

## Court bans Spanish PM's wife from leaving country



Spain's prime minister Pedro Sanchez (L) holds hands with his wife Begona Gomez

AFP | Madrid, Spain

A Spanish court has ordered the wife of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Begona Gomez, to stand trial by jury for corruption and banned her from leaving the country, according to a court order released yesterday.

Judge Juan Carlos Peinado ordered Gomez to hand in her passport and to appear before the court twice a month until a verdict is reached in the case, the ruling said.

The court said "instructions shall be issued to all border posts and civilian and military airports" to ensure Gomez complies with the ban on leaving the country.

No date for the politically explosive trial has been set.

Peinado in April formally charged Gomez with embezzlement, influence peddling, corruption in business dealings and misappropriation of funds.

He opened the investigation

in April 2024 to determine whether Gomez had exploited her position as Sanchez's wife for private gain, which she and the prime minister deny.

The case centres on the creation and management of a chair at Madrid's Complutense University that was co-directed by Gomez, as well as the alleged use of public resources and personal connections to advance private interests.

Gomez has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Sanchez has dismissed the allegations against his wife as an attempt by the right wing to undermine his government. Opposition parties have called for his resignation.

The case originated from a complaint filed by an anti-corruption group with far-right ties.

The case is one of several corruption affairs that have embroiled the Socialist leader's family and former allies, putting pressure on his minority coalition government.



Civilians and first responders gather at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Qennarit

# Hormuz closed again after Israel strikes Lebanon

● The ongoing hostilities had already strained the deal signed

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran said it was once again closing the vital Strait of Hormuz shipping lane yesterday over Israel's attacks in Lebanon.

Israeli troops battled Hezbollah fighters while its warplanes conducted deadly strikes in Lebanon's south on Saturday, hours after the United States announced a renewed ceasefire in the fighting there.

The ongoing hostilities had already strained the deal signed by US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian this week to halt the wider regional war on all fronts, including Lebanon -- a key demand of Tehran's.

## US military remains 'vigilant'

Washington, United States

The US military said yesterday it remained "present and vigilant" in the Strait of Hormuz, shortly after Iran announced it was closing the critical shipping lane.

"US forces remain present and vigilant to ensure all aspects of the agreement with Iran are adhered to, obeyed, and in full force and effect," US Central Command said in a statement.

## Iran negotiators leave for Switzerland to discuss US deal: state media

Tehran, Iran

An Iranian negotiating team left Iran for Switzerland on Saturday for discussions on the implementation of the agreement signed between it and the United States to halt the Mideast war, state media reported.

"Iranian negotiators have left for Switzerland," state news agency IRNA reported, after quoting foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei as warning that the deal was "in trouble".

Citing a US "breach of contract" and "the Zionist regime's

continuous and relentless violation of the ceasefire in south-

ern Lebanon", Iran's central military command announced Saturday "that the Strait of Hormuz will be closed to vessel traffic".

On Friday afternoon, a US official announced a new ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah brokered by US and Qatari mediators, with Israel's ambassador to Washington saying it would respect the truce if Hezbollah did.

But yesterday an Israeli military official said it was conducting fresh attacks against the Iran-backed movement, which it accused of having "launched more than 50 projectiles at Israeli forces in southern Lebanon" overnight.

Lebanese state media reported Israeli air raids on around 20 locations, with the country's civil defence agency saying 16 people were killed in the Nabatieh area, where an AFP photographer saw smoke rising over the city after strikes.

## When Roads End



Residents affected by Hurricane Melissa on October 29, 2025 receiving humanitarian aid from Caritas volunteers, sent from the United States, in the rural community of Hongolosongo, a village in El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba municipality, eastern Cuba. Even as it maintains a crippling fuel blockade and slew of sanctions that pile misery on Cubans, Washington continues to send relief to Melissa victims through the Catholic NGO Caritas.

# Driver killed, 28 in hospital as UK train collision probed

AFP | Bedford, United Kingdom

UK accident investigators were yesterday probing the cause of a train collision north of London which killed a driver and injured scores of passengers, nine critically.

The crash Friday afternoon near Bedford, a town around 90 kilometres (55 miles) north of the British capital, involved two London-bound trains on the same track, according to East Midlands Railway (EMR), which operates both services.



British Transport Police officers, Rail Accident Investigation Branch officers, and Network Rail work at the site

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said it was "too early to speculate" on the cause of the crash while vowing "a thorough investigation ... to ensure that lessons are learnt".

British Transport Police Chief Constable Lucy D'Orsi said in an update Saturday near the scene that more than 80 people had been treated for injuries in hospital and 28 remained there.

"Nine are in a critical condition," she added.

Police had earlier confirmed that the driver of one of the trains

had died at the scene.

D'Orsi said that "specialist investigators from British Transport Police are working with colleagues at the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) to gather the facts and determine what has happened".

"Suddenly" hit

Buckingham Palace issued a statement saying King Charles was "greatly saddened" by the crash and sent "his thoughts and sympathies" to the dead man's family and to those injured.

A passenger on one of the

trains, Paul Cavin, told the BBC: "We had stopped and suddenly we were hit from behind pretty bad."

"There were people injured on my carriage," he said, adding he could see many wounded people walking away from the trains, some with "smashed up noses".

The East of England Ambulance Service said Saturday 11 people sustained "very serious" injuries, while a further 32 suffered serious wounds and 56 others had minor impacts.