

When the world flips over



A man walks past the 'Upside Down House', an attraction located on the Promenade in central Blackpool, north-west England.

Netanyahu downplays row with Trump

● **Netanyahu downplayed the dispute in an interview with US television channel CNBC**

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu downplayed yesterday a row with US President Donald Trump, saying they both were aligned on the goal of disarming Hezbollah in order to achieve peace between Israel and Lebanon. Netanyahu downplayed the dispute in an interview with US television channel CNBC, saying he and Trump were on the same page when it came to tackling Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Hezbollah "is an Iranian proxy that puts all the citizens of Lebanon at gunpoint and uses Lebanon as a platform to launch terror missiles into our cities, to launch killer drones against our civilians", Netanyahu said in the interview. "And so if we want to save

Lebanon, if we want to get a Lebanese-Israeli peace, as I do, we have to disarm Hezbollah and we have to demilitarise Lebanon. And I know that this is a goal that the president and I share, and that's what we have to do."

Netanyahu told his CNBC interviewer that he and Trump had always "found a way" to move forward, declining to elaborate on the details of their conversation. "We have so many agreements, we agree on the main things," he said.

"You have these tactical disagreements. We always find a way to work them out, and we do so as great friends. We can disagree in the morning, and by the afternoon, we have common action," he said.

When asked whether his relationship with Trump had changed, Netanyahu said: "No".

"This has been a great relationship, because he's been the greatest friend that Israel has ever had in the White House," he said.

"He respects me. I respect him. We always find a way to work out our differences."

Rubio brushes off Trump mental acuity concerns as 'absurd'

● **Rubio was shown several video clips where Trump, 79, is seen with his eyes apparently closed while Rubio spoke beside him**

AFP | Washington, United States

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio yesterday brushed off suggestions that President Donald Trump was regularly dozing off during Cabinet meetings, as questions persist over the health of the oldest US president ever inaugurated.

Testifying during a congressional hearing, Rubio was shown several video clips where Trump, 79, is seen with his eyes apparently closed while Rubio spoke beside him.

"I don't even know how to respond to that, other than to

tell you that it's absurd and ridiculous," Rubio told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"You may not like his policies, you may not like the decisions he's made. But I assure you, this is not a president that sleeps or is cognitively impaired in any way, shape, or form," Rubio added. "And in fact is incredibly active, much more so in many cases than much younger people that are around him. Those are facts."

Rubio defended Trump, saying the US leader works non-stop and gets very little sleep. "I talk to him at all hours of the day and night. He works inhumane hours," Rubio said.

Trump's doctors declared him to be in "excellent health," after his latest check-up last week, but advised him to lose weight.

Trump has maintained a lighter public schedule in recent months than he did at the start of his second term.



TOP 3 TWEETS

01



El Niño is arriving on our doorstep in the coming months with 90% certainty. The world must treat it as the urgent climate warning it is. The only effective response is #ClimateAction equal to the crisis - ending the addiction to fossil fuels, accelerating the shift to renewables, protecting the most vulnerable, and delivering early warning systems for all.

@antonioguterres

02



Cabinet approval for a one-time support mechanism to ensure greater stability in ATF prices for Indian airlines will help maintain affordable air connectivity, support airline operations and reduce the burden on passengers. It will also strengthen connectivity to Tier-II and Tier-III cities, support tourism and employment.

@narendramodi

03



Today, a @WHO team, alongside @MinSanterDC responders, visited Kigonzi camp in Bunia, which hosts internally displaced people.

The #Ebola response in Ituri operates within a severe humanitarian crisis. The latest @UNOCHA figures show that 980,000 people are displaced across the province, compounding vulnerabilities as teams respond to the outbreak.

What our teams assessed today was good community leadership and high awareness of Ebola risks.

@DrTedros

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

'Like to meet' Khamenei

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday he hopes to meet Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, as Washington and Tehran accuse each other of violating an increasingly fragile ceasefire.

Mojtaba Khamenei, 56, is thought to have been wounded in US-Israeli strikes that killed his father, Ali Khamenei, and has not been seen in public since he was named his successor.

"I would like to meet him, and we probably will meet at

"I'm not hearing he's doing great. If you believe the stories, he's missing a lot of different parts. They say he is giving approval"

some point, depending on how it all works out," the US president told the New York Post's "Pod Force One" podcast.

Trump added that Khamenei was "involved, absolutely"

when asked about the Iranian cleric's health.

"I'm not hearing he's doing great," Trump said. "If you believe the stories, he's missing a lot of different parts."

"They say he is giving approval," he added.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told a Congressional panel on Tuesday that Mojtaba Khamenei is alive and increasingly active.

"I think there are indications out there that he is increasingly engaging at some level," Rubio told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Trump admits using foul language with Netanyahu

Israeli media have rejected the account of the conversation



● **Trump unleashed the profane tirade over Israel's threats to bomb the Lebanese capital Beirut**

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump has confirmed a tense exchange with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which he reportedly berated his close ally with expletives.

In an interview published Wednesday in the New York Post, Trump was asked about the conversation he had with

Netanyahu over the phone on Monday.

"You said, 'Are you f--- crazy? What are you f--- doing? I helped you stay out of jail.' Is that true? Did you speak to him in those terms?" the interviewer asked.

"I did," Trump responded. "I was a little bit perturbed at his constantly fighting with Lebanon."

"I said, 'Bibi, we gotta stop this.'"

Trump went on to say he had a "very good relationship" with Netanyahu. "We've done well together... I like Bibi a lot."

Trump unleashed the profane tirade over Israel's threats to bomb the Lebanese capital Beirut, fearing it would under-

mine talks with Tehran to end the war in the Middle East, the Axios news outlet and ABC News reported.

The exchange underscored the shaky ties between two right-wing allies who started the war by launching an attack on Iran in late February that spread to Israel striking Lebanon.

Israeli media have rejected the account of the conversation.

A White House official referred AFP to Trump's Truth Social posts from Monday in which he thanked Netanyahu for what he said was an agreement to pull troops back from Beirut. Iran had reportedly halted peace talks because of Israel's attacks on Lebanon.