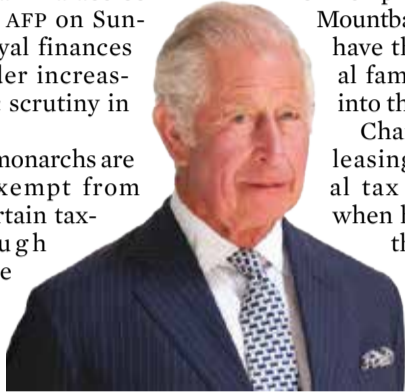


Britain's King Charles to reveal personal tax bill: Palace

AFP | London, United Kingdom

King Charles III will reveal his personal tax bill in a bid to improve transparency, Buckingham Palace confirmed to AFP on Sunday, as royal finances come under increasing public scrutiny in Britain.

British monarchs are legally exempt from paying certain taxes, though they have paid some duties voluntarily



for decades. They also have no obligation to disclose their private tax bills, but recent scandals surrounding the disgraced former prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor have thrust the royal family's finances into the spotlight. Charles began releasing his personal tax information when he was heir to the throne, but will become the first monarch to disclose it.

Life finds a way



A stork eats a locust on a wheat field after a harvester cuts the crop near Manastirea village, southern Romania. Romanian farmers have been forced to start the annual grain harvest weeks earlier than usual due to an intense early-summer heatwave and prolonged drought conditions driven by climate change, threatening crop yields across the region.

Vance hopes US, Iran can turn the page at 'historic' talks

AFP | Burgenstock, Switzerland

US Vice President JD Vance said he hopes Washington and Tehran can reset their relationship, at the start of what he called "historic" talks in Switzerland on Sunday.

"This is a historic meeting," Vance said in the negotiation room, set up with for the US team on one side and for the Iranian delegation on the other.

"The question before us now is how much more can we accomplish together?"

"Can we turn over a new leaf? Can we change relations in the Middle East permanently?"

"Or do we go back to doing things the old way, which is not our preference, but it's certainly very much something that can happen."

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf were leading the talks



for Tehran.

The negotiation table was set up in a U-shape, AFP journalists in the room saw, with Qatar and the United States on one side, Pakistan and Iran on the other -- all with three seats each.

Pakistan and Qatar each also had one seat in the middle, at the head of the table.

What Trump "has asked us to do is turn over new leaf to transform our relationship with the people of Iran", said Vance.

Trump wants to "extend an outstretched hand that says to the people of Iran that if your leadership is willing to give up being a driver of regional instability, if they are willing to give up nuclear weapons ambitions for the long term, then the United States is willing to fundamentally transform our relationship with that country."

"That is certainly our goal," said Vance.

BURGENSTOCK RESORT

WHERE HISTORY MEETS DIPLOMACY

The uber-plush Burgenstock resort above Lake Lucerne, Switzerland, the setting for US-Iran talks aimed at ending nearly four months of war. A secluded paradise with a long legacy of hosting world leaders, icons and peace negotiations.

1. A STAGE FOR DIPLOMACY

The resort was proposed by Washington and Tehran, and their Pakistani and Qatari mediators, for talks to flesh out their preliminary agreement.

With water on three sides and limited access, the resort is easy to seal off for major events—offering privacy, peace and security.

2. A LEGACY OF LEGENDS

CHARLIE CHAPLIN
Met Indian prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru at the resort in 1953, along with his daughter Indira Gandhi.

AUDREY HEPBURN
Married Mel Ferrer in the Burgenstock chapel in 1954 and lived in the resort's Villa Selenia.

SEAN CONNERY
Based at Burgenstock while filming the 1964 James Bond movie "Goldfinger", spending a month at the resort.

SOPHIA LOREN
Had a chalet on Burgenstock mountain—now the site of its Persian restaurant.

QUEEN INGRID OF DENMARK
Among the many royal and distinguished guests who stayed at the hotel.

MEL FERRER
Married Audrey Hepburn in 1954; the couple made Burgenstock their home.

JIMMY CARTER
Stayed at the resort before becoming US president in 1977.

