

Trump defends earning more than \$1bn on crypto

AFP | Joint Base Andrews, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday defended earning around \$1.2 billion from his family's cryptocurrency activities last year, saying "everybody's profiting" from his time in power.

"You know why I'm profiting, because the stock market's going up, everybody's profiting," Trump told reporters as he prepared to take his first flight on a new Air Force One plane gifted by Qatar.

"I don't get involved in my personal (finances), we have funds that run

my money," Trump said. "I've made a lot of money before I became president, and they invest my money, and I don't talk to them."

"I don't know if I've had a better career in politics or business, but I had a great career in business, and you know, you saw the cash, and you report the different things," he said.

"So we're all profiting. I'm profiting because I have a lot of money and a lot of cash."

According to financial disclosures released by the US

Office of Government Ethics on Tuesday, Trump

received nearly \$550 million from his ties to the startup World Liberty Financial in 2025.



'Excited' Trump takes first flight on Qatar-gifted Air Force One

AFP | Aboard Air Force One, Undefined

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he was thrilled to make his first flight aboard his new Air Force One plane, thanking Qatar for the controversial gift of the luxury jet. Trump said the United States "couldn't build a plane like this" -- despite the fact that the heavily modified Boeing 747-8 aircraft was originally made there.

"To be honest with you, I'm excited about the first flight. Nobody's ever seen anything like it," Trump told journalists traveling with him, including an AFP photographer, ahead of a trip to North Dakota.

The 80-year-old president is due to attend an event at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library as part of celebrations for the 250th anniversary of American independence.

"They just completed it. They made it appropriate for a pres-



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press before he boards Air Force One for his first flight aboard the Boeing 747-8 that Qatar gifted the United States to use for executive travel, at Joint Base Andrews, in Maryland

ident, that means the security and all of the different bells and whistles they put on. Very complex stuff, but it's really quite something," Trump said at Joint Base Andrews near Washington.

"Frankly, we couldn't build a plane like this because we

wouldn't be willing to spend the kind of money necessary. They spent top dollars," Trump told reporters.

Trump said he had asked the Emir of Qatar if he could use the plane but "he said 'no, no, I'd like to make a contribution to

the country, so it was very nice."

The plane will serve as a stop-gap until Boeing delivers two new purpose-built Air Force Ones, which are expected to be delivered in two years after a series of delays and cost overruns.

The MOU, brokered by Qatar and Pakistan, culminated in a summit last month in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Trump says talks were 'very good'

● The technical discussions were held at a lower level and focused on the implementation details of the memorandum.

● Iran rejected Trump's earlier suggestion that direct talks would take place in Doha.

● Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the Iranian delegation would be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, but added the officials "have no plans for negotiations with the American side at any level over the coming days".



US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff were not taking part in the technical talks

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TRUMP

take place.

A diplomat familiar with the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions, confirmed that negotiations were under way through Qatari and Pakistani mediators.

The technical discussions, held at a lower level and focused on the implementation details of the memorandum, are intended to build on progress achieved during last month's Lake Lucerne Summit in Switzerland.

The memorandum of understanding, brokered by Qatar and Pakistan, established a 60-day ceasefire that halted hostilities following US-Israeli strikes in late February. The agreement also provides for the reopening of the blockaded Strait of Hormuz and outlines a roadmap towards a permanent settlement and a long-term agreement on Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran rejected Trump's earlier suggestion that direct talks would take place in Doha. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the Iranian delegation would be headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi but stressed that officials had "no plans for negotiations with the American side at any level over the coming days".

US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff were not participating in the technical discussions, according to the diplomat, although both met with Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Doha on Tuesday.

According to Qatar's foreign ministry, the meeting focused on the ongoing US-Iran talks under the memorandum of understanding framework as well as regional developments, including the situation in Lebanon.

Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said implementation challenges were inevitable following a conflict of such scale and noted that the Doha talks would focus particularly on provisions relating to the Strait of Hormuz and developments in Lebanon.

TDI | agencies

US President Donald Trump yesterday welcomed progress in indirect talks between Washington and Tehran, describing recent meetings in Doha as "very good" and expressing optimism over efforts to curb tensions and advance discussions on Iran's nuclear programme.

"As far as things are going, the denuclearization of Iran is moving along well. They've had very good meetings, and we'll see," Trump told reporters as he prepared to board his new Qatar-gifted Air Force One aircraft for a trip to North Dakota.

"We hit them very hard... but we're getting along very well," he said, referring to the negotiations aimed at easing tensions following recent exchanges of fire between the two sides.

The latest round of talks be-

gan in Doha on Wednesday with Iran and the United States engaging in indirect negotiations through mediators in an effort to advance a memorandum of understanding designed to end the conflict and stabilise the

region.

Although both sides had indicated that officials would attend discussions on implementing the agreement, Tehran reiterated that direct negotiations with Washington would not

Iran was unable to export 'single barrel of oil' during US blockade

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Tuesday said Iran was unable to export any oil during the US blockade on its ports, noting that exports have since surged.

"From the day the blockade was lifted until today, we have exported more than 40 million barrels of oil," he said in an interview on state televi-

sion. "By contrast, during the previous 50 to nearly 60 days, we were genuinely unable to export even a single barrel of oil."

"We are pursuing dialogue, but if the dialogue is not implemented, we are also prepared for war and will respond accordingly," Ghalibaf said in an interview on state television, as Iranian and US delegations were due to hold separate discussions in Doha.