

DUBAI (Arab News) – The UAE endured its hottest April on record with an average daily high of 42.6 degrees Celsius (108.7 Fahrenheit), the National Center of Meteorology (NCM) said. That topped the average daily high of 42.2 Celsius (108 Fahrenheit) recorded in April 2017, said the center, which has been keeping comprehensive figures since 2003. UAE has been gripped by a heatwave for several days that has prompted authorities to warn residents to drink plenty of fluids and avoid work outdoors during the hottest part of the day.

Greed is permanent slavery. Deficiency will result in shame and sorrow but caution and foresight will bring peace and security.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UNICEF: Children in Gaza ‘Face Growing Risk of Starvation, Illness, Death’

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The head of UN children’s fund UNICEF has raised alarm over the deteriorating conditions for children in the Gaza Strip, Anadolu reports.

“For two months, children in the Gaza Strip have faced relentless bombardments while being deprived of essential goods, services and lifesaving care. With each passing day of the aid blockade, they face the growing risk of starvation, illness and death – nothing can justify this,” UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said in a statement.

Russell highlighted the severe challenges families are facing, with destroyed farmland, restricted access to the sea, and critical shortages in food and water.

“Bakeries are closing, water production is declining, and market shelves are almost bare. Humanitarian aid has provided the only lifeline for children, and now it is close to running out,” she said.



5-month-old Suwar Ashur, one of hundreds of children diagnosed with malnutrition, is being treated at Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, Gaza on May 1, 2025.

Over 75% of households in Gaza have reported declining access to water, according to the UN agency. “They don’t have enough water to drink, are unable to wash their hands when needed, and often forced to choose between showering, cleaning, and cooking,” said

Russell. The UN agency warned of a rapid spread of disease and rising malnutrition, especially among children under five. “Vaccines are quickly running out and diseases are spreading – especially acute watery diarrhea,

which now accounts for 1 in every 4 cases of disease recorded in Gaza. Most of these cases are among children under five, for whom it is life-threatening,” she said.

“Malnutrition is also on the rise. More than 9,000 children have been admitted for treatment of acute malnutrition since the beginning of the year,” Russell added.

The UNICEF chief reiterated calls for Israeli aid blockade to be lifted and for humanitarian access to be restored.

“We reiterate our call for the aid blockade to be lifted, for the entry of commercial goods into Gaza, for the release of the hostages, and for the protection of all children,” she said.

Since March 2, the Zionist regime has closed Gaza’s crossings, blocking essential supplies from entering the enclave despite multiple reports of famine in the war-devastated territory.

Sources: Saudi Arabia Told U.S. to Keep Israel Normalization Off Agenda for Trump Visit

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia has set a ground rule for U.S. President Donald Trump and his entourage ahead of their visit to the kingdom in May: keep talk of normalization with the Zionist regime off the agenda.

That was the message delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan al-Saud during his visit to Washington DC last month to plan Trump’s visit to the kingdom and in follow-up discussions among senior officials, two Arab officials familiar with the talks told Middle East Eye.

While it’s common for diplomats to hash out the list of items to be discussed before a head of state’s visit, the Saudi request underscores the kingdom’s fear that Trump’s shoot-from-the-hip style could create an awkward moment on camera for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The crown prince has publicly slammed the Zionist regime for committing genocide in Gaza, tapping into his people’s anger over the occupying regime’s assault on the enclave, where over 52,000 people have been killed, mostly women and children, according to Palestinian officials.

“Saudi Arabia is serious not to be tricked into anything that regards Israel during the upcoming visit. It was made clear in DC,” one Arab official told MEE.

Prince Farhan met U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the State Department on April 9. The meeting was public, but Saudi Arabia setting out ground rules to dissuade discussions on normalization ahead of Trump’s visit has not been previously reported.

The Saudi embassy in Washington did not respond to MEE’s request for

comment.

