

## No Concerts, No Problem: Trump Plans 'Great American State Fair' For US' 250th Anniversary

Washington, 31 May : An upcoming celebration of America's 250th anniversary, "The Great American State Fair," recently had several musical guests back out partly over the event's ties to President Donald Trump. Now, Trump himself is slated to headline the festivities, the organizers said Saturday.

"I understand Artists are getting 'the yips' having to do with their performance," Trump posted to his social media platform Truth Social Saturday, adding that he was thinking of bringing "the man who some say is the Greatest President in History (THE GOAT!), DONALD J. TRUMP, to take the place of these highly paid, Third Rate 'Artists.'"

The group organizing the June fair on Washington's National Mall, Freedom 250, confirmed the billing in a statement, writing, "we are excited to announce that President Trump will personally kick off this historic celebration on Wednesday, June 24."

Trump's social media post twice referenced him holding a rally "Wednesday," without a specific date. The White House did not immediately clarify the discrepancy.

Danielle Alvarez, a spokesperson for Freedom 250, emphasized the broader fair that is scheduled from June 25 through July 10 includes an array of exhibits, family friendly attractions, musical performances, flyovers and more. Trump was dismissive of the acts that backed out, suggesting in a follow-up post that the solution is to "Cancel it."

"We should have a giant MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN RALLY, for 250, instead of having overpriced singers, who nobody wants to hear, whose music is boring, and yet who do nothing but complain," Trump said on social media.

Freedom 250 is billed as nonpartisan, but was launched last year by Trump and is led by a former State Department appointee from Trump's first term. Several artists, including Bret Michaels, the Commodores and Martina McBride dropped out last week.

Michaels and other artists have said that they were misled about the theme of the shows or were otherwise wary of being caught up in a political fight. McBride, in a statement on Instagram, said she had been "presented with an opportunity to perform at a nonpartisan event but that turned out to be misleading."

Other artists plan to attend, including Flo Rida, Fab Morvan of Milli Vanilli and Vanilla Ice. The latter's representative previously said that the "Ice Ice Baby" rapper was "proud to help celebrate America's 250th Anniversary!"

For Israel, concerns remain that any emerging deal may leave out key issues such as Iran's enriched uranium stockpile, its missile programme and support for regional proxy groups. It could also ease economic pressure on Tehran.

"There is a real concern that Trump will settle for a bad interim deal. If it's a deal in which the uranium is actually removed, fine. But if it's only a statement of intentions, the Iranians could play the Americans and ultimately not remove the uranium," an Israeli official told the outlet. Iran has maintained that its near-weapons-grade uranium stockpile is not included in the ongoing interim negotiations. Trump has, however, said the material should eventually be transferred to the US though he has recently indicated some flexibility on the matter.

# What Trump's Latest Health Checkup Says And What He Needs To Work On

New Delhi, 31 May : US President Donald Trump has been declared to be in "excellent cognitive and physical health" following his latest medical examination, according to a report released by the White House.

The check-up was conducted at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after recent photographs showed swelling around his ankles, bruising on his hands, and a blotchy patch on his neck. This was his third visit to the hospital in the past 13 months and his fourth since beginning his second term as US president. Trump's physician, Dr Sean Barbabella, said the president remains in "excellent health" and is "fully fit" to perform all presidential duties.

"Trump remains in excellent health, demonstrating strong cardiac, pulmonary, neurological and overall physical function. He is fully fit to carry out all duties of the presidency," the memo read.

Trump, who will turn 80 on June 14, is the oldest person ever sworn in as US president. Doctors conducted a detailed physical and mental health examination. The tests included an echocardiogram, an ultrasound scan used to assess the heart and functioning of the heart.

Doctors also carried out cardiovascular assessments because he was diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency, a condition in which the veins in the legs struggle to return blood to the heart. They also con-

ducted neurological and cognitive tests. He also took the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), a 10-minute test used to detect signs of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other cognitive problems, and scored 30 out of 30.

The report showed that his health appears better than what is typically expected for someone his age. It noted a resting heart rate of 73



beats per minute, which falls within the normal range for healthy adults, generally between 60 and 100 beats per minute. The report also estimated his "cardiac age" to be about 14 years younger than his actual age of 79. "His demanding daily schedule, including multiple high-level meetings, public engagements and regular physical activity, continues to support his overall well-being," the memo read.

