



Trump Says He Was an Hour Away From Striking Iran as Peace Talks Enter Critical Phase

President Donald Trump revealed Tuesday that he had a military strike on Iran ready to execute — and called it off just one hour before it was set to begin — at the request of Gulf allies who urged him to give diplomatic negotiations a final chance. The disclosure, made in public remarks covered by CBS News, threw fresh light on how close the United States came to dramatically escalating the ongoing conflict that has gripped the Middle East and roiled global energy markets since U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran began in late February.

Trump said he stood down because "serious negotiations" were underway toward a peace deal acceptable to Washington and its regional partners. The reversal sent crude prices sliding — West Texas Intermediate fell more than 1 percent to around \$102.90 per barrel on Tuesday — and triggered a brief afternoon stock market rally before futures gave back much of those gains overnight.

Behind the scenes, Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner have been negotiating a proposed one-page, 14-point memorandum of understanding with Iranian officials, both directly and through mediators, according to Axios. In its current form, the MOU would declare a formal end to the war and open a 30-day window for detailed talks on nuclear limits, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and the phased lifting of U.S. sanctions. The duration of any uranium-enrichment moratorium remains the central sticking point: Iran has proposed five years, the U.S. has demanded 20, with negotiators privately pointing to a landing zone of 12 to 15 years.

Iranian officials have not rejected the proposal outright, but they have disputed U.S. claims that the sides are close to agreement, insisting that Washington must lift sanctions before nuclear talks can proceed in earnest. Sharp disagreements persist over Iran's stockpile of

highly enriched uranium — estimated at more than 440 kilograms — which the U.S. wants transferred or diluted. Tehran has rejected dismantling its nuclear facilities.

The broader geopolitical backdrop is increasingly complex. Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday — just one day after Trump left the Chinese capital — for meetings with President Xi Jinping that are expected to touch on the Middle East conflict, the Ukraine war, and tensions with Washington. China, which accounts for more than 80 percent of Iran's oil exports, has encouraged Tehran to keep negotiating. Whether Beijing will apply real pressure, however, remains an open question. For now, high gas prices — averaging \$4.51 a gallon nationally according to AAA — continue to weigh on Trump's domestic approval rating, giving the White House strong political incentive to seal a deal.

Top Global News

Putin Arrives in Beijing Hours After Trump's Departure

Russian President Vladimir Putin flew to Beijing on Tuesday, arriving just one day after U.S. President Trump concluded two days of talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The Kremlin said the two leaders plan to discuss economic cooperation as well as key international and regional issues, including the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine. Putin's visit underscores China's role as a linchpin power in global diplomacy, courted simultaneously by Washington and Moscow. The sequence — Trump and then Putin in Beijing within 48 hours — reflects the intensity of great-power competition over the direction of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Hamas Military Chief Killed; Gaza Ceasefire Body Eyes U.N. Disarmament Push

Israel announced this week that it has killed the leader of Hamas's military wing, one of the architects of the October 7, 2023, attacks that ignited the Gaza war. Far-right marchers in Jerusalem's Old City were meanwhile photographed chanting incendiary slogans as the news broke. Separately, the body overseeing the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in Gaza is planning to ask the United Nations Security Council to press Hamas to disarm, according to the Associated Press. Israeli authorities have also been issuing Palestinians demolition orders in East Jerusalem at an accelerated rate since Israel launched its war with Iran, human rights groups and U.N. experts said Monday.

Top US News



Ukraine News

Ukraine's Mid-Range Drone Strikes Dealt Double Blow to Russia's War Effort

A Reuters analysis published Monday detailed how Ukraine's growing use of medium-range drone strikes — targeting Russian air defenses and logistics dozens of kilometers behind front lines — is disrupting Russia's battlefield advances and opening the way for long-range attacks on Russian oil facilities. Long-range drones can now slip through defenses more easily, striking refineries and ports far behind enemy lines. Last month, Russia reduced oil output due to drone attacks on ports and refineries, and crude oil supplies via Russia's only remaining pipeline to Europe were halted. Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces commander Robert Brovdi called middle strikes "currently decisive," referring to strikes of up to 2,000 km. Defense analysts say such attacks are having an important impact and that Russia's rate of battlefield advances is at its slowest since the invasion began. Frequent combat use has driven rapid innovation, with feedback from frontline units incorporated into drone systems within days.



Post-Ceasefire: Broad Peace Talks Remain Stalled as Fighting Continues

The U.S.-brokered three-day ceasefire that ran May 9–11 ended with both sides accusing each other of violations, and broader peace negotiations remain deadlocked. Russia and Ukraine both charged the other with repeated breaches of the agreement, which included a proposed 1,000-prisoner exchange. Putin signaled he was ready to hold direct talks with President Zelenskyy in Moscow or a neutral country, but Zelenskyy has offered a face-to-face meeting that Putin has ruled out until a settlement is nearly finalized. The ceasefire was seen by analysts as a short operational pause — not a peace framework — with no territorial, sanctions, or security-guarantee questions resolved. Ukraine has rejected Putin's demand that it surrender territory it has defended since 2022. Meanwhile, Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow's region continued even during the ceasefire window, and daily combat engagements on the 1,250-km front line have remained near 150 per day.