‘\$3.5bn Arms Sale Approved’

The U.S. State Department has granted preliminary approval for a \$3.5 billion agreement, authorizing the sale of advanced missiles and weaponry to Saudi Arabia, as confirmed by the Pentagon, before Trump’s scheduled visit to the region later this month.

The package features 1,000 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and 50 AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections for Saudi Arabia.

The proposed sale is now being reviewed by the U.S. Congress. Legislators usually evaluate these deals and may, at times, prevent them from proceeding.

In March, Washington authorized the sale of precision-guided weapon

systems to Saudi Arabia, continuing a series of U.S.-Saudi arms agreements during Trump’s administration.

Trump is set to make his first overseas trip later this month, with Saudi Arabia as his initial stop, followed by visits to the UAE and Qatar.

In his first term, Trump celebrated weapons sales to Saudi Arabia as good for U.S. jobs.

Trump signed a massive \$110 billion arms deal with the Saudis during his maiden overseas trip to Riyadh in May 2017, boasting that it was going to make and save “billions of dollars and millions of jobs” in the U.S.

The United States guarantees that its close ally the Zionist regime receives more advanced American weapons than Arab states, giving it what is labeled a “Qualitative Military Edge” (QME) over its neighbors.

Six Students Suspended NYPD Shared Palestinian Protester’s Info With ICE

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – New York City’s police department provided federal immigration authorities with an internal record about a Palestinian woman who they arrested at a protest, which the Trump administration is now using as evidence in its bid to deport her, according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The report — shared by the NYPD in March — includes a summary of information in the department’s files about Leqaa Kordia, a New Jersey resident who was arrested at a protest outside Columbia University last spring. It lists her home address, date of birth and an officer’s two-sentence account of the arrest.

Its distribution to federal authorities offers a glimpse into behind-the-scenes cooperation between the NYPD and the Trump administration, and raises questions about the city’s compliance with sanctuary laws that prohibit police from assisting with immigration enforcement

efforts.

Kordia, 32, was among the earliest people jailed in President Donald Trump’s crackdown on noncitizens who participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

She was detained during a voluntary check-in with immigration officials in Newark, New Jersey, on March 13, then flown to an immigration jail in Texas. Her arrest was announced by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security the next day in a statement that cited an expired visa and her role in “pro-Hamas protests.”

It remains unclear how immigration authorities were able to learn about Kordia’s presence at the protest near Columbia last April.

Amid escalating tensions on the campus of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, six students have been suspended without due process for setting up a pro-Palestinian encampment.

Swarthmore’s Students for Justice in Palestine

(SJP) said in a statement on Friday that the students were told to evacuate from campus.

Of the six students who were suspended, four were people of color, and three were first-generation, low-income students, the statement said.

“This is part of a disturbing trend of Swarthmore exploiting the vulnerabilities of student protesters on the basis of racialized discrimination,” it added.

The students on interim suspension are banned from attending college events or stepping foot on campus

According to SJP, this is the first time the college has suspended students for protesting since at least the 1960s.

Swarthmore College’s president, Valerie Smith, claimed in a statement on Thursday the suspended students had vandalized campus property.

UN Condemns Violations Zionist Regime Launches New Wave of Airstrikes in Syria



Members of Syria’s security forces stand guard at a checkpoint in Ashrafiyat Sahnaya, near Damascus, on 1 May 2025.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has launched a major wave of airstrikes in Syria.

Local journalists reported that Israeli warplanes carried out at least 20 airstrikes across the countryside of Damascus, Dara’a, and Hama, targeting military sites and warehouses on Friday night.

The strikes included attacks on an old Syrian army camp near Shatha village in Hama, the headquarters of a battalion of the former Syrian army north of Damascus, and military camps in Dara’a.

Explosions were reported over Damascus and its suburbs, including Harasta, where a civilian casualty was confirmed.

Israeli media said some positions in Damascus were targeted for the first time.