It further noted that his heart, lungs, and neurological functions were all found to be strong. Doctors found a few past and existing health issues, but none were considered serious enough to affect Trump's ability to serve as president.

The medical report noted that Trump has a history of high cholesterol and currently takes the medications Crestor and Zetia to keep his

cholesterol levels under control. He also takes aspirin daily to reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes, although doctors have reportedly advised him to switch to a lower dose. He also has chronic venous insufficiency, which affects the blood flow in the legs, according to The New York Times. The physician noted that Trump still has a scar on his right ear from the assassination attempt during a campaign rally in

Butler, Pennsylvania, in July 2024. However, the injury has healed and is not causing any health problems, Time reported.

Doctors also disclosed that Trump underwent bilateral cataract surgery at some point in the past. He also uses a prescription skin cream when needed to treat a skin condition. The report further stated that Trump now weighs 238 pounds (around 108 kg), about 14 pounds (6.3 kg) more than during his last physical examination in April 2025. His current weight places him close to the medical threshold for obesity.

"Preventive counseling was provided, including guidance on diet, recommendations to take a low-dose aspirin, increased physical activity, and continued weight loss," Barbabella said. "These factors often undercut Islamabad's outreach in Western capitals, where lawmakers and think tanks closely track Pakistan's record on democracy, terrorism financing, and minority rights," explained Surinder Zurahi, analyst-cum-geo strategic expert based in Washington.

Rights groups have repeatedly flagged extrajudicial killings, curbs on free speech, and the use of anti-terror laws against dissenters in Balochistan. Pakistan's treatment of religious minorities - including Hindus, Christians, and Ahmadiyas - continues to draw criticism, with reports of forced conversions, blasphemy accusations, and institutional discrimination.

## Chinese Missile Likely Downed US F-15 Fighter Jet In Iran: Report

Beijing, 31 May : A US F-15 fighter jet that went down over southwest Iran last month may have been hit by a China-made shoulder-fired missile, a new report states. China may have also provided Iran with additional military support during the conflict that began on February 28, including stealth aircraft technology and long-range radar systems, according to NBC News.

US officials said this equipment could have improved Iran's ability to track advanced fighter jets like the US F-15E Strike Eagle. At the time, US President Donald Trump said the jet was hit by a shoulder-launched missile, also called a MAN-PADS. These are small, portable missiles that can be carried on a person's shoulder and fired at low-flying aircraft. They are about 7 feet long and weigh around 40 pounds.

The crash triggered a 36-hour search operation to locate the crew after the aircraft went down. US officials are still investigating how the American jet was shot down in April. The incident is being described as significant, as it may be the first time in decades that a US fighter jet has been brought down by enemy fire.

The jet had two crew members, both of whom ejected safely before the aircraft crashed. The pilot was rescued within about seven hours, while the second crew member, a weapons systems officer, took longer to find. He hid in the mountains of Iran's Zagros region and was rescued only after about two days, according to the Pentagon.

The report states that it is still not known exactly when China may have supplied military equipment to Iran. However, if Iran is indeed using Chinese-made weapons, it could further strain relations between the US and China, as Washington may view Beijing as indirectly supporting Iran in the conflict.

This comes at a time when Trump has been trying to secure China's help in ending the conflict between the US and Iran. The report also states that the Trump administration helped arrange a ceasefire with Iran before a key meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

US intelligence reports suggest that China may have been planning to provide Iran with additional air defence systems, according to NBC News. Some former officials believe these intelligence details may have been made public deliberately to expose China's possible plans, a tactic that has been used by previous US administrations.

## 'Uphold Iran's Rights': Top Iranian Negotiator's Condition To Sign US Deal

Kabul, 31 May: Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Sunday that Tehran will not agree to any deal with the United States that fails to secure the rights of Iranians. "We will not approve any agreement until we are certain that the rights of the Iranian people have been upheld," Ghalibaf said, in a video broadcast on state television.

He added that Iranian negotiators "neither trust the enemy's words nor its promises." His remarks came as Iran and Washington continue to exchange proposals over a framework for a deal to end the war that broke out on February 28, engulfing the Middle East.

