



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov speaks during the 4th edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF2025) in



A sympathiser of small, satirical 'Two-tailed Dog Party' at a 'Gray Pride Demo' to ridicule Hungarian PM Viktor Orban's clampdown on LGBTQ rights and diversity



Karol Nawrocki, candidate for the 2025 Polish prez election supported by Poland's right-wing Law and Justice party, speaks during a demonstration in Warsaw



Britain's PM Keir Starmer with British Steel workers in Appleby Village Hall near Scunthorpe, northern England

allovertheworld



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during an interaction with members of the Indian community, in Vienna, Austria

Bomb strikes near Athens offices of Greek railway company, no injuries reported

ATHENS: A bomb exploded Friday in central Athens outside the offices of Hellenic Train, Greece's main railway company, authorities said. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Local media said a newspaper and a news website had received an anonymous call shortly before the blast, with the caller warning that a bomb had been planted outside the railway company offices and would explode within about 40 minutes. Police cordoned off the site along a major avenue in the Greek capital, keeping residents and tourists away from the building in an area with several bars and restaurants. Officers at the scene said a bag containing an explosive device had been placed near the Hellenic Train building on Syngrou Avenue.

At least 100 people killed in attacks on famine-hit camps in Sudan's Darfur, UN official says

CAIRO: Sudan's notorious paramilitary group launched a two-day attack on famine-hit camps for displaced people that left more than 100 dead, including 20 children and nine aid workers, in the Darfur region, a UN official said Saturday. The Rapid Support Forces and allied militias launched an offensive on the Zamzam and Abu Shorouk camps and the nearby city of el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur province, on Friday, said UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami. El-Fasher is under the control of the military, which has fought the RSF since Sudan descended into civil war two years ago, killing more than 24,000 people, according to the United Nations, though activists say the number is likely far higher. The camps were attacked again on Saturday, Nkweta-Salami said in a statement. She said that nine aid workers were killed "while operating one of the very few remaining health posts still operational" in Zamzam camp.

Iran, US envoys hold talks over Tehran's nuclear programme

AP, MUSCAT (OMAN): Iran and the United States will hold more negotiations next week over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, Iranian state television reported Saturday at the end of the first round of talks between the two countries since President Donald Trump returned to the White House. Iran's state-run broadcaster revealed that US Midwest envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi "briefly spoke" together — the first time the two nations have done that since the Obama administration.

Tehran's declaration that the two sides spoke face-to-face — even if briefly — suggests the negotiations went well even to Iranian state TV, which long has been controlled by hard-liners.

In a statement released Saturday afternoon, the White House described the discussions as "very positive and constructive," while conceding the issues that need to be resolved "are very complicated."

"Special Envoy Witkoff's direct communication to-

day was a step forward in achieving a mutually beneficial outcome," the White House said.

The next round of talks will take place Saturday, April 19, according to the Iranian and American statements.

This first round of talks began at around 3:30 pm local time. The two sides spoke for over two hours at a location in the outskirts of Muscat, Oman's capital, ending the talks around 5:50 pm local time. The convoy believed to be carrying Witkoff returned to Muscat before disappearing into traffic around a neighbourhood that is home to the US Embassy.

The stakes of the negotiations couldn't be higher for the two nations closing in on half a century of enmity. Trump repeatedly has threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's nuclear programme if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn that they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

Talks took place Saturday afternoon in Oman Associated Press journal-



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (2nd-L) speaking with members of the Iranian delegation after a meeting in Muscat

ists saw a convoy believed to be carrying Witkoff leave the Omani Foreign Ministry on Saturday afternoon and then speed off into the outskirts of Muscat. The convoy went into a compound and a few minutes later, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei wrote on the social platform X that the "indirect talks" had begun.

Afterward, Araghchi de-

scribed the meeting as constructive to Iranian state TV, with four rounds of messages exchanged during the indirect portion.

"Neither we nor the other side are interested in fruitless negotiations — so-called talks for the sake of talks," wasting time, or drawn-out, exhausting negotiations," he said. "Both sides, including the Americans, have said that their

goal is also to reach an agreement in the shortest possible time. However, that will certainly not be an easy task."

That the two men spoke face-to-face satisfied a demand of the Americans. Trump and Witkoff both had described the talks as being "direct."

"I think our position begins with dismantlement of your programme. That is

our position today," Witkoff told The Wall Street Journal before his trip. "That doesn't mean, by the way, that at the margin we're not going to find other ways to find compromise between the two countries."

He added: "Where our red line will be, there can't be weaponization of your nuclear capability."

Araghchi, however, sought to downplay the encounter as "a brief initial conversation, greetings and polite exchanges" — likely to avoid drawing the anger of hard-liners in Iran.

Badr al-Busaidi, Oman's foreign minister who shuttled between the two sides, said the countries have a "shared aim of concluding a fair and binding agreement."

"I would like to thank my two colleagues for this engagement, which took place in a friendly atmosphere conducive to bridging viewpoints and ultimately achieving regional and global peace, security and stability," al-Busaidi wrote on X. "We will continue to work together and put further efforts to assist in arriving at this goal."

Israel cuts off Rafah Vows to 'vigorously' expand in territory

AP, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL: Israel announced Saturday it has completed construction of a new security corridor that cuts off the southern city of Rafah from the rest of Gaza, as the military said it would soon expand "vigorously" in most of the small coastal territory. Palestinians were further squeezed into shrinking areas of land.

"Soon, (military) activity will expand rapidly to additional locations throughout most of Gaza and you will have to evacuate the fighting zones," Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement, without saying where Palestinians were meant to go.

The statement urged Palestinians to stand up and remove Hamas and release the remaining hostages, saying, "This is the only way to stop the war." There was no immediate response from Hamas.

