

1431

Hundred Years' War: 19-year-old Joan of Arc is burned at the stake by an English-dominated tribunal in Rouen, France

1539

Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto's expedition of 10 ships and 700 men lands in Florida



1848

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo between the United States and Mexico comes into force, giving California, Nevada, Utah, and most of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona to the US in return for \$15 million

1868

"Decoration Day," later called Memorial Day, is first observed in Northern US states

Trump says making **final decision** on proposed Iran deal

Deal would restore unrestricted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz

● Iran demands actions over promises

● Negotiations continue through mediators

● Truce violations accusations persist

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that he was making a final decision on a potential agreement with Iran, while Tehran maintained that any deal to end the Middle East conflict depended on Washington abandoning what it described as excessive demands.

Iran's chief negotiator had earlier said Tehran would judge Washington by its actions rather than its statements, after US Vice President JD Vance said progress had been made toward extending the ceasefire and establishing a framework for broader peace negotiations.

US officials told AFP that a proposed agreement was awaiting Trump's approval following weeks of intermittent negotiations aimed at ending a conflict that has affected the Middle East and global markets.

"I will be meeting now, in the Situation Room, to make a final



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and US President Donald Trump listens during a cabinet meeting

determination," Trump said in a social media post, repeating longstanding US demands that Iran permanently forgo nuclear weapons and restore unrestricted navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump also said Iran would remove mines from the strait, that the United States would lift its naval restrictions on Iranian ports, and that both countries would coordinate efforts re-

garding Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles. He did not specify whether those provisions had already been agreed or remained under discussion.

Trump's comments came as Iran's top diplomat suggested that US negotiating positions were complicating efforts to reach an agreement.

Expectations of a possible agreement increased on Thursday after US officials expressed

optimism about diplomatic progress, with Vance telling reporters that "a lot of progress" had been achieved.

Optimism surrounding a potential agreement supported Asian stock markets yesterday, while oil prices eased slightly.

Energy markets have remained volatile as investors evaluate the prospects of an agreement that could restore normal shipping through the Strait of Hormuz,

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Qatar's role in the talks has grown, with Trump calling its ruler to discuss the latest updates on efforts to end the war

which Iran has restricted since the conflict began.

Iran has not publicly confirmed any commitments, and Iranian media have reported that any agreement announced unilaterally by Trump would not automatically be recognised by Tehran.

Yesterday, Tasnim News Agency, citing a source, reported that the text had not yet been finalised and that the wording of the proposed memorandum of understanding had been revised in recent days.

The role of Qatar in mediation efforts has expanded, and the country's state news agency reported late Thursday that Trump had spoken with its ruler regarding the latest developments in efforts to end the conflict.

Blue Origin rocket explodes on launch pad

AFP | Washington

Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket unleashed a massive fireball into the sky as it exploded during a test on Thursday, in the latest blow to billionaire Jeff Bezos's space ambitions.

Footage shows the towering rocket erupt in an inferno, followed by a mushroom cloud of smoke as bystanders gathered to watch the launch gasp "Oh no!" and "Oh my God!"

Bezos's space company Blue Origin said in a brief statement posted to X that it had experienced an "anomaly" during the test in Cape Canaveral in the US state of Florida, and that "all personnel have been accounted for."

The explosion is the latest setback to the Amazon boss's position in the frenzied race between private companies pushing for space exploration.

"It's too early to know the root cause but we're already working to find it," Bezos wrote on X.

"Very rough day, but we'll rebuild whatever needs rebuild-



A video grab shows Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket exploding in a massive fireball

ing and get back to flying. It's worth it."

The New Glenn rocket, which stands at 98 meters (321 feet), is at the heart of Blue Origin's space ambitions, particularly in its battle against Elon Musk's SpaceX, which is currently developing the biggest rocket in history, Starship.

Musk offered his condolences, calling the accident "most unfortunate."

The disaster comes weeks after the New Glenn rocket failed a mission to deliver a

communications satellite into the correct orbit, prompting an investigation.

Although the company successfully reused and recovered a booster for the rocket, the uncrewed mission did not deliver the satellite from the company AST SpaceMobile.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in response that it required Blue Origin to conduct a "mis-hap investigation," which was completed earlier this month.

WHO chief in Ebola-hit DR Congo which sees first recovery



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (L), the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), speaks with officials upon his arrival in Kinshasa

AFP | Kinshasa

The UN health chief was yesterday in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where authorities are struggling to contain the spread of a deadly Ebola outbreak but the recovery of a patient, the first since the crisis began, was confirmed.

World Health Organization (WHO) head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus arrived in the capital, Kinshasa, late on Thursday, two weeks after the outbreak of the highly contagious hemorrhagic fever was declared.

He had been due to travel yesterday to Ituri, a remote

northeastern province that is the epicenter of the country's 17th Ebola outbreak but the trip has been pushed back by a day.

The DRC, a vast nation of more than 100 million people, is one of the poorest countries in the world and for more than three decades has been plagued by conflict from myriad armed groups in its mineral-rich east.

There have been at least 1,077 suspected cases of Ebola since the outbreak was declared on May 15, including 246 deaths, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on Thursday.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Russia's war of aggression has crossed yet another line. A Russian drone incursion struck a densely populated area in Romania, injuring civilians. On EU territory. We stand in full solidarity with Romania and its people. As we continue strengthening our security and deterrence, especially on our Eastern border, we will keep increasing the pressure on Russia. We are preparing a 21st package of sanctions..

@vonderleyen

02



Full solidarity and support to Romania following the crash of a Russian drone on a residential building in Galati, injuring civilians. Russia's escalation on EU territory is reckless and irresponsible. I condemn in the strongest terms this violation of Romania's national airspace and of international law. The EU is united in stepping up pressure on Russia through sanctions and strengthening defence capabilities, in particular along our Eastern border.

@eucopresident

03



Three years of raising awareness and support for world's worst hunger crises—alongside the extraordinary people and partners working to end them. The fight against hunger is far from over, but I've seen firsthand what is possible when the world chooses to act.

@WFPchief

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