On Saturday, The New York Times and Axios media outlets reported that US President Donald Trump had sent back to Tehran a new framework to be considered by Iran with "tougher" terms. It was not immediately clear what that entailed. Iran views sanction relief and the release of its assets frozen in banks abroad

as among its key rights to be ensured under any deal with the United States. The passengers were among thousands of Afghans who recently returned from Pakistan, which launched a crackdown on migrants in 2023, and has since deported or pressured many to leave. Iran also intensified expulsions of Afghan migrants around the same time. Since then, millions of Afghans have returned home from the two countries, including many who were born in Pakistan and had spent decades living and working there.

In a separate accident in the eastern province of Nuristan, a car fell off the road into a river on Friday night, injuring the driver and leaving four passengers missing, the governor's office said Saturday. Rescue crews were searching for the four, the office said. Traffic accidents are common across Afghanistan, where roads are poorly maintained and drivers routinely ignore traffic regulations.

Tuesday's launch "analyzed and es-

timated the power of special mission warhead of tactical ballistic missile, the reliability of 240mm controlled artillery rocket with expanded firing range which employed an ultra-precision autonomous navigation system," KCNA said in an English dispatch. North Korean leader Kim noted that the "major weapon systems are a clear signal of upgrading of our military force and an event of showing great technical progress," KCNA quoted him as saying.

"It is essential condition for our army's operations to have such destructive power as enough to make any countering force impossible to survive theoretically, apart from fortune," he added, according to the report. The Pope's intervention comes at a moment when governments across the world are still struggling to decide how aggressively AI should be regulated even as the technology rapidly transforms workplaces, education, media and warfare.



Relatives react as Red Cross members assist them after they viewed the bodies of the students who died in a fire at the Utumishi Girls Academy, ahead of the post-mortem identification process at Naivasha Funeral Home in Naivasha Town, Rift Valley region, Kenya.

## "Pirate Party" Boat Carrying 148 Tourists Sinks In Turkey, Passengers Jump Into Sea

New York, 31 May: A pirate-themed party boat off the coast of Turkey turned chaotic after it tilted sideways and rapidly began sinking, forcing 148 tourists, including 20 children, to jump into the sea, the New York Post reported. The "Big Boss Diamond" boat set sail from the Turkish resort city of Marmaris on Friday for a five-hour trip to Paradise Island. It was decorated to resemble a pirate ship. The passengers scrambled to escape when it began sinking during the outing. As reported by The Sun, one passenger said, "The engine blew." Meanwhile, another said that she was "glad to be off it and alive".

Witnesses said people panicked and leapt overboard, with many wearing life jackets and others swimming toward nearby boats. Dramatic footage showed a bathing suit-wearing man jumping out of the boat. Rescue vessels and local authori-

ties responded rapidly, pulling the tourists from the water. All 148 people on board were accounted for and brought to safety. There were no reports of fatalities, though some passengers were treated for shock and minor injuries. Officials are investigating what caused the boat to sink. According to the boat operator, Big Boss Diamond is the biggest pirate ship in Turkey. They call it a "family party" boat, claiming that "when the kids are playing in the soft play area, parents can have a party upstairs". The theme boat is quite popular among tourists.

It also led the US to ask Israel to stop striking energy facilities. Before the start of the war, the Gulf countries had stated that they will not allow their bases to be used for attacks. But, their position was altered as Iran launched a barrage of attacks on them in response to the US-Israeli strikes.

In response to the Iran attacks, UAE maintained a tough posture and was reportedly in favour of a joint Gulf military action on Iran, a proposal that was not met with enthusiasm by Saudi Arabia that opposed attacks. Saudi also reportedly urged US President Donald Trump to pressure UAE to halt strikes.

"The UAE holds Iran fully responsible for these terrorist attacks and their repercussions," the WSJ report quoted the Gulf state's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Saudi Arabia and the Israeli prime minister's office didn't respond to requests for comment from the newspaper. Saudi Arabia, which has faced fewer and less damaging strikes from Iran, has publicly condemned the attacks on the Gulf, but has taken a less confrontational approach and has worked to resolve the conflict through diplomacy.

## Medieval Castle Captured In Israel's Deepest Push Into Lebanon In Decades

Beirut, 31 May: Israeli troops have captured a strategic mountain topped with a Crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon in the deepest incursion into the country in more than a quarter-century, the military said Sunday.

The capture of Beaufort castle, near the city of Nabatiyeh, came after days of airstrikes and intense fighting in nearby villages where Israeli troops fought Hezbollah members in the rugged area.