Israeli troops were deployed last week to the new security corridor referred to as Morag, the name of a Jewish settlement that once stood between Rafah and Khan Younis, after the army ordered sweeping evacuations covering most of Rafah, indicating it could soon launch another major ground operation.

Israel has vowed to seize large parts of Gaza to pressure Hamas to release the remaining 59 hostages, 24 of them believed to be alive, and accept proposed new ceasefire terms.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has also imposed a month long blockade on food, fuel and humanitarian aid that has left the territory's roughly two million Palestinians facing acute shortages as supplies dwindle — a tactic that rights groups say is a war crime.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



Palestinian children receive their portion of a hot meal at a free food distribution point in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on Sunday. On March 2 this year, Israel imposed a full blockade on the Palestinian territory, and cut off power to Gaza's main water desalination plant

Russia, Ukraine accuse each other of failing to pause strikes

AP, ANTALYA (TURKEY): Russia and Ukraine's top diplomats on Saturday used a high-level conference in Turkey to once again trade accusations of violating a tentative US-brokered deal to pause strikes on energy infrastructure, underscoring the challenges of negotiating an end to the three-year-old war.

The two foreign ministers spoke at separate events at the annual Antalya Diplomacy Forum, a day after US envoy Steve Witkoff met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss peace prospects. Ukraine's European allies on Friday promised billions of dollars to help Kyiv keep fighting Russia's invasion.

While Moscow and Kyiv both agreed in principle last month to implement a limited, 30-day ceasefire, they issued conflicting statements soon after their separate talks with US officials in Saudi Arabia. They differed on the start time of halting strikes, and alleged near-immediate breaches by the other side.

"The Ukrainians have

The Ukrainians have been attacking us from the very beginning, every passing day, maybe with two or three exceptions — Sergei Lavrov, Russian Foreign Minister

been attacking us from the very beginning, every passing day, maybe with two or three exceptions," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, adding that Moscow would provide the US, Turkey and international bodies with a list of Kyiv's attacks during the past three weeks.

A representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry separately told state media Saturday that Moscow has been sharing intelligence with the US regarding more than 60 supposed breaches of the deal by Kyiv.

Lavrov on Saturday insisted Russia had stuck to the terms of the deal.

His Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiha, fiercely contested that claim, saying Russia had launched "almost 70 missiles, over

2,200 (exploding) drones, and over 6,000 guided aerial bombs at Ukraine, mostly at civilians," since agreeing to the limited pause on strikes.

"This clearly shows to the world who wants peace and who wants war," he said.

Ukraine has endorsed a broader US ceasefire proposal, but Russia has effectively blocked it by imposing far-reaching conditions. European governments have accused Putin of dragging his feet.

"Russia has to get moving" on the road to ending the war, US President Donald Trump posted on social media Friday. He said the war is "terrible and senseless."

Lavrov on Saturday reiterated that a prospective US-backed agreement, also discussed in Saudi Arabia, to ensure safe navigation for commercial vessels in the Black Sea could not be implemented until restrictions are lifted on Russian access to shipping insurance, docking ports and international payment systems.

Judge relaxes ban on DOGE access to sensitive Treasury info

AP, NEW YORK: A New York judge has relaxed a ban she'd put on Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency preventing it from accessing sensitive Treasury Department information related to millions of Americans.

Judge Jeannette A. Vargas said in a written opinion late Friday that one DOGE worker, Ryan Wunderly, can access sensitive payment and data systems if he completes training that Treasury employees typically go through before given such access and submits a financial disclosure report.

The ruling came in a lawsuit brought by 19 Democratic state attorneys general who sued over privacy issues amid DOGE's assertion that it was working to modernize Treasury payment systems.

The lawsuit contended that Musk's DOGE team was composed of "political appointees" who should not have access to Treasury records.

Trump proclaims himself 'in good shape' Results of his physical however aren't immediately released

AP, WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump had an annual physical on Friday and concluded, "I did well," praising his own heart, soul and cognitive ability while noting medical reports from White House doctors may not be ready until the weekend.

The 78-year-old, who in January became the oldest in US history to be sworn in as president, spent nearly five hours at Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre undergoing what he called "every test you can imagine."

"I was there for a long time," Trump said. "I think I did very well."

Despite long questioning predecessor Joe Biden's physical and mental capacity, Trump has routinely kept basic facts about his own health shrouded in secrecy — shying away from traditional presidential transparency on medical issues. He said he believes the doctor's report on his latest physical would be ready on Sunday — though, if history is any indication, that may offer little



US President Donald Trump raises a fist as he steps off Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday

more than flattery with scarce detail.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said while Trump was still being examined that a "read-out from the White House physician" on his health that would be released "as soon as we possibly can" and suggested it'd be comprehensive.

Trump went straight

from the examination to Air Force One to fly to Florida for the weekend. Speaking to reporters midflight, he said doctors offered him "a little bit" of advice on lifestyle changes that could improve his health, though he didn't elaborate on what that was.

"Overall, I felt I was in very good shape. A good heart, a good soul, a very

good soul," Trump said. He also noted that he took a cognitive test. "I don't know what to tell you other than I got every answer right," he said.

He said undergoing mental acuity screening was "what the American people want" and took another shot at his predecessor, saying, "Biden refused to take it."

The finished medical report would be the first public information on Trump's health since an assassination attempt against him in Butler, Pennsylvania, in July.

Rather than release medical records at that time, Texas Rep Ronny Jackson — a staunch supporter who served as his White House physician and once joked in the White House briefing room that Trump could live to be 200 if he had a healthier diet — wrote a memo describing a gunshot wound to Trump's right ear.

In a subsequent interview with CBS last August, Trump said he'd "very gladly" release his medical records, but never did.