

1597

First Dutch East India Company ships return from the Far East

1741

Alaska is first sighted by a Russian expedition led by Danish explorer Vitus Bering



1905

Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat-sen forms the first chapter of Tongmenghui, a union of secret societies determined to bring down the Qing dynasty

1968

250,000 Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia at night to suppress the Prague Spring

Russia returns bodies of 1,000 Ukrainian troops

Kyiv, Ukraine

Russia on Tuesday returned the bodies of what it said were 1,000 Ukrainian soldiers, five of whom died while in captivity, a Ukrainian government agency said.

Ukraine returned the bodies of 19 Russian soldiers in exchange, a Russian official said.

Tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed on both sides since Russia invaded its neighbour in February 2022, though neither side regularly publishes data on their own casualties.

The exchange of prisoners of war and repatriation of war dead has been one of the few areas of cooperation between the two countries since the war began.

The two sides have intensified these efforts in recent months during talks in Istanbul.

"According to the Russian side, 1,000 bodies belonging to Ukrainian military personnel have been returned to Ukraine," Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said in a statement on Telegram.

"Unfortunately, among those repatriated are the bodies of five Ukrainian servicemen who died in captivity," it added.

It said law enforcement would begin the process of identifying the soldiers.

The exchange was carried out in accordance with agreements reached between the two sides in Istanbul, Russian negotiator Vladimir Medinsky said.

Kyiv initially said the two had agreed to "exchange" the bodies of 6,000 Ukrainian soldiers for as many Russians.

Putin suggested Moscow for Zelensky summit: sources close to talks

Kyiv, Ukraine

Vladimir Putin proposed holding a peace summit with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky in Moscow, according to three sources familiar with a phone call between US President Donald Trump and Russia's leader.

The discussion between Trump and Putin came during high-stakes talks in Washington between Trump, Zelensky and several European leaders that back Ukraine in its fighting against Russia's invasion.

"Putin mentioned Moscow" during their call on Monday, one of the sources told AFP, adding that Zelensky had said "no" in response.

A diplomatic source close to the discussions said that European leaders had told Trump that Putin's proposal "did not seem like a good idea."

Netanyahu slams Macron for fuelling 'antisemitic fire'

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu upbraided President Emmanuel Macron in a letter seen by AFP Tuesday, blaming the French leader's move to recognise a Palestinian state for fuelling anti-semitism.

Late last month, Macron said France would formally recognise a Palestinian state during a UN meeting in September, drawing a swift rebuke from Israel.

By announcing the move, France was set to join a growing list of nations to recognise statehood for the Palestinians since Israel launched a bombardment of Gaza nearly two years ago



Israeli troops deployed in the bordering area of the besieged Palestinian territory

in response to Hamas's shock attack.

In the letter sent to Macron, Netanyahu said antisemitism

had "surged" in France following the announcement.

"Your call for a Palestinian state pours fuel on this antisemitic fire. It is not diplomacy, it is appeasement. It rewards Hamas terror, hardens Hamas's refusal to free the hostages, emboldens those who menace French Jews and encourages the Jew-hatred now stalking your streets," Netanyahu wrote in the letter.

The Israeli premier went on to call on Macron to confront antisemitism in France, saying he must "replace weakness with action, appeasement with resolve, and to do so by a clear date: the Jewish New Year, September 23".

Indian PM to visit China

Modi will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit

● Wang said China "attaches great importance" to Modi's visit

● Indian premier said he was "glad to meet" Wang

● India raised concerns with Wang about the construction of a mega-dam

AFP | New Delhi, India



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shaking hands with Beijing's Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a bilateral meeting in New Delhi

Doval said, speaking of "new energy" in diplomatic ties.

Wang said China "attaches great importance" to Modi's visit to the SCO summit, according to an official translator.

"History and reality prove once again that a healthy and stable China-India relationship serves the fundamental and long-term interests of both of our countries," Wang added.

The Indian premier said late on Tuesday he was "glad to meet" Wang in New Delhi.

"Since my meeting with President Xi (Jinping) in Kazan last

year, India-China relations have made steady progress guided by respect for each other's interests and sensitivities," Modi said in a post on social media platform X.

"I look forward to our next meeting in Tianjin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit," he said.

"Stable, predictable, constructive ties between India and China will contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and prosperity."

India also raised concerns with Wang about the construc-

tion of a mega-dam on a river that runs through Tibet and India and the effect it could have on downstream states, Delhi's foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The need for utmost transparency in this regard was strongly underlined," it said.

Beijing approved the project in December on the river -- known as Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and Brahmaputra in India -- linking it to China's carbon neutrality targets and economic goals in the Tibet region.

Wang said during talks on Monday with Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, India's foreign minister, the two countries should "view each other as partners and opportunities, rather than adversaries or threats".



India and China share one of the longest international borders in the world, stretching about 3,488 kilometres.

UN slams Israel's block on bringing tents into Gaza

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations took aim yesterday at Israel's months-long block on bringing tents into the Gaza Strip, despite continual displacement orders being issued to civilians in the devastated territory.

Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA, said shelter items had been banned from entering Gaza for about five months --



Tents housing displaced Palestinians in Gaza City

a period in which more than 700,000 people had been displaced or re-displaced.

"They may have been provided with a tent, and then they are displaced again and they have no possibility of taking the tent with them," he told a press briefing in Geneva.

He said Israel had classified tents as "dual use" because they considered tent poles could potentially be used for a military purpose.



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TWEETS

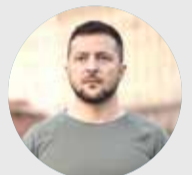
01



Last year, at least 390 laid workers - a record high - were killed across the world. International law is clear: Humanitarians can never be targeted. This World Humanitarian Day, let's #ActForHumanity & say in one voice: An attack on humanitarians is an attack on humanity.

@antonioguterres

02



Yesterday, important talks took place in Washington with the President of the United States and European leaders. This was truly a significant step toward ending the war and ensuring the security of Ukraine and our people.

@ZelenskyyUa

03



Glad to meet Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Since my meeting with President Xi in Kazan last year, India-China relations have made steady progress guided by respect for each other's interests and sensitivities. I look forward to our next meeting in Tianjin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit. Stable, predictable, constructive ties between India and China will contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and prosperity.

@narendramodi

04



A historic day at the White House as European leaders joined President Trump in the Oval Office.

@WhiteHouse

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