

1494

Treaty of Tordesillas: Spain and Portugal divide the New World along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa

1628

English King Charles I ratifies the Petition of Right



1654

Louis XIV is crowned King of France

1753

British Museum is founded by an Act of Parliament with royal assent from King George II, opens in 1759

Nearly 500 confirmed cases in Central Africa Ebola outbreak: WHO



Ebola, which is spread through close contact and bodily fluids, has killed more than 15,000 people in Africa over the past 50 years.

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland



Nearly 500 Ebola cases have now been confirmed in the deadly outbreak raging in central Africa, a WHO overview showed Saturday, amid mounting concern over the swelling scale of the epidemic.

In its daily update on the situation, the World Health Organization tallied 452 confirmed cases, including 82 deaths, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the outbreak was declared three weeks ago.

In neighbouring Uganda, meanwhile, it counted 19 confirmed cases, including two deaths.

The total of 471 cases and 84 deaths, based on numbers reported by the DRC and Ugandan governments, marked a hike of 100 cases and 20 deaths from a day earlier.

The increase came amid warnings that the outbreak, which the WHO has declared

US warns Ebola outbreak on scale of largest 'is possible'

AFP | Washington, United States

The US CDC on Friday urged strong public health interventions against the current Ebola outbreak, citing their models that show it could otherwise rival the scale of the 2014 West Africa outbreak.

That eruption of the virus resulted in more than 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths. "That scale is possible," said Jason Asher, director of CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics, during a press briefing.

The US projections from the Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention were part of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report documents published Friday.

The worst outcomes could be avoided if "a larger proportion of patients were identified, isolated, and treated," the agency said in its reports.

But "the public health response to control this outbreak will likely need to be of similar magnitude to the response for the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak."

Asher emphasized the models were "not a forecast" but "a planning tool."

"They're designed to support action, not to generate alarm."

an international public health emergency, could eventually swell to become the largest on record.

Rescuers halt search for last men lost in Laos cave

AFP | Vientiane, Laos

Rescuers called off their search yesterday for two men trapped in a semi-submerged cave in Laos for more than two weeks, as the site became unstable and survival hopes faded.

Seven villagers became trapped in the cave in central Xaysomboun province on May 20 when flash floods blocked their exit as they hunted bats for food and searched for gold in old mining areas, state media said.

Rescue teams located five of the men alive a week later, with one extracted by divers on May 29 and four guided out the following day after water was pumped from the flooded cavern.

The two others remained missing despite intensive searching by Laos and international rescue teams.

Lee Kian Lie, a Malaysian cave diver who joined the operation on May 28, told AFP it was at an "end" as the risks of continuing outweighed the slim chances of the men's rescue.

"We were so close," Lee said. "The water in the cave was already manageable, but the cave



A rescue team freeing one of seven men (L) trapped inside a semi-submerged entrance started to become unstable.

"To continue the operation is high risk," he added. "They will continue to manage the water by pumping and digging at possible resurgence points to let the water flow out faster. Perhaps a miracle will happen."

"Everyone tried. We tried. I am sorry for the family."

Lee described the mission as the most dangerous rescue operation he had experienced, saying the team faced flooding, unstable cave structures, tight restrictions and poor air quality.

Thai lead rescuer Kengkad Bongkawong said in a social

media post on Saturday that "no one is allowed inside the cave" because "it is too risky for anyone to enter", but water pumping operations would persist outside.

"Even though we don't know the current condition of those two individuals, reducing the water level inside the cave is the best approach right now," he posted on Facebook.

"There are still food rations and survival supplies that we have placed at various points inside the cave. If miracles exist, I believe their expertise will guide them out safely."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Congratulations to our @UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year, Major Abhilasha Barak of India, who is #ServingForPeace with @UNPeacekeeping in Lebanon. Her work shows the critical role that @UNIFIL plays & how its presence is transforming the lives of women & girls, even under the most challenging circumstances. Major Barak, you are a role model to those you serve & those you serve with. Thank you for your service.

@antonioguterres

02



We are building a more independent European Union. A Union that's more secure, resilient and complete. And it will not be complete without the Western Balkans

@vonderleyen

03



My wife and I learned with great sadness of the passing of Bernadette Chirac. First Lady, she marked our History alongside President Jacques Chirac, the life of Corrèze where she was elected, and the fate of millions of anonymous patients as well, thanks to her intimate and steadfast commitment. Bernadette Chirac changed so many lives with discretion and obstinacy. A great lady of the heart has departed. The Nation shares the grief of her family, her loved ones, and all those who cherished her.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Looking at macro solutions for micro-plastics



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Bahrain is aggressively expanding its environmental strategy to address the unseen, toxic threat of microplastics. While global headlines focus on macroscopic items like plastic straws and shopping bags, the Kingdom recognises that macroscopic breakdown leads directly to health-altering microparticles.

These microscopic fragments infiltrate marine food chains, drinking water, and human tissue. To safeguard public health, Bahrain is shifting its focus from basic litter management toward a comprehensive, health-centric preventative framework.

Rather than just managing visible waste, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) targets the structural vulnerabilities that create microplastics. High-heat exposure accelerates plastic polymer degradation, shedding millions of microparticles directly into food.

Parliament recently approved a critical proposal banning the packaging of hot bread and fresh baked goods in plastic wrappers. Bakeries must transition to paper and eco-friendly alternatives to stop chemical and microplastic leaching at the consumer level.

Under Decision No. (7) of 2026, Bahrain prohibited the manufacturing, import, or distribution of single-use plastic bags less than 57 microns thick. Ultra-thin bags fragment rapidly under the harsh Gulf sun into airborne and aquatic microplastics. Forcing a shift to sturdy, multi-use alternatives drastically cuts down on this rapid fragmentation loop.

The Kingdom has banned pre-packed plastic water bottles smaller than 200 millilitres. Small, flimsy bottles pose a dual threat: they are rarely recycled and are primary culprits for leaching microplastics directly into drinking water under high temperatures.

Bahrain tackles microplastics as a profound public health crisis, not just an aesthetic issue. Through its active participation in the UN Environment Programme's #CleanSeas campaign, the Supreme Council for the Environment (SCE) coordinates closely with research bodies. They actively monitor plastic particle toxicity within local fish stocks and marine ecosystems.

By combining rigorous port inspections, strict market compliance tracking, and targeted awareness campaigns, Bahrain is establishing a robust blueprint. The objective is clear: cut off plastic pollution at the source before it degrades into the invisible, health-altering particles that threaten human biology.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)