WORLD LEADERS
Israeli PMs David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir, West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer (stayed July–Aug 1950) and many others visited.

3. LOCATION

8 km (5 miles) from Lucerne in central Switzerland.

Peak at 1,128 m (3,700 ft) above sea level; northern slope plunges nearly 700 m down to Lake Lucerne.

The resort sits 450 m above the water on a ridge below the peak.

Four main hotel buildings (from Belle Epoque to ultra-modern), seven restaurants, plus villas and residences.

ROYAL SUITE from 19,500 CHF (\$24,550) per night*
CHALET ROOM from 310 CHF per night*

*Before fees and taxes

4. BREATHTAKING RAILWAYS & LIFTS

Guests reach the resort via a combination of scenic funiculars, cable cars and lifts—offering breathtaking views every step of the way.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 360 Rooms & Suites
- 700 Staff
- 1873 Grand Hotel Opened
- 1903 Palace Hotel Added

OVER 150 YEARS OF HOSPITALITY

- 1873** The brainchild of sawmill business partners Franz Josef Bucher and Josef Durrer, the Grand Hotel opens.
- 1903** The Palace Hotel is added to the growing resort.
- 150+ YEARS** A sanctuary for leaders, celebrities and those seeking inspiration, discretion and luxury.

Hezbollah chief rejects any Israeli security zone in Lebanon

Iran warns US to 'be careful' after Trump threat

Peace push faces Swiss test

Regional stability, energy security and nuclear concerns dominate negotiations

● Israel says no restriction on troops 'eliminating threats' in Lebanon

● Iran says can't enter final US deal talks without end to Lebanon war

● Iran state media says nuclear programme not discussed in US talks

● US negotiators Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff are in Switzerland

TDT | agencies

Diplomatic efforts to turn a fragile US-Iran ceasefire into a lasting peace have entered a crucial phase in Switzerland, with negotiators seeking to bridge differences over Tehran's nuclear programme and regional security concerns amid continuing tensions in Lebanon.

Representatives from Washington and Tehran are meeting with mediators from Pakistan and Qatar at the Swiss resort of

Burgenstock, where discussions are aimed at transforming a preliminary ceasefire agreement into a broader framework for regional stability.

While both sides have signalled a willingness to pursue diplomacy, developments in Lebanon remain a major obstacle. Iran has linked progress in the negotiations to an end to hostilities involving Israel and Hez-

bollah, warning that regional tensions could undermine efforts to secure a final settlement.

Israel has maintained that its forces will remain in what it describes as a security zone in southern Lebanon and will respond to any perceived

threats, underscoring the challenges facing negotiators as they seek to ease tensions across the region.

The talks are also focused on the long-running dispute over Iran's nuclear activities.

US Vice President JD Vance said discussions would centre on both the nuclear issue and the situation in Lebanon, describing them as the two most important matters on the agenda.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reiterated that Tehran will not relinquish its right to enrich uranium, while again insisting that the country has no intention of developing nuclear weapons.

"We can also state in writing that we have no intention of building a bomb," Pezeshkian said.

In addition to nuclear matters, Iran is seeking the release of frozen assets and greater freedom to export its oil, issues that officials say form part of the broader negotiations.

Trump threatens to strike Iran over support for Hezbollah

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to strike Iran if it did not stop Hezbollah from "causing trouble," as peace talks between senior US and Iranian officials began in Switzerland.

The negotiations opened against a backdrop of clashes in recent days between the Israeli army and Hezbollah -- a Tehran ally -- in southern Lebanon, threatening to derail the preliminary peace deal between Tehran and Washington. "Iran must immediately stop their highly paid PROXIES in Lebanon from causing trouble," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. "If they don't, we'll hit Iran very hard

again, just like we did last week, only harder!!!"

Israeli airstrikes killed at least 30 people on Saturday in eastern and southern Lebanon, before a lull in the fighting that evening, when the Israeli army was ordered to halt clashes with Hezbollah.

The memorandum of understanding signed Wednesday between the United States and Iran stipulates a cessation of hostilities on all fronts, including in Lebanon.

