

1868

The Shogunate is abolished in Japan

1955

Chartered Air India plane "Kashmir Princess" is bombed and crashes into the South China Sea in a failed assassination attempt on Zhou Enlai by a Kuomintang secret agent

1968

US President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the 1968 Civil Rights Act



2015

Barack Obama and Raúl Castro meet in Panama, the first meeting of US and Cuban heads of state since the Cuban Revolution



First responders rush to the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the Lebanese State Security Center, in Nabatieh

## Israeli strike in south Lebanon kills 10 security personnel: security source

AFP | Beirut

An Israeli strike, one of multiple on the southern Lebanese city of Nabatiyeh yesterday, killed at least 10 State Security personnel, a source from the government agency said, as Lebanon prepared to start ceasefire talks with Israel.

Naim Qassem, head of Iran-backed party and armed group Hezbollah, called on the Lebanese state to stop giving "free concessions" to Israel, with the two governments due to begin negotiations next week to end the war that has left nearly 1,900 people in Lebanon dead.

The government banned Hezbollah's military activities at the beginning of the latest war with Israel in March and is moving towards bilateral negotiations with Israel despite the opposition of Hezbollah, which is represented in the cabinet and parliament.

The state-run National News Agency (NNA) said "enemy warplanes launched a series of heavy strikes" on Nabatiyeh, including one in the vicinity of the government complex hitting the State Security office.

An AFP photographer saw extensive damage at the site, where a fire was still raging.

# Israel bars Spain from Gaza centre

Tensions rise as Israel excludes Spain from post-war coordination efforts

● Netanyahu accuses Spain of hostility

● Spain recognised Palestinian state in 2024

● Ambassadors withdrawn by both nations

1986

was the year Spain finally established diplomatic ties with Israel, following the death of dictator General Francisco Franco in 1975



A man uses a bucket as he attempts to extinguish the burning vehicle of Palestinian journalist Mohammed Washeha after a strike in southern Gaza City (file photo)

AFP | Jerusalem

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday accused Spain of waging a diplomatic campaign against Israel after he barred Madrid from taking part in the work of a US-led centre created to help stabilise post-war Gaza.

Relations between Israel and Spain have deteriorated significantly since Madrid recognised a Palestinian state in 2024.

Both countries have withdrawn their ambassadors.

"I have instructed today to

remove Spain's representatives from the coordination centre in Kiryat Gat, after Spain has chosen repeatedly to stand against Israel," Netanyahu said in a video statement.

"Those who attack the State of Israel instead of confronting terrorist regimes will not be our partners in shaping the region's future."

The Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) in Kiryat Gat, a US-led initiative, was set up after the Gaza ceasefire took effect on October 10, with the goal of monitoring the truce and

facilitating the flow of humanitarian aid into the Palestinian territory.

As part of the CMCC, military personnel and diplomats from several other countries including France, Britain and the United

Arab Emirates are present and participate in meetings on security and humanitarian issues in Gaza, devastated by more than two years of war.

Representatives of Spain had also been taking part.

Earlier yesterday, Israel's foreign ministry announced Israel had barred Spain from the centre.

"Israel will not remain silent in the face of those who attack us," Netanyahu said.

"I am not prepared to tolerate this hypocrisy and hostility. I will not allow any country to conduct a diplomatic war against us without facing an immediate price," he said, referring to the decision to bar Madrid from the CMCC.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has been one of the most vocal critics of Israel's war on Gaza, which was sparked by Palestinian movement Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

He also opposed the US-Israeli war with Iran that began with strikes on February 28.

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sarr has previously accused the Spanish government of "standing with tyrants" by opposing the US-Israeli attacks on Iran.

## Trump slams right-wing commentators who oppose Iran war

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump angrily lashed out at multiple well-known conservative commentators who have criticized his war against Iran, slamming his onetime allies as attention-seeking "NUT JOBS."

"They're stupid people, they know it, their families know it, and everyone else knows it, too!" Trump wrote in a nearly 500-word social media diatribe.

In the president's crosshairs were Tucker Carlson and Megyn Kelly -- two former Fox News hosts turned independent podcasters -- as well as Candace Owens and Alex Jones, also podcasters and prominent conspiracy theorists.



US President Donald Trump and Tucker Carlson

All four have vocally criticized Trump over the war, slamming him for abandoning his anti-war campaign promises and -- to varying degrees -- accusing him of bowing to pressure from Israel to launch

the conflict.

Their criticism has highlighted a divide among Trump's supporters over the war, a potential major political risk for the Republican Party heading into the November midterm elections.

"They don't have what it takes, and they never did! They've all been thrown off Television, lost their Shows, and aren't even invited on TV because nobody cares about them, they're NUT JOBS, TROUBLEMAKERS, and will say anything necessary for some 'free' and cheap publicity," he complained.

While all four have been backers of the president's "Make America Great Again" movement, some have feuded with the president.

## Ocean temperatures near record high in March: EU monitor

AFP | Paris

Ocean temperatures hit near-record highs for March, the Copernicus Climate Change Service said yesterday, signalling a likely shift toward El Nino conditions that can amplify heat extremes on an already warming planet.

Copernicus said average sea surface temperatures were 20.97C in March, the second-highest value ever for the month, and the hottest since 2024 during the last El Nino, when global heat records topped.

This reflected "a likely transition toward El Nino conditions", said Copernicus, the European Union's global warming monitor.

Several meteorological agencies had predicted the return this year of El Nino, a natural climate cycle that warms Pacific waters and can bring higher global temperatures and extreme weather.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said last month an opposite, cooling La Nina cycle was tipped to give way to neutral conditions before swinging into El Nino later this year.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



When roads are cut, access is blocked, and we need to reach people where others won't go. @WFP\_UNHAS flights are a lifeline. Irreplaceable. \$48M from our emergency fund for operations in Chad, DRC, Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan and Syria.

@UNReliefChief

02



I've joined the heads of @IMFNews & @WorldBankGroup to sound the alarm: the Middle East crisis is sending shockwaves through global food and energy markets—and hunger will skyrocket if this conflict rages on. Together we're mobilizing to save lives & protect the most vulnerable.

@WFPChief

03



28 years ago today, the Good Friday Agreement was signed, one of Labour's proudest achievements. Working in Northern Ireland, I saw first-hand the transformation peace brought to communities. At a time of global instability, it reminds us that peace must be built and protected.

@Keir\_Starmer

04



Investing in community health workers—especially women—and supporting their work is a game changer. Everyday heroes like Zamzam play a critical role in delivering life-saving health & nutrition services to millions of vulnerable women & children in #Somalia & around the world.

@unicefchief

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