

1799

Napoleon Bonaparte pulls off a coup and becomes the dictator of France under the title of First Consul



1980

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein declares holy war against Iran

1994

Darmstadtium, Chemical element 110, discovered at GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research near Darmstadt, Germany

1998

Brokerage houses are ordered to pay 1.03 billion USD to NASDAQ investors to compensate for price-fixing - largest civil settlement in US history

# a housing a war crime: UN expert

## Israel to shun Paris Gaza aid conference: French presidency

Paris, France

Israeli representatives will not participate in today's "humanitarian conference" for Gaza in Paris organised by French President Emmanuel Macron, his office said.

Like other governments, Israel nevertheless has "an interest in the humanitarian situation improving in Gaza", an official in Macron's office, who asked not to be named, told reporters yesterday. Macron had spoken on Tuesday to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the pair will talk again once the aid conference is over, the Elysee Palace added.

The French leader had also spoken to Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Qatar's



A child carries a pot as Palestinians cook in a street in Rafah

Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on Tuesday, his office said. Both countries are playing a key role in attempts to bring more aid into the Gaza Strip.

Today's aid conference has been put together in a hurry on the sidelines of the Paris Peace Forum on November 10-11, an annual event launched by Macron.

Recent weeks have seen growing calls for humanitarian "pauses" or a full ceasefire to allow aid to enter Gaza and keep hopes alive of freeing the hostages.

International concern over the fate of Gaza's civilians, most of whom cannot flee the sealed-off territory, has prompted calls for a ceasefire.

But Israel has remained firm in keeping up its offensive, with a stated objective of destroying the Palestinian militant group Hamas -- which has governed Gaza since 2007.

Netanyahu has said there will be no fuel delivered to Gaza and no ceasefire with Hamas unless the hostages are freed.

The UN estimates that \$1.2 billion in aid will be needed for the populations of Gaza and the West Bank from now until the end of the year.

ing committed in Gaza".

Around 1.5 million people have been displaced in Gaza amid the destruction and Israeli calls to evacuate the entire north of the territory, according to UN figures.

Rajagopal said the Israeli evacuation order, issued despite a lack of adequate shelter and aid for those fleeing and while cutting off water, food, fuel and medicine and repeatedly attacking evacua-

tion routes and "safe zones", was "a cruel and blatant violation of international humanitarian law".

He said international humanitarian law is based on the distinction between civilian and military objects.

"Apartment buildings are not military objects. Hospitals and ambulances are not military objects. Refugee camps are not military objects," he said.

The expert insisted that even when combatants take shelter in civilian housing, as alleged in recent attacks on the Jabalia refugee camp, there is no justification for attacking entire apartment blocks housing civilians.

"No asserted right of self-defence under international law can cover such attacks," he said, adding that this was especially true "in the context of an occupation".

## G7 backs 'humanitarian pauses' in Gaza, reaffirms Ukraine support

Tokyo, Japan

G7 foreign ministers said yesterday that they supported "humanitarian pauses and corridors" in the Hamas-Israel war but refrained from calling for a ceasefire.

The group also said after talks in Japan that their support for Ukraine in its war with Russia "will never waver" while calling on China not to support Moscow in the conflict.

"We stress the need for urgent action to address the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Gaza... We support humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate

urgently needed assistance, civilian movement, and the release of hostages," a joint statement said.

The ministers also "emphasize Israel's right to defend itself and its people in accordance with international law as it seeks to prevent a recurrence" of the Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7.

It added: "We call on Iran to refrain from providing support for Hamas and taking further actions that destabilize the Middle East, including support for Lebanese Hezbollah and other non-state actors, and to use its influence with those groups to de-escalate regional tensions."

## Blinken says Israel should not 'reoccupy' Gaza

Tokyo, Japan

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday called on Israel not to reoccupy Gaza once its war with Hamas ends.

Speaking to reporters after G7 foreign ministers held talks in Japan, Blinken listed what he said were "key elements" in order to create "durable peace and security".

"The United States believes key elements should include: no



forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza, not now, not after the war; No use of Gaza as a platform for terrorism or other violent attacks; No reoccupation of Gaza after the conflict ends," Blinken told reporters.

He added that other conditions included no "attempt to blockade or besiege Gaza" or any "reduction in the territory of Gaza."

