through short films. They were trained during a UNICEF-supported workshop in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. As the Rohingya crisis enters its sixth year, UNICEF continues to support children's needs. @UNICEF

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