

US sanctions DR Congo ex-leader Kabila over rebel ties

Washington, United States

The United States yesterday slapped sanctions against the Democratic Republic of Congo's long-serving former president Joseph Kabila, backing allegations he has assisted Rwandan-linked rebels who have seized vast parts of his country. President Trump is paving the way for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and he has been clear that those who continue to sow instability will be held accountable. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said.

UN says Hormuz 'strangling' economy

UN chief Antonio Guterres sounded the alarm over the worsening global economic impacts of the Strait of Hormuz remaining effectively closed due to the Iran war. The closure of the vital waterway is "strangling the global economy," the secretary-general warned in remarks to the media.

US Congress votes to end record government shutdown

Washington, United States

The US Congress yesterday approved funding for most of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), ending a record-breaking partial government shutdown that has disrupted critical agencies for more than two months. The House approved the measure, already passed by the Senate, sending it to President Donald Trump for signature. It will fund key DHS agencies through the end of the fiscal year on September 30. It does not include new money for immigration and border enforcement, leaving unresolved the political dispute that triggered the shutdown.

Lebanon says six killed in new Israeli strike on south

Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's health ministry said six people were killed in an Israeli strike on the village of Zebdine, raising the number of people killed in raids on the country's south yesterday to at least 15. The state-run National News Agency said an Israeli drone targeted the group in Zebdine "while they were gathered near the village's cemetery".



Queen Camilla, King Charles III, U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump pose during a farewell ceremony at the White House on day four of the State Visit of King Charles III and Queen Camilla to the United States of America, on April 30, 2026 in Washington, DC.

Trump congratulates Iraq PM-designate, hails 'new chapter' with US

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump congratulated Iraq's new prime minister Ali al-Zaidi on Thursday, saying his nomination heralded a "tremendous new chapter" between the two countries. "We wish him success as he works to form a new Government free from terrorism that could deliver a brighter future for Iraq," Trump, who had opposed the candidacy of former premier Nouri al-Maliki, said on his Truth Social network. "This is the beginning of a tremendous new chapter between our Nations -- Prosperity, Stability, and Success like never seen before. Again, Ali, CONGRATULATIONS!"

Trump in fresh attack on Germany's Merz over Iran

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump renewed his criticism of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz yesterday, telling him to focus on ending the Ukraine war instead of "interfering" on Iran. Trump's second



roadside of the week against Merz came a day after he said he was considering the redeployment of some of the tens of thousands of US troops stationed in Germany. "The Chancellor of Germany should spend more time on ending the war with Russia/Ukraine (Where he has

Trump was apparently infuriated by Merz's comments on Monday that Tehran was "humiliating" the United States in negotiations to end the US-Israeli war on Iran that has just entered its third month.

He added that Merz should spend "less time on interfering with those that are getting rid of the Iran Nuclear threat, thereby making the World, including Germany, a safer place!" Trump was apparently infu-

riated by Merz's comments on Monday that Tehran was "humiliating" the United States in negotiations to end the US-Israeli war on Iran that has just entered its third month. The US leader's comments also come a day after he had a call with Russian President Vladimir Putin that Trump said focused mostly on ending the war in Ukraine, which Moscow's forces invaded in February 2022. Trump has long said he could bring a quick end to the war there but has made little progress.

Germany says 'prepared' for any US troop reduction

AFP | Berlin, Germany

Germany said yesterday it was "prepared" for a possible reduction in US troops threatened by President Donald Trump, while also stressing the importance of a "reliable transatlantic partnership". Trump had on Wednesday said the United States was considering redeploying some of the tens of thousands of US troops stationed in Germany amid a row with Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the war in Iran. Speaking during a visit to Morocco, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl said: "We are prepared for that, we are discussing it closely and in a spirit of trust in all NATO bodies, and we are expecting decisions from the Americans about this." Any such decisions would "be discussed with us and with others, as is proper among allies",



he said. Merz earlier said that Germany's approach to the war in the Middle East "remains oriented toward a united NATO and a reliable transatlantic partnership". Berlin was "in close and trusting contact with our partners, including and especially in Washington", he said, without directly mentioning the Trump threat. "We are doing this in our shared transatlantic interest. We are doing it with mutual respect and a fair sharing of burdens," he added. "This transatlantic partnership is particularly close to our hearts -- both to us as a whole and to me personally, as you know." German Chancellor Friedrich Merz (C), operates a robot dog with a remote control during his visit to the German army barracks in Munster, northern Germany