Since President Bashar Assad’s government collapsed in December, Syria has also been plagued by a widespread Israeli occupation across large swathes of the country’s south.

It has also been hit by hundreds of Israeli airstrikes, mainly targeting military infrastructure that belonged to the former Syrian army.

United Nations special envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen has strongly condemned Israel’s escalating violations of Syria’s sovereignty, saying the occupying regime must stop its airstrikes “at once.”

“I strongly condemn Israel’s continued and escalating violations of Syria’s sovereignty, including multiple air strikes in Damascus and other cities,” Pedersen said in a post on X.

The UN official demanded that Israel “respect international law and Syria’s sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and independence.”

He said the airstrikes must “cease at once” and that Israel must stop “endangering Syrian civilians.”

Earlier on Friday, Israeli warplanes struck near the Syrian presidential palace in Damascus, marking the regime’s second attack in the Arab country this week amid the silence of the ruling Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham-led (HTS) administration.

Israeli authorities have tried to paint the Friday attack as a support for the Druze community, which is clashing with the HTS-backed militants near Damascus in a new wave of sectarian violence under the rule of the HTS administration. The violence has left dozens of people dead or wounded.

This is while the Druze minority had a history of supporting the Assad government and standing against Zionist occupation and expansionist policies, including in the occupied Golan Heights.

The Israeli military operations in Syria come as minister of military affairs Israel Katz said on Sunday that Israel is planning to keep its occupation forces in southern Lebanon and Syria “indefinitely.”

On Thursday, Lebanon’s Al Mayadeen TV, citing local sources, said the Israeli army is establishing two new outposts in the countryside of Damascus, facing the Hasbaya district of southern Lebanon.

Save the Children Calls on UK to ‘End Complicity’, Halt All Arms Sales to Israel

LONDON (Dispatches) – A UK-based charity called on the British government on Saturday to “end its complicity” and halt all arms transfers to Tel Aviv, as Gaza enters its third month under a total siege imposed by Israel.

Save the Children issued a statement on X urging the UK government to “end its complicity” and suspend all arms transfers to the Zionist regime “urgently,” calling for the accountability of all perpetrators and the end of “Israel’s impunity.”

The Zionist regime closed Gaza’s crossings on 2 March, blocking the entry of essential supplies including water, food and medicines, despite multiple reports of famine in the war-devastated territory.

“Two months of no food. No water. No fuel. And the UK government is still complicit. The UK Government must not be an ally to atrocities,” it added.

The charity highlighted that denying aid is a violation of international law.

“Instead of much needed food, clothing or tents to help children survive, airstrikes continue,” Save the Children wrote on X.

“The halt on aid must be immediately reversed and humanitarian assistance must be allowed to enter Gaza,” the statement stressed, adding that words of concern are “meaningless without action.”

The Zionist regime’s army renewed a deadly assault in Gaza on March 18,

shattering the ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement that took hold in January.

Meanwhile, over a hundred pro-Palestine volunteers in a resident-led campaign knock on every door in the Easton and St Paul’s areas of Bristol, come rain or shine.

“What door knocking can do is shake you from the slumber of any feelings of helplessness that you might have when you see what’s happening in Palestine,” Stephen tells Middle East Eye.

A volunteer from the Bristol Apartheid-Free Zone Campaign, which has signed up over 1,800 households to a pledge to not buy Israeli fresh produce.

It aims to create a mandate that encourages high street businesses to join the boycott.

Nearly 50 shops and businesses stocking fresh produce have joined so far, and the campaign boasts a 50 percent sign-up rate among those who open the door, which the campaigners say is an “unprecedented” rate for door-to-door canvassing.

“On the doorstep, solidarity with Palestine is the overwhelming norm, so a big part of the campaign has just been trying to make that solidarity public and visible,” Stephen says.

The campaign strategy has been drawn from Bristol’s history of anti-apartheid resistance, being inspired by the success of the St Pauls Apartheid-Free Zone.