

Battle of Adrianople: Roman Emperor Constantine I defeats his co-emperor Licinius, who flees to Byzantium



Battle of Gettysburg, the largest battle ever fought on the American continent, ends in a major victory for the Union during the US Civil War

Dow Jones publishes its first stock index, the Dow Jones Transportation Average

UK House of Commons announces that the Stone of Scone, aka the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish and subsequently English and British monarchs, will be returned to Scotland after 700 years in Westminster Abbey

# Rescuers dig out man eight days after Venezuela quakes

Dramatic rescue offered rare hope as Venezuela's death toll neared 2,300

● Hernan Gil pulled alive from collapsed building

● Multinational teams celebrate success

● Thousands remain homeless and missing

● Focus turns to food and health risks

AFP | Catia La Mar

Hundreds of rescuers in Venezuela cheered and embraced yesterday after pulling a 43-year-old man alive from the ruins of a collapsed building eight days after deadly twin earthquakes, journalists witnessed.

With the official death toll nearing 2,300 and huge numbers of people still missing, the rescue of security guard Hernan Gil after so long under the rubble was greeted as a miracle.

Gil was brought out on a stretcher after a painstaking op-



An international rescue team carries Hernan Gil, a survivor of Venezuela's twin earthquakes, on a stretcher in Catia La Mar

eration to extract him from the collapsed seven-story building where he worked in Catia La Mar, a coastal area almost entirely razed to the ground in the June 24 catastrophe.

"This is truly a miracle," Gil's wife Gusbimar Gonzalez said

before his rescue. "I'm completely amazed because it's the first time I've seen so many countries come together like this to save a single person," she said.

Rescue teams from seven countries -- Venezuela, Chile,

the United States, Portugal, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico -- worked around the clock over the past three days to reach him.

It was a complex operation in which teams had to avoid provoking the further collapse of already damaged, nearby struc-

tures.

"It wasn't easy to reach the exact spot where the victim was located," Cristian Vera, the leader of the Chilean rescue team told AFP.

However, while there have been a few astounding rescues -- a three-year-old boy was found Tuesday six days after the quake -- hope has faded of finding many more survivors.

## No signs of life

The majority of collapsed buildings in the hardest-hit city of La Guaira, just north of Caracas, have been marked with the letter 'D' for 'deceased' -- a sign they had been searched with no signs of life found.

"Time isn't wasted in a place where there is no expectation of recovering people alive," said Javier Rodes, the coordinator of a Spanish rescue team whose sniffer dog Nala searched in vain through the rubble for traces of life.

Venezuela's National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said Wednesday that the number of deaths had risen to 2,295, and more than 11,000 people were injured.

## India, Japan vow closer work on critical minerals

AFP | New Delhi

India and Japan will work more closely on critical minerals to boost "resilience" in their supply chains, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday, as the two huge Asian economies look to cut dependence on top exporter China.

Both India and Japan depend on imports for many such minerals, used in everything from electric vehicles, solar panels and smartphones to jet engines and guided missiles.

They have been seeking new suppliers, including the United States and other countries, as China's dominance may leave them vulnerable to changes in their ties with Beijing.

"We have agreed to strengthen supply chain resilience in strategic sectors such as semiconductors, quantum technologies, and critical minerals," India's Modi said after talks with his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi in New Delhi.

Japan and India are members of the Quad security alliance along with the United States and Australia, a group seen as a counterweight to China's expanding presence in the Indian Ocean and wider Asia-Pacific region.

Takaichi said both Japan and India were facing challenges



Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (L) and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi gesture during her ceremonial reception at India's presidential palace, Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi

such as "weaponisation of the economy and non-market policies and practices".

"We need to urgently build resilience in our critical minerals supply chains," she said in her speech.

In a sign of camaraderie between the two leaders, Modi referred to Takaichi as his "little sister" and the Japanese premier responded by calling him "elder brother".

Japanese and Indian businesses concluded investment deals worth \$12.3 billion, the two sides said.

They form part of a Japanese pledge to pour \$68 billion into

India over 10 years.

Modi said the countries had also agreed to co-develop a naval radio antenna project aimed at boosting maritime surveillance.

Earlier, Takaichi received a red-carpet welcome at the presidential palace in Delhi, where troops marched past in an honour guard parade.

She will address a business forum as part of efforts to strengthen economic ties between Asia's second- and third-largest economies.

Trade between them in 2025-26 topped \$27 billion, according to official figures from India.

## Nine Thai monks killed after boy drives truck into procession



the aftermath of a collision between a pickup truck driven by an 11-year old and a procession of Buddhist monks

AFP | Bangkok

An 11-year-old boy drove his parents' truck into a Buddhist procession in Thailand yesterday, killing nine monks and seriously injuring around 10 others, police and local authorities said.

A group of 35 monks and five lay followers were walking along a roadside in north-eastern Mukdahan province during a pilgrimage when the incident occurred.

"I saw a boy driving a pickup truck, approaching. At that moment I was chanting 'Buddho, Buddho' (a meditation mantra)," one monk, identified as Phra Sompong, said in

a video posted online by local rescue workers.

"Then suddenly the truck hit at full speed and crashed us," he said.

"Luckily another monk and I managed to jump out of the way in time," he added.

"The first nine monks in line survived. But others who were hit were thrown into the air."

Police said five monks died at the scene and three more in hospital. The Mukdahan provincial office later announced the death of a ninth monk.

Health authorities had earlier said four monks were in a critical condition and 10 others were seriously hurt, while more were being treated for lighter injuries.



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TWEETS

01



Another #EUHumanitarianAirBridge flight has landed in Rwanda, carrying over 75 tonnes of medical supplies from Belgium. The cargo now continues by road to Goma, supporting our humanitarian partners as they deliver lifesaving assistance against #Ebola to people in eastern DRC.

@hadjalahbib

02



It is good to be back in Yerevan so soon. The recent elections have once again shown the strength of Armenia's democracy. Armenia is staying the course on reform and moving closer to Europe. So I'm here with a simple message: Armenia can count on us.

@vonderleyen

03



The death penalty does not deliver justice. It is an inhumane form of punishment, puts innocent lives at risk, and has no place in the 21st century. I remain fully committed to the universal abolition of the death penalty - firmly & without exception.

@antonioguterres

04



El Obeid is a warning, we've seen this before and cannot see it again. Violence and hunger are rising. In the gap between what @WFP can do and what funding allows, people are left behind. The world must act to end this war and support #Sudan.

@WFPchief

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