

1279 BC

Ramesses II, also known as Ramesses the Great becomes Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt's 19th Dynasty

1578

Martin Frobisher sails from Harwich, England, to Frobisher Bay, Canada. Eventually mines fools gold, famously used to pave the streets of London.



1902

Treaty of Vereeniging is signed, ending the Second Boer War and making Transvaal and the Orange Free State self-governing British colonies

1910

Union of South Africa declares independence from the United Kingdom

Rescuers free four more men trapped in semi-submerged Laos cave

● A total of five people have now been rescued

AFP | Vientiane, Laos

Four more men trapped in a semi-submerged Laos cave for 10 days were freed on May 30, rescuers said, after one was successfully brought to the surface a day earlier, but two remain missing.

Mr Lee Kian Lie, a Malaysian rescue diver, told AFP via Messenger that the four were freed after water was pumped out of the cavern.

A video he took from the scene showed teams under a makeshift tent attending to four people lying on stretchers and covered with thermal blankets.

"Important they already out," Mr Lee said. He declined to



speculate on the condition of the two who remained unaccounted for.

The Thailand Rescue Diver Facebook page said in a post that "rescue officials were able to bring out four more people trapped" at about 3.10pm (4.10pm Singapore time) on May 30.

"A total of five people have now been rescued, while two remain missing," it said.

Seven men had been trapped in the cavern in a remote mountainous area of central Xaysomboun province since May 20, when flash floods stranded them as they searched for gold, early state media reports said.

Two men (centre L and centre R, with headlamp) being hugged after they were rescued from a semi-submerged cave in Laos' central Xaysomboun province, northeast of the capital Vientiane.

US 'more than capable' of resuming war with Iran: Hegseth

US stands ready

Agencies

The United States said yesterday it remained prepared to resume military action against Iran if necessary,

with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth declaring that Washington was "more than capable" of restarting the war.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said American forces "re-

main present and vigilant across the region."

The warning came amid heightened tensions following US strikes on the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas and retaliatory

Iranian fire. Iran's IRNA state news agency reported that air defenses had shot down a drone it described as belonging to the "US-Zionist aggressor enemy."

Despite the tensions, diplo-

matic efforts continued, including discussions aimed at ending fighting in Lebanon, which Iran has insisted must be included in any broader settlement.

Washington seeks 'stable equilibrium' with China

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth struck a measured tone towards China at a major defence forum yesterday, noting "rightful alarm" over Beijing's military build-up but saying Washington sought a "stable equilibrium" in Asia.

Hegseth's headline speech at Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue, which brings together top defence officials and experts from about 45 countries, con-

trasted with his strongly confrontational remarks on China at last year's gathering.

"When we look across the region today, there is rightful alarm regarding China's historic military build-up and the expansion of its military activities in the region and beyond," Hegseth said.

Washington does not seek "needless confrontation" but rather "a genuinely stable equilibrium (in Asia) that works for

Americans as well as our allies", he said.

That means "a favourable but durable balance of power in which no state, including China, can impose its hegemony and hold the security or prosperity of our nation and our allies in question", according to Hegseth.

Unlike Beijing, which has sent a panel

of military experts and scholars instead of Defence Minister Dong Jun for the second year running, Hegseth is leading a bumper US delegation to the event that provides chances for both open debate and closed-door diplomacy.

The Pentagon chief said the United States

sought "respectful" and "good-faith" engagement with Beijing, adding: "I wish my counterpart was here at this conference, but I look forward to other options when we can cross paths."

Major General Meng Xiangqing, the head of the Chinese delegation, said following the speech that "stable US-China relations are not only good for both peoples, but also good for regional stability and global peace".

NATO members pledged last year to ramp up defense-related spending to five percent of GDP but, despite increased efforts, many states say they may not be able to reach that target.

Raise defence spending or else, Hegseth tells NATO, Europe

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth took another swipe at Washington's NATO and European partners on Saturday, saying those that do not hike defense spending sufficiently "will face a clear shift in how we do business."

"For too long, polite pleas from our European allies to spend more on their own defense fell on deaf ears," the Pentagon chief said at a defence summit in Singapore.

"They are finally playing catch-up," Hegseth said in a speech at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue conference.

"Allies who refuse to step up

and carry their own weight for our collective defence will face a clear shift in how we do business."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said this month, NATO was facing US troop cuts in Europe as Washington focused on other threats and European nations ramped up their defenses.

In Asia, Hegseth reiterated that the region's security had "rested disproportionately on American military power, while many of our allies and partners allowed their own defense capabilities to atrophy."

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region were indeed stepping up, Hegseth said, us-

ing South Korea as a particular example.

"South Korea has invested consistently in its own defense, because it does not have the luxury of treating war like an academic exercise.

"They live on the front lines, and so they build real combat power."

This "reflects simply a clear-eyed understanding of the threat environment," he said.

Hegseth also praised the spending policies of other countries including Australia, the Philippines and Japan.

"You don't have a strong alliance unless everyone has skin in the game. No freeloading,"

Hegseth said.

Hegseth agreed when asked by a New Zealand delegate whether he considered the Pacific island nation's plan to increase defense spending from one to two percent to be "freeloading."

"If I'm being honest, two percent is not enough, and so two percent is freeloading."

ing," he said.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I had the opportunity to meet with Lieutenant-General Johnny Luboya Nkashama, the Governor of Ituri, which is currently the province in the #DRC reporting the highest number of cases in the ongoing #Ebola outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo virus.

@DrTedros

02



Our new long-range sanctions - and this is 500 kilometers from our state border. We are rightfully bringing the war back to where it came from. Russia could have ended its aggression long ago, but instead chose to prolong and continue it. So another facility of Russia's oil industry has been reached - Armavir, Krasnodar Krai.

@ZelenskyyUa

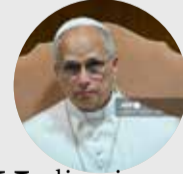
03



Heartiest congratulations to Mr. Janez Janša on his election as the Prime Minister of Slovenia. I look forward to working closely with him to further strengthen our bilateral ties for the shared prosperity and mutual benefit of our people.

@narendramodi

04



We live in an era marked by wars and growing polarization, as well as cultural and social divisions. Yet, in the midst of fragility, a new hope arises. Even as division seems to grow, a common denominator that indisputably unites us all appears: our shared humanity.

@Pontifex

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