Vietnamese News

U.S. Senate Confirms First Female Ambassador to Vietnam; Trade Talks Resume

The U.S. Senate has confirmed Jennifer Wicks McNamara as U.S. ambassador to Vietnam — making her the first woman ever chosen to lead the American embassy in Hanoi. The confirmation comes as bilateral relations continue to deepen under the two countries' Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Separately, Vietnamese Deputy Minister Quang met with U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer in Hanoi, noting that relations have expanded significantly in scope and depth over the past three decades since normalization.

raised concern about the ongoing Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo and the potential for international spread.

Top NJ/NY News



LIRR Strike Ends After Deal Brokered by Gov. Hochul

The Long Island Rail Road's first strike in 30 years came to an end after New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced a deal late Monday night. The disruption had paralyzed commuting for thousands of riders across Long Island and upended Monday morning's rush hour into New York City. State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli estimated the daily cost to the regional economy at \$61 million. The union had sought a 5-percent pay hike on top of retroactive raises; the final deal's details were not immediately disclosed. Transit watchers noted that the railroad's longstanding outdated work rules — which had been a priority target for reform — were not substantially addressed in the settlement. Governor Hochul called it "a fair deal" and said she would not allow fares or taxes to rise as a result.

Manhattan Manhole Tragedy: Woman Dies After Falling Into Uncovered Opening on Fifth Avenue

A woman died after plunging into an uncovered manhole in front of 653 Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan, according to the NYPD. The fatal accident occurred near a stretch of high-end luxury stores and drew immediate scrutiny over street maintenance and public safety oversight in one of the city's busiest pedestrian corridors. No arrests had been made as of Monday, and an investigation was underway to determine responsibility for the uncovered opening.

Officials emphasized the importance of addressing trade imbalances and advancing mutually beneficial cooperation for businesses and citizens of both countries.

Vietnam Breaks Ground on \$910M Expressway to Laos Border; Pensions to Rise 8% in July

Vietnam broke ground on May 18 on a roughly 60-kilometer expressway costing VND 23.94 trillion (approximately \$910 million) connecting to the Laos border, advancing a long-planned highway corridor between the two countries. The project underscores Vietnam's ongoing infrastructure investment drive, which the government views as a key driver of long-term national competitiveness. In a separate domestic policy move, the government issued Decree No. 162/2026 mandating an 8% increase in pensions, social insurance allowances, and monthly benefits effective July 1, 2026, for all groups currently receiving such payments.

Financial and Stock News



Treasury Yields Hit Multi-Decade Highs; S&P 500 Falls for Third Straight Session

U.S. stocks closed lower Tuesday, with the S&P 500 posting its third consecutive losing session,

Dorchester Elementary School News & Events

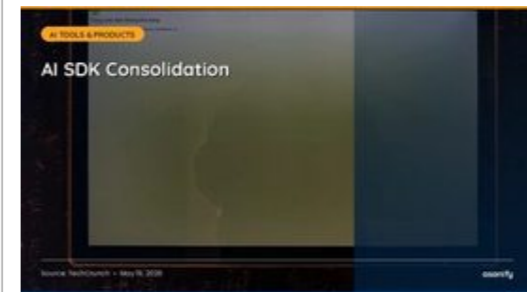
Memorial Day Weekend: School Closed May 22 & 25

Dorchester Elementary School will be closed this Friday, May 22, for the Memorial Day weekend, and again on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Woodcliff Lake will hold its annual Memorial Day Services and Parade on Monday, May 25, beginning at 9:00 AM — a great opportunity for families to participate in the community commemoration before the holiday weekend wraps up.

Dorchester Field Day Set for May 29 (Rain Date June 5)

Field Day at Dorchester Elementary School is scheduled for Friday, May 29. This is typically one of the most anticipated events of the school year, with students participating in outdoor activities and team competitions. If weather forces a postponement, the official rain date is Friday, June 5. Families should watch for communications from the school as the date approaches regarding any schedule changes.

Top Tech and AI News



Anthropic Acquires Stainless for ~\$300M, Gaining Control of AI SDK Toolchain

Anthropic confirmed Monday that it is acquiring Stainless, a four-year-old New York City startup whose AI compiler generates the official software development kits (SDKs) for Anthropic, OpenAI, Google, Meta, and Cloudflare. The reported deal value is at least \$300 million — a 2x premium over Stainless's \$150 million December 2024 valuation. The acquisition gives Anthropic a strategic toll-booth position over the developer toolchain used across the AI industry: any new vendor wanting to ship clean Python, TypeScript, Kotlin, Go, and Java clients will now either use an Anthropic-owned tool or build their own. Analysts call it the most important market signal of the month, saying the AI race in 2026 is about who owns the infrastructure rails, not just who has the best model.

