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Memorandum hints at possible U.S.-Iran deal

The "Project Freedom" mission failed to bring about any significant resumption of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

Trump continues threats: Choose bombs or peace

Michael Loria, Bart Jansen and Andrea Riquier
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said Iran could either agree to a framework for peace talks or bombing would resume, after he had paused the military operation to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said on social media the war that began Feb. 28, with a ceasefire since April 7, could end if Iran agrees to U.S. terms and allows commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

But he said if Tehran doesn't agree, bombing would resume "at a much higher level and intensity."

His appeal for peace came after he paused "Project Freedom," an effort launched on May 4 to move U.S. commercial vessels through the critical shipping channel. Military leaders said a few U.S. vessels safely passed through the strait in the operation, but Iran restarted its attacks on commercial vessels and neighboring Gulf states.

Trump said in a statement that "we have mutually agreed that ... Project Freedom will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the Agreement can be finalized."

An Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson, cited by Iran's ISNA news agency, said Iran would convey its response soon via Pakistan, which hosted the war's only peace talks and has since served as the main conduit for messages between the sides.

By the afternoon of May 5, there had been no public comment from Washington's wartime ally Israel, which has pressed Washington to stand tough on demands before any agreement.

See IRAN, Page 2A

Rise in private payrolls shows stable labor market

Lucia Mutikani
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. private payrolls posted their largest increase in 15 months in April, pointing to continued labor market stability even as the conflict in the Middle East clouds the economy's outlook.

The labor market remains in a "low-hire, low-fire" state, though economists are warning of downside risks as the U.S.-Israel war with Iran fans inflation. The latest sign of labor market stability in the ADP's national employment report on May 6 bolsters financial market expectations that the Federal Reserve would leave interest rates unchanged into 2027.

"The labor market has been on solid but precarious footing for some time, not exactly growing but also not significantly deteriorating," said Elizabeth Renter, senior economist at NerdWallet. "Amid ongoing global conflict, the fallout of a continuing oil shock and continued economic policy uncertainty, it would take more than one strong report on the labor market to signal we're facing a different labor

See PAYROLLS, Page 2A

Private employment rose by 109,000 jobs last month, the biggest increase since January 2025.
JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Another hantavirus case ID'd on cruise ship

8 total cases, 3 fatal, found among passengers

Melina Khan, Eve Chen and Nathan Diller
USA TODAY

Another hantavirus-linked case has been identified among passengers on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean, officials announced on May 6.

According to the World Health Organization, eight cases, including three lab-confirmed cases of hantavirus, have now been identified among those who traveled on the MV Hondius, a cruise ship run by Netherlands-based operator Oceanwide Expeditions.

Three of those people were evacuated from the ship to receive care earlier May 6. Oceanwide said two were in "serious condition." The third was asymptomatic but closely associated with an individual who died on board.

Three of those people were evacuated from the ship to receive care earlier May 6. Oceanwide said two were in "serious condition." The third was asymptomatic but closely associated with an individual who died on board.

Three people have died from their infections.

The MV Hondius, carrying nearly 150 people, has been moored off the coast of Cape Verde. The ship is expected to dock in Spain's Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, within three days, Spain's health minister said, adding that those still on board were not presenting any symptoms of the disease.

Upon arrival, passengers and crew will be screened and treated in line with protocol from health officials, Oceanwide Expeditions and Spain's Ministry of Health said in a news release.

See HANTAVIRUS, Page 2A

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