

1945

Battle of Berlin ends as the Soviet army storms the capital, forcing German commander of the city, General Helmuth Weidling, to surrender

1949

Arthur Miller wins a Pulitzer Prize for his play "Death of a Salesman"



2008

Cyclone Nargis makes landfall in Myanmar, killing over 130,000 people and leaving millions homeless

2011

Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind behind the September 11 attacks and the FBI's most wanted man, is killed by US special forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan

USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier leaves Middle East

AFP | Washington

The USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier has left the Middle East after taking part in operations against Iran, a US official said yesterday, leaving two of the massive American warships in the region.

The Ford is currently in the US European Command area of responsibility, according to the official, who put the number of remaining US Navy ships in the Middle East at 20, including the USS Abraham Lincoln and USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carriers.

The Ford has been at sea for more than 10 months -- a deployment that



Harbour tugboats and other civilian vessels approach the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford at an anchor point off the Croatian city of Split

has already seen it take part in US operations in the Caribbean, where Washington's forces have carried out strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats, interdicted sanctioned tankers and seized Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro.

A fire broke out in a laundry room aboard the carrier on March 12, injuring two sailors and causing major damage to some 100 beds, according to the US military.

The carrier has also reportedly suffered significant problems with its toilet system while at sea, with US media reporting clogs and long lines for restrooms on the ship.

King Charles gets warm welcome in Bermuda after whirlwind US visit

● King greeted by crowds in St. George's

● First visit to an Overseas Territory as King

AFP | St. George's

King Charles III stopped off in the British island territory of Bermuda yesterday after a high-stakes visit to the United States where he sought to heal strained ties between Washington and London.

The monarch greeted a line of schoolchildren, pausing to chat with them, on the steps of the whitewashed St. Peter's church in St. George's.

"Thank you for coming," said one crowd member who held a miniature union flag on the first day of the two-day stop.

"Get home safe," said another member of the hundreds-strong crowd gathered in King's Square.



Britain's King Charles III cuts a cake to mark the centenary of the Bermuda Aquarium Museum

One well-wisher wore a plastic crown speckled with imitation jewels as she filmed the gathering on her cell phone after a 21-gun salute.

Charles received a Royal Salute and the Royal Bermuda Regiment's band played the national anthem before setting a more relaxed tone with Bob Marley

and the Wailers' song "Jamming."

The island stop -- the first visit by Charles to a British Overseas Territory as sovereign -- comes after a packed US itinerary for the king and Queen Camilla, who did not join for the Bermuda leg of the trip.

Trump charmed

The four-day US visit was largely seen as a success, with President Donald Trump serving as solicitous host who honored the royal couple with a white-tie banquet at the White House.

"He's a great king -- the greatest king, in my book," Trump told reporters as they said farewell.

Soon after, Trump announced he was removing tariffs on Scottish whisky "in honor" of Charles and Camilla.

"The King and Queen got me to do something that nobody else was able to do, without hardly even asking!" Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

With the US trip concluded, the royals thanked Americans for "the warmth of your welcome"



In a notable break from traditional military protocol, the Royal Bermuda Regiment's band followed the formal national anthem with a performance of Bob Marley's "Jamming" to set a relaxed tone for the royal arrival

throughout the couple's first US trip as king and queen.

"Until the next time... God Bless America," they posted on X.

The centerpiece of the trip was Charles's speech Tuesday to the US Congress, the first by a British monarch since Queen Elizabeth II in 1991.

Activists on Gaza aid flotilla seized by Israeli forces disembark in Crete

AFP | Athens

Dozens of activists on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla which was intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters off Crete disembarked yesterday in the Greek island, an AFP journalist saw.

Escorted by Greek coastguards, around 175 activists, the majority of them nationals of European countries, were taken in four coaches to the port of Atherinolakkos, in the southeast of the island.

As they approached the port, the activists chanted "Free Palestine," AFP saw.

Israel's foreign ministry earlier said around 175 activists had been taken off more than 20 vessels on Thursday. Flotilla organisers put the number at 211.

Turkey's foreign ministry said some 20 Turkish nationals in the flotilla who had been grabbed by the Israeli forces and taken to Crete would be



Activists from the Global Sumud Flotilla stand at the port of Atherinolakkos on the island of Crete after disembarking from a Greek Coast Guard vessel

repatriated. It said "certain participants from third countries" would also be sent to Turkey.

The flotilla comprising more than 50 vessels set sail in recent weeks from Marseille in France, Barcelona in Spain and Syracuse in Italy.

Its aim, according to the organisers, was to break the blockade of Gaza and bring humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory.

Israel controls all entry points to Gaza. It has been accused by the United Nations and foreign NGOs of strangling the flow of goods into the territory, causing shortages since the start of Israel's war against Hamas in October 2023.

India's weather forecasters warn of heatwaves

AFP | New Delhi

India's weather office predicted above-normal temperatures across several parts of the country, warning yesterday that May could bring intense heatwave conditions along the coast and in the west.

The South Asian country is no stranger to scorching summers but years of scientific research has found climate change is causing heatwaves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

The Indian Meteorological Department predicted four to five additional heatwave days in the western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, and regions along the eastern coast, in the coming weeks.

"There will be an increased number of heatwave conditions along the east coast states and Gujarat by about four to five days in the month of May," IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told reporters.

Temperatures could run three to five degrees Celsius above normal during peak spells in some of those areas, Mohapatra said.

At the same time, the heat is likely to be fairly moderate in India's northern and central regions.

India usually experiences four to seven heatwave days between April and June.

Infants, the elderly, people with existing health problems and outdoor workers are particularly vulnerable to hotter temperatures.

The resulting heat stress can cause symptoms ranging from dizziness and headaches to organ failure, and even death.

City dwellers surrounded by concrete, brick and other heat-absorbing surfaces also face an elevated risk.

Prolonged periods of extreme heat can also strain infrastructure such as power grids and transportation systems.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



The Middle East crisis is in its third month & the whole of humanity is paying the price. All sides must refrain from actions that could undermine the ceasefire. The world needs a peaceful, comprehensive, and durable resolution to the conflict.

@antonioguterres

02



Somali families are facing triple shock of food delayed by closure of Hormuz, droughts and floods, conflict. The world is making the wrong choices about where to focus its time, energy and money.

@UNReliefChief

03



Trump has no plan in Iran. Heggseth doesn't even know the cost. The American people are paying for their incompetence -- every day at the pump.

@GavinNewsom

04



I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to the EU-Mercosur agreement. @SantiPenap @JMilei @LulaOfficial @OrsiYamandu And dear @eucopresident Together we send a powerful message to the world. That openness and partnership create prosperity for all.

@vonderleyen

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