BBC NEWS

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BBC News with Eileen McHugh.

SpaceX has successfully caught its huge Starship rocket during its descent back down to Earth in Texas. It's the first time the upper section of a reusable rocket has been captured, using mechanical arms on its launch tower. Pallab Ghosh was watching.

"Alright, everybody. Lock in."

It looked like a scene from a science fiction film. Starship entered the Earth's atmosphere and then slowed itself down by positioning itself horizontally to maximize the air resistance.

Closer to the ground, it fired its engines to flip itself upright and then slowly and precisely guided itself to the launch tower where a giant chopsticks mechanism grabbed hold of it to huge cheers by the SpaceX staff.

The U.S. transport secretary has said that work to upgrade air traffic control equipment led to Friday's airspace closure across the country. Sean Duffy said it was not clear if the blame lay with what he described as "incredibly old" equipment or "incompetence" by the contractor.

Sumi Somaskanda is at Reagan International Airport in Washington.

He said that they were replacing copper wiring with fiber optic wiring. He said this was moving from analogue to digital and said that the U.S. air traffic control systems aging infrastructure was simply being replaced. They were doing this patch at a remote location, they didn't disclose which location

this was. They said out of an abundance of caution, they wanted to ensure that their systems were able to handle what they call this "instability."

Thousands of flights were canceled when [air *trafel was] air travel was halted for four hours, the longest shutdown in a quarter of a century.

Gold mining has been banned and all mining leases suspended in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan. Its governor said the moves were aimed at curbing illegal mining, which he said was financing militant activities. The announcement came days after Islamist militants ambushed a convoy of Pakistani security forces.

President Zelenskyy says the United States has for the first time floated the idea of Ukraine joining NATO. In return, Ukraine would cede control of the rest of the eastern Donbas region to Russia. U.S. negotiators have visited Moscow and an EU summit in Dublin as part of efforts to end the war. Here's Sarah Rainsford.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the American envoys raised the idea of Ukraine joining NATO when exploring the terms of a possible peace deal. Ukraine has long seen NATO as its only sure protection against another invasion. And briefing journalists here in Kyiv, Mr. Zelenskyy maintained that the idea was now back on the agenda.

If such a deal were agreed, he said he'd then have to consult the Ukrainian people on whether they were prepared to give up territory in return for peace. He said Kyiv, though, would never formally recognize any occupied land as Russian.

World news from the BBC.

A ban on the possession or storing of drones in Beijing has come into effect. Most Chinese cities have restrictions on drones, but only the capital is outlawing their ownership completely. China has been gradually tightening regulations on their use, citing concerns about public safety.

In Beijing, where a no-fly zone was imposed in September, they will now only be allowed if approved by the authorities in emergencies.

The Israeli military says it struck a senior terrorist in Hamas's military wing. The Reuters news agency says sources in Hamas have told it that an Israeli airstrike in the Khan Younis area of Gaza had killed one of its senior commanders, Samir Abu Younis.

In [men's rugby u...] men's rugby union, Wales have pulled off a huge upset by beating New Zealand for the first time in more than 70 years. Wales produced a remarkable defensive performance to win by 35 points to 28. Some players and supporters were in tears at the final whistle.

A 19-year-old pop star from the Philippines has won the first ever Eurovision Asia competition. However, larger countries such as China, India, Indonesia and Japan did not take part in this inaugural event. Jonathan Head was at the show in Bangkok.

Jubilant scenes in an arena filled with Eurovision enthusiasts as the winner of the first ever Eurovision Asia contest was announced and it was a crowd pleaser. The young Filipina singer, Carmelle, with a power pop ballad celebrating the strength of Filipina women.

The idea of expanding this staple of European popular culture into a region holding half the world's population has been mooted for the past 20 years, but until now it had never taken off. Many in the audience had traveled from overseas for the final.

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