

Battle of the Catalaunian Plains: Roman and Visigoth forces defeat Attila the Hun in northeast France, halting the Hun invasion of Roman Gaul

American inventor Samuel Morse receives a patent for his telegraph



First woman to earn a PhD in Physics from an American university, Caroline Willard Baldwin (25), receives her degree from Cornell University

Highest-ever temperature recorded in the Arctic Circle, 38°C (100°F) in Verkhoyansk, Siberia

# Gaza ceasefire a 'deadly illusion', says UNICEF

UNICEF says children continue to die despite an announced ceasefire

● Israel continues launching regular military strikes

● Nearly 1,000 Palestinians dead

AFP | Geneva

The ceasefire declared in Gaza more than eight months ago is a "deadly illusion", the UN charged yesterday, with 265 children killed there since the fighting was supposed to have stopped.

Despite a ceasefire being declared in October 2025, Israel has continued to launch strikes across Gaza, killing at least 992 Palestinians since then, according to the occupied territory's health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

The UN children's agency said the number of Palestinian children killed since the ceasefire was announced between Israel



Palestinian children wounded by Israeli strikes wait for medical care in Gaza's Nasser Medical Complex

and Hamas, which runs Gaza, was an "absurd and devastating figure".

"During a period supposedly defined by restraint and protection, a child has been killed, on average, every single day for more than eight months," UNICEF spokesman James Elder told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Amman.

"For many, many months, the

world has been told there is a ceasefire in Gaza. Yet for Palestinian children, this so-called ceasefire has become a cruel and a deadly illusion."

Elder stressed that the children killed since the ceasefire was declared "were not killed in a war zone".

"They were killed in their homes. In their schools. Playing football. Fishing. They were shot,



bombed struck by quadcopters," he said.

"If a child is being killed every day, surely the debate is no longer about the quality of the ceasefire. It is about the credibility of calling it one."

This week, he pointed out, "a two-year-old boy was shot and killed by Israeli forces; a 13-year-old boy was shot and killed inside his tent; a five-year-old boy and his father were killed by an Israeli strike, and on and on it goes".

In addition to those killed, more than 400 children had been injured since the ceasefire was declared, "many with catastrophic wounds", Elder said.

## South Korea ex-minister jailed on charges linked to martial law fiasco

AFP | Seoul

A Seoul court sentenced a former defence minister yesterday to three years in prison on charges related to ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol's brief but catastrophic declaration of martial law in 2024, an official said.

Ex-minister Kim Yong-hyun was charged with revealing classified military information to a civilian for the purposes of creating a special team to investigate unverified election fraud claims by Yoon.

The ex-president cited electoral wrongdoing as one reason for his December 2024 martial law declaration, which lasted only about six hours as lawmakers raced to the assembly building and voted it down in an emergency session.

Yoon has since been convicted of leading an insurrection, and is in detention while appealing a life sentence.

Kim, for his part, was accused of wrongfully revealing the identities of intelligence officers who were to be part of a special team to investigate Yoon's vote cheating allegations.



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TWEETS

01



As conflicts escalate across the globe, a shocking number of girls & boys fall victim to sexual violence. Children must never be targets in war. Protecting them is a legal & moral imperative for every combatant & every country.

@antonioguterres

02



In Addis, I met leaders from Ethiopia's private sector across banking, fintech, telecommunications, health and education. Breaking cycles of aid dependency requires more than humanitarian assistance. It requires jobs, investment, innovation and partnership. The private sector has a critical role to play..

@BarhamSalih

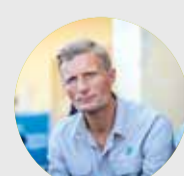
03



Congratulations, @AndyBurnhamGM, Labour's new MP for Makerfield. Voters chose Labour's campaign of hope and optimism over division and hate.

@Keir\_Starmer

04



Conflict and shocks are forcing families to decide who eats and who goes hungry. Our latest joint report with @FAO warns of worsening hunger across 13 hotspots in the coming months. We have a narrow window before more people are pushed to starvation.

@WFPChief

## Burnham vows 'new path' for UK as he eyes bid to oust PM Starmer

AFP | London

Veteran UK Labour politician Andy Burnham won a crunch by-election yesterday, resoundingly securing a parliamentary seat and clearing the way for his expected bid to oust beleaguered Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Burnham, a former government minister who has been Greater Manchester mayor since 2017, ensured his return to parliament by easily beating the far-right Reform UK party's candidate in the Makerfield constituency in northwest England.

The 56-year-old longtime figure in centre-left Labour wants to replace Starmer as party leader and prime minister, and needed to win the high-stakes vote to be in a position to trigger such a contest.

"We've been on path for 40 years that simply hasn't worked for people and places in this part of the world," Burnham told cheering crowds yesterday.

"This is the change moment, we have an opportunity to turn the tide," he said, adding: "We're going to lay out a new path for Britain."

If Starmer does leave office this year, then Britain will get its seventh prime minister in 10 years.

"I do say to my own party, this is a final chance to change," Burnham had said in his acceptance speech after securing nearly 55 percent of the vote, beat-



Count Binface stands next to Labour candidate Andy Burnham and Robert Pownall, after Burnham wins the election for MP of Makerfield

ing Reform's Robert Kenyon by more than 9,000 ballots.

Starmer, congratulated Burnham on X, but again pledged to fight any leadership challenge during a public appearance in London yesterday morning.

"If there is a contest then yes I will run, I will stand. I've said repeatedly, I'm not going to walk away from that," he told reporters.

The 63-year-old ex-lawyer has repeatedly refused to quit despite dozens of calls from his own MPs and several ministerial resignations, insisting that his landslide election victory over the Conservatives in July 2024 gave him a five-year mandate to govern.

**'Transition'**

Attention now turns to when

Burnham could make his move against Starmer. So what happens next?

All eyes will be on whether Starmer can maintain the support of his cabinet. If senior ministers begin to tell him it is time to go or resign themselves, it would make his position increasingly untenable.

Burnham is due to be sworn in as a member of parliament on Monday. Under Labour party rules, leadership candidates must be an MP.

From the so-called soft-left wing of the party, Burnham has been an outspoken critic of Starmer's more centrist rule. He will easily muster the support of 81 of Labour's 400-plus MPs -- the minimum needed to kickstart a contest.

## Outrage in Italy after Trump says Meloni 'begged' for photo op



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and US President Donald Trump

AFP | Rome

Italy reacted angrily yesterday after reported comments by US President Donald Trump mocking Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, with the foreign minister cancelling a planned US visit.

Meloni said she was "frankly stunned" by Trump's comments to Italian channel La7.

According to a written transcript of the phone interview provided to AFP by the network, he said Meloni "begged me for a picture" at the G7 summit this week and he agreed only because he "felt sorry for her".

He also suggested that Meloni was probably "happy that I talked to her, I didn't have to

talk to her".

Meloni called what Trump said "made up", adding: "Neither I nor Italy ever beg."

"I don't know why the president of the United States behaves this way with his own allies," the far-right leader wrote on X.

"I can only say that it's a pity he doesn't show the same determination with enemies of the West, with enemies of the United States, with leaders with whom, instead, he is far more accommodating," she said.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani on X called Trump's words "grave and offensive" and said he was cancelling a visit to the US planned for June 21 and 22.

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