

Trump says he was an hour away from striking Iran again

Donald claims Gulf negotiators requested him to refrain from attacking Iran

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he was an hour away from making a decision to restart attacks on Iran...



Donald Trump; Todd Blanche

The US President said the negotiators said they had made a lot of progress in talks with Iran over the last two days...

Trump said he's giving Iran "a limited period of time" to make a deal because we can't let them have

a nuclear weapon. "There's no question in my mind that they'd use it, there's no question and I deal with these people. They're extremely radicalised," he said.

There have been reports that China, which has close ties to Iran, has considered sending weapons for use in the conflict against the United States.

Meanwhile, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche is appearing for his first congressional testimony since taking reins at the Justice Department...

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Russia flaunts begins 3-day N-forces drills

MOSCOW

RUSSIA on Tuesday began massive maneuvers of its nuclear forces featuring practice launches of nuclear-capable ballistic and cruise missiles in drills that come amid surge in Ukrainian drone strikes.



Russia's new Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile test-launched last week at an unspecified location in Russia | AP

The three-day exercise will involve 64,000 troops, over 200 missile launchers, more than 140 aircraft, 73 surface warships and 13 submarines...

The maneuvers will focus on the "preparation and use of nuclear forces under the threat of aggression," the ministry said.

The drills will also practice cooperation with Belarus, a neighbor and ally that hosts Russian nuclear weapons. Russian arsenals in Belarus include its latest intermediate range nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system.

aged several buildings and industrial facilities. Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly reminded the world about Moscow's nuclear arsenals after sending troops into Ukraine in February 2022 to try to deter the West from ramping up support for Kyiv.

The recent attacks have made it harder for officials in the Kremlin to cast the conflict in Ukraine — now in its fifth year — as something so distant that it doesn't affect the daily routines of Russian civilians.

Barakah N-power plant hit by drones from Iraq

DUBAI

UAE'S Ministry of Defence said Tuesday that during the past 48 hours, its air defence systems successfully detected and engaged 6 hostile drones trying to target civilian and vital areas in the country.

The drones that targeted UAE's Barakah nuclear power plant all came from Iraq, likely signaling Iranian-backed Shiite militias launched the assault, the ministry said.

There were no reported injuries or radiological release at Barakah after the attack, which Emirati officials said hit a generator at the facility's perimeter.

The UAE, which has hosted air defenses and personnel from Israel. Iraqi government spokesman Bassem al-Adawi, without addressing the Emirati Defense Ministry's report, issued a statement saying that Baghdad "expresses its strong condemnation of the recent drone attacks targeting the UAE."

WHO worried about speed of Ebola virus

KINSHASA

THE World Health Organization on Tuesday voiced concern about the "scale and speed" of an Ebola outbreak that has killed an estimated 131 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo and warned it could be lengthy.



Health workers in Congo | AFP

The UN health agency has declared the surge of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever an international health emergency and called an urgent meeting on the crisis. No vaccine or therapeutic treatment exists for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola which is responsible for the outbreak declared in the east last week.

people in Africa in the past half-century. With the recent cases largely concentrated in difficult-to-access areas hit by long-running conflicts, few samples have been laboratory-tested and figures are based mostly on suspected cases.

deaths in total and we have around 513 suspected cases," Congolese Health Minister Samuel Roger Kamba said on national television early Tuesday. "The deaths we are reporting are all the deaths we have identified in the community, without necessarily saying that they are all linked to Ebola," he added.

Speaking from the DRC, Anne Antia, the WHO's representative, told reporters in Geneva that a vaccine candidate called Ervebo was among those being looked at but it was likely to take at least "two months for it to be available".

Ebola has killed more than 15,000

"We have recorded roughly 131

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