Its capture marks a major development in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war, which began on March 2 when Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel two days after the US and Israel attacked its main backer, Iran.

Israel has since launched a ground invasion, capturing dozens of Lebanese villages and towns close to the border. Hezbollah has launched thousands of missiles and drones at Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon and northern Israel.

The Israeli push came despite a

nominal ceasefire that has been in place since April 17 and just days before Lebanon and Israeli hold their next round of direct talks in Washington starting Tuesday.

The Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, posted photographs on X showing Israeli troops walking outside the castle, and Defense Minister Israel Katz wrote on X that they raised an Israeli flag over the castle. Israeli troops previously captured the castle in 1982 and held it until they withdrew from Lebanon in 2000.

"Twenty six years after the withdrawal from the security zone in Lebanon, the Israeli flag has returned to fly on the peaks that overlook the Galilee towns," Katz said Sunday at a memorial ceremony for Israeli soldiers killed in its previous occupation of southern Lebanon.

Secretive and historically non-aligning with the world, North Korea emerged as another country after Iran

that refused external voices to impact its nuclear program. Pyongyang, in fact, went a step further by categorically rejecting Quad's calls for denuclearisation. The country said the nuclearisation will "never, ever" happen, while calling the Quad a US-led bloc.

The rejection implies nuclear assets are the right of the countries and not negotiable assets that can be discussed through diplomacy on a global stage, further pointing at hardened ideologies. Latest visuals of China expanding a web of launch pads, bunkers and communications nodes near the isolated nuclear silos that hold the Chinese military's longest-range missiles signal intentional expansion of military assets by a country that has already been considered among the world's top powers.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth warned of "rightful alarm" across Asia over China's "historic" military buildup, both on land and sea.

## Ukraine Is Using Soldiers That Don't Need Food Or Water To Kill Russians

Drones, robotic vehicles and remotely controlled weapons platforms are now playing a growing role in Kyiv's war effort

Gaza, 31 May: Ukraine's war against Russia is increasingly being fought by machines rather than soldiers on the battlefield. Far from the frontlines, commanders who once fought in some of the war's bloodiest battles now direct attacks through screens, livestreams and drones instead of leading troops into combat.

A single operation can involve several explosive-laden robots targeting Russian positions without a single Ukrainian soldier setting foot on the ground, according to a report by CNN. The attacks are monitored from reconnaissance drones overhead while operators guide the machines remotely from control centres.

Faced with a prolonged man-

power shortage and uncertainty over continued Western support, Ukraine has rapidly expanded its use of unmanned systems. Drones, robotic vehicles and remotely controlled weapons platforms are now playing a growing role in Kyiv's war effort, giving it a technological advantage against a larger Russian force. In April, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukrainian forces had, for the first time, captured a Russian position using only robots and drones. He also said unmanned systems had carried out 22,000 missions since the beginning of the year.

According to Ukrainian troops, captured Russian soldiers have given these robotic bomb carriers a grim nickname - "silent



death". The machines move quietly enough that Russian troops often hear them only when they are about 10 metres away, already within the blast zone.

For commanders who once fought house-to-house battles in eastern Ukraine, the transformation

has been dramatic.

"I couldn't even imagine such a thing, back then," said Bar, a deputy commander who previously fought in Donbas. "But I realise that if such equipment had been available at the time... more of my comrades would have survived."

Reflecting on how warfare has changed, he added, "Back then, war was somehow more, shall we say, masculine. It was your skills that mattered there - how well you'd trained, how disciplined you were, and so on. Now, technology decides everything. There is no going back." Ukraine's growing reliance on automation is partly driven by necessity. After more than four years of war, the country's smaller population has paid a heavy price in casualties. As a result, Kyiv has focused on expanding drone production and improving the effectiveness of unmanned systems.

Ukrainian officials now aim to inflict around 35,000 Russian casualties every month, a target

they say has been met this year. The strategy is intended to increase pressure on the Kremlin by forcing it to recruit more heavily from Russia's urban population and middle classes.

A new estimate released on Wednesday by Britain's intelligence agency GCHQ put Russia's total military death count at around 500,000. What was once a novelty on the battlefield has quickly become a normal part of Ukraine's military operations. Robots are now being used to evacuate wounded soldiers, deliver supplies to frontline positions and carry out attacks, a sign of how rapidly warfare is changing on the frontlines of Europe's largest conflict in decades.