

1000

Battle of Svolder, Baltic Sea: King Olaf on board the Long Serpent is defeated in one of the greatest naval battles of the Viking Age and leaps to his death overboard

1543

Mary Stuart, at nine months old, is crowned Queen of Scots in the central Scottish town of Stirling



1776

Congress officially renames the country as the United States of America (from the United Colonies)

1817

Alexander Twilight, likely the first African American to graduate from a US college, receives a BA degree from Middlebury College

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Together with @SecGenNATO Rutte, I welcome the agreement by Member States on the derogation for Ukraine to purchase crucial products for Patriot air defence systems. The next disbursement of 3.2 billion will enable Ukraine to better protect its skies from Russia's indiscriminate attacks.

@vonderleyen

02



International police cooperation is vital to better support survivors, apprehend perpetrators, disrupt criminal networks & advance safety for all. Law enforcement must also ensure its own legitimacy, by being grounded in fairness, accountability & respect for human rights. Everyone deserves the protection of the law.

@antonioguterres

03



Huge congratulations to Isar Aerospace for the successful launch of the Spectrum carrier rocket. The first time from the European continent into Earth orbit. This is the beginning of a new era.

@bundeskanzler

04



The second step taken today with our partners on air defense: Germany is ready to provide missiles for Patriots. Thank you! Thank you! These are exactly the kinds of decisions that bring peace closer.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

UK commits £100 million for Ukraine's air defence, including Patriot missiles

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain announced yesterday it was committing £100 million (\$135 million) to boost Ukraine's air defence capabilities this winter, including with Patriot missiles.

The UK will also supply "air defence interceptors, large-calibre artillery rounds and drones" as part of the contribution to a NATO programme supporting Kyiv, the defence ministry said in a statement.



The Patriot PAC-3 doesn't necessarily explode beside an incoming missile – it can destroy the target by hitting it directly at high speed. This "hit-to-kill" technology uses kinetic energy rather than relying primarily on a conventional explosive warhead.

EU allows Ukraine to use loan to buy US Patriot missiles

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU said yesterday that it had agreed to let Ukraine spend a chunk of its 90-billion-euro (\$105 billion) loan to the country to buy US-made Patriot air defence missile systems. Ukraine's European backers are scrambling to help plug gaps in Kyiv's de-

fences as the country has run short on critical interceptors to shoot down Russian missiles. "I welcome the agreement by member states on the derogation for Ukraine to purchase crucial products for Patriot air defence systems," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said.

The equipment "will be delivered before the winter, helping Ukraine defend its critical national infrastructure, innocent civilians and armed forces from Russian attacks," the ministry added.

Ukraine relies on advanced systems -- chiefly, US Patriot interceptors -- to protect its skies from Russian ballistic missile strikes.

But it has reported a shortage of Patriot interceptors since the United States and Israel went to war with Iran in February, diverting supplies.

Britain has been one of

Ukraine's biggest backers in its effort to repel Russia following Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022.

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham visited Ukraine last month on his first foreign trip since entering office in late July.

Britain recently agreed to release to Ukraine information on components for the long-range missile, SCALP, the French-produced version of the UK's Storm Shadow, so Ukraine could set up local assembly lines.

Iran says 'significant progress' in talks with Oman

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

A NARROW PASSAGE. A GLOBAL LIFELINE.

WHAT IS IT?

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway between Iran and Oman that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It is one of the most important maritime chokepoints in the world.

~ 39 km
WIDEST POINT
~ 21 km
NARROWEST POINT
~ 2-3 km
WIDTH OF EACH
SHIPPING LANE

Connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea
Borders Iran to the north, Oman and the UAE to the south
Strategic chokepoint for global oil and gas supplies



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

~ 20 million barrels per day of oil and oil products pass through here (about 30% of global consumption)

~ 20% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) also transits this route.

Vital for major producers such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar to reach global markets.

Any disruption can impact global energy prices and the world economy.

KEY CHALLENGES

Geopolitical tensions
The region has seen repeated tensions, including threats of blockades.

Security risks
Risk of attacks, mine laying or military escalation.

Navigational challenges
Heavy traffic in a narrow passage increases the risk of accidents.

A GLOBAL STAKE

The Strait of Hormuz is not just a regional waterway -- it is a critical artery for global energy security, connecting the Middle East to markets around the world.

Open Waters. A More Secure Tomorrow.