## Qatar negotiating release of 10-15 hostages for Gaza ceasefire: source

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Qatar is mediating negotiations between Israel and Hamas for the potential release of 10-15 hostages held in Gaza in exchange for a short ceasefire, a source briefed on the talks told AFP Wednesday.

"Negotiations mediated by the Qataris in coordination with the US are ongoing to secure the release of 10-15 hostages in exchange for a one- to two-day

ceasefire," the informed source said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the talks' sensitivity.

Qatar has been engaged in intense diplomacy to secure the release of those held by Hamas, negotiating the handover of four hostages -- two Israelis and two Americans -- in recent weeks.

Qatar also hosts the political office of Hamas and is the main residence of its self-exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh.

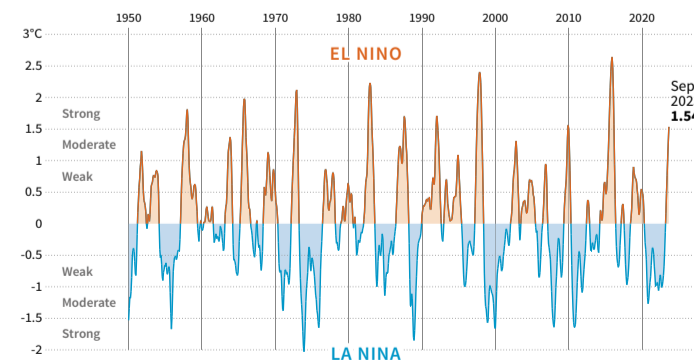


Sketches in the so-called 'secret room' of Michelangelo

# et to last at least til April: UN

## El Nino

The Oceanic Nino Index tracking the El Nino-Southern Oscillation climate pattern



El Nino last occurred in 2018-2019 and was followed by an exceptionally long La Nina -- El Nino's cooling opposite -- which ended earlier this year.

above-normal temperatures are expected, too, over almost all land areas, it said.

Other impacts are likely to include above-normal rainfall in the Horn of Africa region and the La Plata basin in South America and in southeastern North America, as well as in parts of central and eastern Asia.

cast update, adding that it was expected to last until at least April. The weather phenomenon typically occurs every two to seven years, and it usually increases global temperatures in the year after it develops.

WMO said the most recent fore-

casts for the current El Nino impact suggest a high likelihood of continued warming in the central-eastern equatorial Pacific through next April.

Above-normal sea-surface temperatures are also expected across most of the global oceans, while

## China ready to improve ties with US 'at all levels': VP

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

Beijing is ready to hold talks with the United States at "all levels", China's vice president said Wednesday ahead of an expected summit in San Francisco between leaders Xi Jinping and Joe Biden next week.

Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore, Chinese Vice President Han Zheng said recent high-level meetings between Beijing and Washington were sending "positive signals" that relations were improving.

"We're ready to strengthen communication and dialogue with the United States at all levels, advance mutually beneficial cooperation, properly manage differences and joint-

ly address global challenges," Han said.

Relations between Washington and Beijing sunk to some of their deepest lows in recent years over a host of issues including export controls, human rights and national security. But both sides appear willing to patch things up, with Washington sending a number of top officials to Beijing this year in a bid to reestablish high-level dialogue.

US President Biden has said he expects to meet Chinese leader Xi on the sidelines of a summit in San Francisco next week for "constructive" talks.

Asked to confirm whether the summit would go ahead, China's foreign ministry Wednesday reiterated that the two sides had agreed to meet.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Governments are literally doubling down on fossil fuel production, according to the latest @UNEP report. We need credible commitments to ramp up renewables, phase out fossil fuels & boost energy efficiency - while ensuring a just, equitable transition.

@antonioGuterres

02



Five years ago, 12 people lost their lives in Thousand Oaks at the hands of a gunman armed with high-capacity magazines. Today, our hearts are with the victims' families and survivors. May we turn our pain into purpose by ending America's gun violence epidemic once and for all.

@POTUS

03



When #COVID19 struck, the world acted with urgency to respond, doing things differently because lives and livelihoods were on the line. The same sense of urgency is needed to negotiate a #PandemicAccord for a safer, healthier, fairer and more equitable world.

@DrTedros

04



The home front must be defended, so that the home front will give us the strength to continue as well. This will take time. But we, both the military and political leaderships, are very determined to complete the war, to complete this mission, and not give up

@IsraeliPM

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