Google I/O 2026: Gemini Agents Come to Search, YouTube, and Developer Tools

Beyond the smart glasses hardware reveal, Google's I/O keynote on Tuesday centered on embedding agentic AI throughout its software ecosystem. Google Search received what the company called its biggest upgrade in nearly 30 years — an AI-powered box that generates contextual answers, images, and short videos. New agents built on Gemini Spark will continuously monitor the web for updates to user queries and are set to debut in summer. The Antigravity developer platform, now powered by Gemini 3.5 Flash, received a standalone desktop app (Antigravity 2.0) and a new command-line interface. Google also announced that coding capabilities will come to AI Mode in Search. The Ask YouTube feature, which lets users query the platform like a chatbot and receive time-stamped video references, will roll out more widely this summer.

down 0.67% to 7,353.61. The Nasdaq Composite fell 0.84% to 25,870.71, and the Dow shed 322 points. The driver: surging Treasury yields. The 30-year bond briefly topped 5.19%, its highest level in nearly 19 years, while the 10-year note rose to 4.687%, the highest since January 2025. The yield spike reflects reaccelerating inflation fears tied to elevated oil prices — WTI crude remains near \$109 per barrel — and uncertainty about the direction of monetary policy under new Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh. Mortgage rates followed, with the 30-year fixed average climbing to 6.68%. A late-afternoon rally — triggered when Trump said he postponed a planned attack on Iran — allowed the S&P 500 to recover from deeper intraday losses before futures gave back gains overnight.

Oil Prices Ease on Iran Ceasefire News but Remain Near \$110/Bbl; Inflation Fears Persist

Oil prices fell Tuesday after Trump's announcement that a planned military strike on Iran had been postponed. West Texas Intermediate crude slid to around \$102.90 per barrel and Brent dropped to \$110.10, though prices recovered somewhat overnight as the Iran situation remained unresolved. WTI crude is still up more than 6% over the past five trading days. Analysts warn that a sustained oil price spike — the kind that lasts a quarter or two — historically precedes recessions. Traders now expect the Federal Reserve's next move to be a rate hike rather than a cut, as oil-driven inflation makes easing harder to justify. Average U.S. gas prices stood at \$4.51 per gallon as of Monday, according to AAA.

CALENDAR

TODAY — MAY 20

12:00 AM Hien Nguyen's birthday
4:30 PM Dorchester practice
7:00 PM Racquetball weekly
10:00 PM Yoga 1:1

TOMORROW — MAY 21

12:00 AM Stay at Tru by Hilton Hagerstown
12:00 AM Pigeon Forge, TN, May 2026
9:00 AM PT 1:1
5:00 PM William: Karate
7:00 PM Check-in: Tru By Hilton Hagerstown

FRIDAY — MAY 22

12:00 AM Stay at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort
12:00 AM Memorial Day Weekend - School Closed

11:45 AM Warm springs
12:00 PM Check-out: Tru By Hilton Hagerstown

6:15 PM Soccer Practice

7:00 PM Check-in: HeartSong Lodge & Resort

SATURDAY — MAY 23

12:00 AM Clean house front walls
2:00 PM Music class William and Elizabeth

SUNDAY — MAY 24

3:00 PM Check-out: HeartSong Lodge & Resort

MONDAY — MAY 25

12:00 AM Reminder: Order no fuss lunch for kids.

12:00 AM Memorial Day

12:00 AM Memorial Day - School Close

TUESDAY — MAY 26

4:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop

WEDNESDAY — MAY 27

3:40 PM William Hearing test
5:00 PM Soccer Dorchester practice
7:00 PM Racquetball weekly

THURSDAY — JUN 18

1:00 PM Trimester 3 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool

MOVIES



Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan: Ghost War

In theaters May 20, 2026

When an international covert mission unravels a deadly conspiracy, Ryan is forced back into the world of espionage to confront a rogue black-ops unit.



Flower Bot

In theaters May 17, 2026

In a scorching hot desert, Betty, a young robot still grieving her kind, discovers a miraculous flower. To protect her, Betty will have to face the elements and her tie to the past...



The Sheep Detectives

In theaters May 8, 2026

George Hardy is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.



My Hero Academia: More

In theaters May 2, 2026

Eight years later, Deku and his friends are on their adult hero journeys, but something is bothering Uraraka...



Swapped

In theaters May 1, 2026

A small woodland creature and a majestic bird, two natural sworn enemies of the Valley, magically trade places and set off on an adventure of a lifetime to switch back. Their journey soon uncovers a greater threat—one that could endanger not only their species, but the entire valley they call home.