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said yesterday there had been "significant progress" in talks with Oman over the administration of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

According to an Iranian foreign ministry statement, Araghchi "explained the latest status of Iran-Oman talks on the Strait of Hormuz, reporting significant progress" during a call

with his Japanese counterpart.

Iran and Oman, both coastal states on the strait, have for weeks been discussing the future of navigation through the waterway, with Tehran saying progress had been made to agree a temporary shipping route.

The US has imposed a counter naval blockade on Iranian ports.

President Donald Trump said in recent days that American forces have helped facilitate

the passage of vessels through the strait, "averaging 30 ships a night".

Iranian officials recently said a deal between Oman and Iran could be signed "in the coming days".

They have however insisted the strait will not reopen until the United States meets Iranian demands, including removing oil sanctions, unfreezing Iranian assets abroad and lifting the naval blockade on Iranian ports.

Paris probes why women staff removed from Eiffel Tower

Paris, France

The mayor of Paris on Tuesday ordered investigations over the removal of women staff at the Eiffel Tower during a visit by a Hindu religious

group which prompted an employee walkout and the one-day closure of the monument.

The operating company that runs the Eiffel Tower, SETE, acknowledged that the dele-

gation had requested the visit on Saturday be organised so as to limit "interactions with women" and said that "these conditions should not have been accepted".

WIDE ANGLE

Nepal's Tragedy: Any Lessons for the Future?



JOEL INDRUPATI

"The energy released during the landslide was larger than the atomic bomb used in Hiroshima, Japan."

This quote, about the August 26 Nepal disaster, is from Adhikari Basanta Raj, director at the Centre for Disaster Studies at Nepal's Tribhuvan University.

In a well-researched article on Science.org, titled How scientists unraveled the cause of the devastating flood in Tibet and Nepal, he adds: "The major obstacle was that we didn't have any ground information for a long time."

Those heart-wrenching videos of people running helter-skelter to avoid being submerged by this violent "inland tsunami" -- of mud, ice and debris, following the massive glacial collapse near the Tibet border -- have surely made us all stop. And think.

We suddenly realised how helpless and defenseless all mankind can be in the onslaught of large natural calamities. We suddenly understood the fragility and frailty of human life, as we watched the disastrous scenes unfolding before our eyes.

But on the other side, we are also seeing something else coming to the forefront: the goodness of humanity.

Multiple countries and international organisations have mobilised emergency financial, medical and rescue assistance. Individuals are making large donations too.

The specialised medical teams, tunnel-rescue experts and financial packages coming in to help Nepal are a welcome sign showing us that humanity prevails. The rescue work, the survivors being found, and the rebuilding that has begun, proves to us, yet again, the resilience and goodness of the human spirit.

But what can we understand from this disaster? Are there any lessons from this catastrophe? How can we be better prepared if something like this happens again?

Hiroshima was a man-made tragedy. We cannot say the same for this one. This is an act of nature. An Act of God. Or, in the parlance of insurance companies, a "force majeure" event.

In these kinds of natural calamities, one Prof. Christo Coetzee of the African Centre for Disaster Studies at Northwest University, USA, on ewn.co.za, says: "Mitigation is probably a more viable route rather than prevention."

One way to mitigate the risks is by deploying next-generation early-warning systems. Interferometric satellite tracking, fibre-optic seismology and drone inspections. They could help detect seismic disturbances and alert disaster-management personnel.

Co-investing in transnational scenario planning is another way. Cross-border data sharing and linked monitoring systems between mountain nations such as Nepal and China could help provide timely alerts. Comprehensive simulations of "worst-case" scenarios are also critical in preparing for disasters.

Yet another lesson is the need to regularly check community readiness. Communication technology is useless without rapid local response protocols in place.

A great example is from Nuwakot, Nepal, where a school principal, Rajendra Dawadi, successfully evacuated 900 students ahead of the incoming torrent.

It was possible not only because the warning reached him in time, but because he knew what to do. He moved the students to higher ground and prevented many incoming school buses from venturing into the region of the incoming deluge.

Mountainous border nations, in particular, must build robust cross-border early-warning systems, move critical infrastructure like power stations, and residential complexes, away from dangerous riverbanks, and actively monitor melting glaciers in real time. It could save lives, and even property.

Prevention may not always be possible. But preparation certainly is.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

Mountainous border nations, in particular, must build robust cross-border early-warning systems, move critical infrastructure like power stations, and residential complexes, away from dangerous riverbanks, and actively monitor melting glaciers in real time. It could save lives, and even property.