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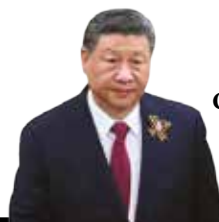
Battle of Agincourt: Henry V's forces defeat a larger French army as the longbow overcomes the armored knight at Azincourt, France

1854

Infamous "Charge of the Light Brigade" during the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War results in over 100 deaths

1971

United Nations votes to expel the Chinese Nationalist ruled Taiwan and admit the Communist People's Republic of China



2017

Chinese Premier Xi Jinping unveils his new ruling council in the Great Hall of the People; none of the five members are young enough to succeed him

# Rubio seeks quick deployment of international Gaza force

US aims to secure durable truce as Israel retains veto on participants

● US seeks ceasefire policing force

● Turkey's inclusion strongly opposed

● US may seek UN force mandate

AFP | Washington

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio voiced hope yesterday of soon putting together an international force to police the ceasefire in Gaza and said Israel, which opposes including Turkey, could veto participants.

Rubio visited Israel on the heels of Vice President JD Vance as part of an all-out effort by the United States to protect the truce -- including by preventing major new action by Israel.

Rubio expressed optimism for a durable end to the two-year Gaza war as he met Israeli, US and other Western forces monitoring the ceasefire from inside a vast converted warehouse in southern Israel.

The deal spearheaded by President Donald Trump calls for an international force to enter Gaza and oversee security after Israel's ceasefire with Hamas, whose unprecedented attack on October 7, 2023 sparked a war that has left most of Gaza in rubble.

Rubio said it was critical for the deal to create "the conditions for the stabilisation force to come in as soon as it possibly can be put together".

He confirmed that Israel would enjoy vetoes on the force composition, amid reports Israel



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio listens to US military personnel as he visits the Civil-Military Coordination Center in southern Israel

has objected to participation by Turkey.

"There's a lot of countries that have offered to do it. Obviously as you put together this force, it will have to be people that Israel is comfortable with," he said.

Turkey, a NATO member and one of the region's strongest militaries, was the first Muslim-majority country to recognise Israel.

But, under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey has welcomed Hamas leaders and been a vociferous critic of Israel, which Erdogan accuses of committing genocide in Gaza, an allegation Israel denies.

Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority state, has said it is ready to send troops to Gaza. The United Arab Emirates,



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MARCO RUBIO

which normalised ties with Israel in 2020, has already been involved in ceasefire monitoring.

Rubio said the United States may seek a UN mandate for the force as some countries need the world body's imprimatur to deploy troops.

The Trump administration has

pulled back from much of the United Nations and Rubio again rejected any future role for UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, which Israel has long sought to sideline.

**'More progress' than expected**

Some 200 US soldiers have deployed to the ceasefire coordination centre, where uniformed troops from a dozen countries were seen mingling in the hastily-assembled rented space whose latest addition was artificial grass carpeting.

Overhead screens showed the staff's latest findings, including what it said was a new abundance of fruit, vegetables, cheese and coffee getting into Gaza.

Another projection showed the



**A converted warehouse in southern Israel serves as the ceasefire coordination hub, where troops from a dozen nations monitor Gaza -- complete with artificial grass and screens tracking food entering the territory**

day's schedule and ended with words from Trump that read like a motivational saying: "A new and beautiful day is rising. And now, the rebuilding begins."

Rubio said of the truce: "We've made more progress in 13 days than anyone thought possible."

The Trump administration, which until recently allowed no daylight to shine between its stance and Israel's, has increasingly leaned on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who in March brushed aside an earlier ceasefire and ordered a major new offensive.

Trump, responding to concerns by Arab states, has urged Israel not to annex the West Bank. The Israeli parliament voted to advance laws calling for annexation during the visit by Vance, who described the move as a personal affront.

"Suffice it to say we don't think it's going to happen," Rubio said



TOP  
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TWEETS

01



The @UN was born from humanity's darkest hour. 80 years on, despite of the headwinds, its mission endures: give voice to the voiceless, bring out the best of humanity, and leave no one behind. This #UNDay -- and every day -- we carry that promise forward.

@AminaJMohammed

02



Good discussions at GEUCO, starting with Ukraine. Europe & its partners will keep the pressure high on Russia. And stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes. The Commission will present options for the Reparations Loan and take the work forward.

@vonderleyen

03



For 80 years, the @UN has worked to forge peace, tackle poverty & hunger, advance human rights & build a more sustainable world.. Now, more than ever, the world must recommit to solving problems no nation can solve alone. On this #UN-Day, let's stand together & act as one.

@antonioguterres

04



We are on the verge of making #polio the second human disease to be consigned to history. Decades ago, humanity bridged geopolitical and geographic borders to end smallpox. Let's do the same for polio. Let's finish the job. #WorldPolioDay

@DrTedros

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

## Venezuela's Maduro to US: 'No crazy war, please!'

AFP | Caracas

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro pleaded against a "crazy war" as an escalating US military campaign sent tensions soaring.

Maduro's comment came after US President Donald Trump said he had authorized covert action against the South American nation amid a military campaign targeting what Washington says are drug traffickers in the Caribbean and Pacific.

"Yes peace, yes peace forever, peace forever. No crazy war, please!" Maduro said in English in a meeting with unions aligned with the leftist leader.

The United States has deployed stealth warplanes and navy ships as part of what it calls anti-narcotics efforts, but has yet to release evidence that its targets -- eight boats and a semi-submersible -- were smuggling drugs.



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a march to commemorate the "Day of Indigenous Resistance" in Caracas (file photo)

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Trump again denied that he had sent B-1B bombers to Venezuela, but said "we're not happy with them. They've emptied their prisons into our country."

## India trials Delhi cloud seeding to combat smog

AFP | New Delhi

India trialled cloud seeding over its smog-filled capital for the first time, spraying a chemical from an aeroplane to encourage rain and wash deadly particles out of the air.

Cloud seeding is the practice of using aeroplanes to fire salt or other chemicals into clouds to induce rain.

New Delhi city authorities, working with the government's Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, launched a test run on Thursday afternoon using a Cessna light aeroplane over the city's northern Burari area.

"A trial seeding flight was done... in which cloud seeding flares were fired", Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said in a statement late Thursday.

"This flight was the proving



Commuters drive amid heavy smog early morning in New Delhi

flight for checking the capabilities for cloud seeding, the readiness and endurance of the aircraft, the capability assessment of the cloud seeding fitments and flares, and coordination among all involved agencies."

It comes ahead of a planned rollout of the scheme.

Delhi's Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that "if conditions remain favourable, Delhi will experience its first artificial rain on October 29."