

Justinian I becomes the sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire after the death of his uncle Justin I

English chemist Joseph Priestley discovers oxygen by isolating it in its gaseous state



Slavery Abolition Act 1833 comes into effect, abolishing slavery across the British Empire

Nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus begins the first transit of the North Pole in Operation Sunshine

EU scrambles as massive migrant surge overwhelms Spain's Ceuta

Madrid blames trafficking networks while Morocco strengthens border enforcement

Spain deploys reinforcements

Thousands return voluntarily

34 people die attempting the crossing

AFP | Ceuta

The European Union yesterday scrambled to contain one of the largest migrant crises faced by the block in recent years, after tens of thousands of people poured into Spain's enclave in north Africa in just days.

Some 60,000 migrants have crossed into the territory from Morocco, the local regional president Juan Jesus Vivas told reporters. Many swam around a small border barrier that juts out into the Mediterranean Sea, with 34 people dying in the attempt.

The sudden massive influx has sparked an international crisis for Spain's government, drawing criticism from Germany, Italy and Finland and prompting France to tighten checks on its border with Spain.

Madrid has sent troops, more police, including divers, drones and boats, to boost security in Ceuta. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and his interior minister rushed to the enclave yesterday.

Yesterday, Spain's interior



People gather at Bab Sebta, on the Morocco-Spain border near Spain's enclave of Ceuta and the Moroccan town of Fnideq

minister said that 25,000 people who had crossed had voluntarily returned to Morocco.

AFP reporters have seen hundreds of people -- men, women and children -- entering Ceuta, discarding flotation rings and clothes used in the risky passage.

Yesterday, hundreds of migrants, mostly young men, were hanging around on the Morocco side of the border while others were seen turning back, saying "there are too many people here".

"It's catastrophic," said Mo-

ammed, a local taxi driver and Ceuta resident. "Sure, we sympathise with them -- they're having a terrible time in their own country, and all that -- but this isn't the way to enter a place, nor is it a way to live."

It was not immediately clear what prompted this surge of migrants from Morocco. Some previous surges have occurred during tensions between Spain and Morocco.

Sanchez visited Algiers on July 20 -- the first such visit by

a Spanish head of government in four years -- marking a thaw in relations with Morocco's rival Algeria, but it was not clear if this visit was related to the influx.

Sanchez, in Ceuta, blamed the sudden inflow on people-traffickers spreading rumours about a Spanish Supreme Court ruling this month that irregular migrants arriving by sea cannot be immediately returned.

"What has emerged from our talks with Moroccan authorities is that trafficking mafias took a

60,000

migrants have crossed into Spain's Ceuta enclave from Morocco in recent days

self-serving interpretation of a Supreme Court ruling," he said. That interpretation "spread like wildfire in recent hours."

Diplomatic fallout

Scenes of the crowds of people surging into a member of the European Union, which normally does not enforce border controls between members, sparked diplomatic fallout.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on social media, called the scenes at Ceuta "unacceptable", adding: "We cannot allow anyone to come to our (European) Union without abiding by our rules."

Italy on Thursday called for Spain to be suspended from Europe's open-borders Schengen zone, prompting Spain to summon Italy's ambassador and accuse Rome of using the crisis for political gain.

Finland and Denmark yesterday backed Italy's call, while German Chancellor Friedrich Merz demanded that Morocco "take back illegal migrants immediately".

Explosion at coal mine kills 34 in southern Pakistan

AFP | Quetta

A blast at a coal mine killed at least 34 workers in southern Pakistan, the provincial disaster agency said yesterday, as rescuers searched for more missing miners.

The explosion, suspected to be caused by methane gas, tore through the mine near the capital of the resource-rich province of Balochistan on Thursday, sparking a rescue operation that ran through the night.

"According to information received from the deployed teams, 34... bodies have been recovered," southern Balochistan's provincial disaster management authority said in a statement in the early hours of yesterday.

"The joint rescue operation is still underway to locate and recover the remaining trapped miners," it added, without specifying how many were in the mine when the explosion took place.

Witnesses said that after hearing the blast, an unknown number of miners in the area rushed to try to reach workers



Coal miners and relatives gather at the entrance of a coal mine after it collapsed in the Surange area, some 50 kilometres east of Quetta

inside.

"Other miners descended into the mine after the explosion for a rescue operation, but they also died," Ahmed Zada, a mine worker at the site, said.

Safety concerns

Relatives, rescuers, and miners gathered at the mine entrance in Sorange, around 50 kilometres (31 miles) from the

provincial capital Quetta, as the rescue operations were carried out.

Rescuers and workers, some wearing hard hats but most in everyday attire, helped carry bodies out of the concrete tunnel, some covered in black soot.

They ferried them on stretchers to waiting vehicles and ambulances near the entrance to the mine.

Palestinian shot during settler march through West Bank towns



Israeli settlers take part in a march between the villages of Sarra and Tell, southwest of Nablus

AFP | Jerusalem

One Palestinian was shot and wounded during an Israeli settler march through several West Bank Palestinian towns yesterday that sparked clashes with locals, first responders, the army and an AFP journalist said.

"Our crews in Nablus are treating a young man who was shot with live ammunition in the abdomen during an Israeli army and settler raid on the al-Junaid area," the Palestinian Red Crescent said.

Israeli settlers organised a march yesterday morning in the northern West Bank in memory of two Israelis killed

last week during clashes in the Palestinian town of Tell, near Nablus, during which four Palestinians were also killed.

A journalist at the scene said that between 100 and 150 settlers including women and children came near Tell from the west, the direction of Havat Gilad, the home settlement of one of the killed Israelis.

The settlers, roughly ten of whom were armed, marched through fields near Tell, through the nearby town of Sarra and the Nablus neighbourhood of al-Junaid, while army troops stationed along the route periodically dispersed settlers and Palestinians when clashes occurred.



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TWEETS

01



The Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC is worsening food insecurity in communities already facing one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. In Bunia, I spoke with @AP about the need for more support to contain the outbreak and prevent further crisis.

@WFPChief

02



Thank God @POTUS was elected and our country's border no longer looks like this. These images out of Spain are an unfortunate reminder of the consequences of mass migration and the radical left-wing globalist policies that have enabled the Invasion of the West.

@JD Vance

03



A few large economies drove a widening of global current account imbalances in 2025, according to our latest External Sector Report. As trade patterns evolve, the path to stronger growth & stability is in sound policies at home & cross-border cooperation.

@KGeorgieva

04



Settler violence reached record levels in the West Bank. Nearly 700 Palestinians were displaced in only 4 months this year & lives were lost. Palestinian communities are being isolated & cut off from vital services. Protecting civilians is an obligation under international law.

@hadjalahbib

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