

585 BC

Solar eclipse, as predicted by Greek philosopher Thales, occurs while Lydians are at war with the Medes and leads to a truce. It is one of the cardinal dates from which other dates are calculated

1431

Joan of Arc is accused of relapsing into heresy by donning male clothing again, providing justification for her execution

1936

Alan Turing submits "On Computable Numbers" for publication, in which he sets out the theoretical basis for modern computers

1972

White House "plumbers" first break in at the Democratic National Headquarters and install listening devices at Watergate Complex in Washington, D.C.

# Israel says killed chief of Hamas armed wing in Gaza strike

Israel says Mohammed Odeh was killed in Gaza strike days after his predecessor

- Intensive airstrikes targeted western Gaza City positions
- Odeh's Wife and children reportedly killed
- Ceasefire violence continues in Gaza

AFP | Washington

Israel said yesterday it had killed the new head of Hamas's armed wing in Gaza, Mohammed Odeh, after killing his predecessor earlier this month despite an ongoing ceasefire.

Since Hamas's October 2023 attack, Israel has systematically targeted the group's leaders, both in Gaza and across the region.

Odeh is the fourth head of the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades Israel claims to have killed since the start of the Gaza war.

In a joint statement, the Israeli military and the Shin Bet domestic security agency confirmed Odeh's death on Tuesday, saying he had been appointed head of the brigades after the May 15 killing of Ezzedine al-Haddad.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel



Mourners carry the body of Hamas leader Mohammed Odeh and other Palestinians, the day after his targeted assassination in the Rimal neighborhood

Katz said the "commander of the armed wing of the Hamas terrorist organisation in Gaza was eliminated yesterday and sent to meet his associates in the depths of hell".

A Hamas source said that Odeh's wife and two children were also killed in the airstrike, and that a funeral procession would take place yesterday in Gaza City.

The group never officially an-

nounced or confirmed Odeh as head of the brigades, but he had long been the head of its intelligence service and was one of the group's most senior surviving figures in the Gaza Strip.

On Tuesday evening, a security source in Gaza told AFP that there was intense Israeli bombardment in western Gaza City.

The source said he had "no information on the target", but that "the scale and intensity of

the attack fuelled speculation that the target was commander Mohammed Odeh, who succeeded the martyred commander Ezzedine al-Haddad".

## 'Marked for death'

"We committed ourselves to eliminating everyone who led the October 7 massacre, and that is what we will do: they are all marked for death, wherever they may be," Katz said in his post



Mohammed Odeh was reportedly Hamas's fourth armed wing chief killed by Israel since the start of the Gaza war

on X.

He also repeated Israel's goal of ending Hamas's rule over the Palestinian territory and alluded to a plan for the forced displacement of its residents.

"The plan for voluntary migration from Gaza will also be implemented — everything will be done at the right time and in the right way," he said.

The displacement of Gazans is a project backed by far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich. US President Donald Trump previously expressed support for the idea before ditching it.

In February, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, denounced plans "aimed at making a permanent demographic change in Gaza".

## Trump Board of Peace's official Gaza fund is empty

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace has no cash in its official Gaza reconstruction fund, despite member countries pledging billions of dollars, a source familiar with the board said yesterday.

Trump first conceived of the board to rebuild Gaza, where Israel and Hamas agreed to a US-backed ceasefire in October in a bid to halt two years of devastating war.

But he quickly raised eyebrows by sending out wide invitations, including to Russian President Vladimir Putin and to countries far removed from traditional Middle East diplomacy.

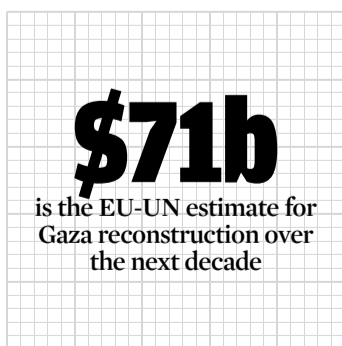
Since the board was set up, its fund -- administered by the World Bank and endorsed by the United Nations -- has received no money from donors, the source familiar with the Board of Peace told AFP.

The source said money had not been deposited because the fund was designed for the reconstruction and development phase, which has not yet been reached.

Israeli military operations in Gaza have continued despite the ceasefire, with at least 190



US Vice President JD Vance, Jared Kushner, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio look on as US President Donald Trump holds up a resolution document that he signed during the inaugural meeting of the "Board of Peace"



people killed since then, according to the territory's health ministry.

Israel still retains control over 60 percent of the Gaza Strip, including all entry and exit points, while the population is concentrated on the coast.

Earlier yesterday, the Financial Times reported that the board had received donations directly into a JPMorgan account, citing the board's spokesperson. There are no "independent transparency requirements" in place for the JPMorgan account, the FT noted.

## Five of seven people trapped in Laos cave found alive: Rescuers



Finnish expert diver Mikko Paasi being greeted by Thai rescuers as he arrives to join a mission

AFP | Vientiane

Five of seven people trapped in a flooded cave for a week in Laos were found alive yesterday, Laotian and Thai rescuers said.

"We've found five people alive and all safe. There are still two people we are searching for," Laotian rescue group Rescue Volunteer for People said in a social media post.

"At 4.30pm, we found our target. We found five people. We are looking for the other two," added Thai rescuer

Kengkach Bangkawong in a Facebook post.

Rescuers had been "racing against time" on yesterday to extract the seven trapped people, a specialist diver involved in the operation said.

"We are racing against time as today marks the seventh day and the way in is full of challenges," Finnish diver Mikko Paasi said in a social media post. He was one of the rescuers who aided the dramatic 2018 retrieval of a youth football team from a flooded cave in Thailand.



TOP  
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TWEETS

01



Today, we're presenting our new Joint Communication on Humanitarian action. It is about a Europe that stands for dignity, solidarity, and collective action for people in need. This new approach is built on 3 priorities: protect, perform, partner @hadjalahbib

02



UNICEF is deeply concerned about a recent decree issued by Afghanistan's de facto authorities. Any law that contains provisions that appear to permit child marriage or interpret a girl's silence as consent is unacceptable. @unicefchief

03



Countless blessings and warmest wishes to all celebrating Eid al-Adha. May this special time of reflection, generosity, and compassion remind us of the importance of supporting one another and nurturing strong, caring communities. Eid Mubarak. @KGeorgieva

04



As the world's leading Adonor, Europe will continue to defend the dignity of those in need. And defend those who risk their lives to help them. Today, we are ensuring life-saving aid is delivered more efficiently, even in the toughest environments. @vonderleyen

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