

US-China trade truce shifts focus to India

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India proposes retaliatory duties against US over steel, aluminium tariffs

New Delhi: The US-China trade deal has increased the headache for Indian negotiators, who are once again headed to Washington DC to discuss the proposed bilateral trade deal.

While signalling movement towards a deal between the world's two largest trading nations, the 90-day truce, which will see them slash tariffs by 115 percentage points, opens the door for the flow of goods from China. As a result, some of the interest in Indian products is bound to come down as supply lines will reopen for 90 days, apart from some front-loading of consignments in case the pause is not extended.

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The announcement also mounts pressure on New Delhi to seal a deal as early as possible given that the 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs for countries, other than China, is due to end on July 9. Already, the UK has agreed to the terms of a deal with the US,

and others such as South Korea and Israel, along with several others, are in talks.

Indian govt officials are hoping for an "early deal" but would obviously want New Delhi's interests to be taken on board amid enormous pressure from the Trump administration to push ahead with its demands, be it lowering tariffs on automobiles, whiskey, or farm products, a key ask from the US side.

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Bangladesh bans Awami League under revised anti-terrorism law

Issues A Gazette Notification Banning All Party Activities

Ahsan Tasnim | TNN

Dhaka: Bangladesh's interim govt took the unprecedented step of issuing a gazette notification banning all activities of Awami League — the country's oldest political party — and its affiliated outfits, in a move critics say reflects a deepening political crisis following the ouster of longtime PM Sheikh Hasina. The ban, enforced under a hastily amended Anti-Terrorism Act, marks a dramatic escalation in the Muhammad Yunus-led govt's efforts to reshape the post-Hasina political landscape.

The home ministry invoked Section 18 of the new Act to impose the ban, citing "reasonable grounds" that the party and its affiliates were involved in terrorism.

The revised law permits govt to declare any 'entity' — not just individuals — as terrorist if sufficient grounds exist. According to the gazette, the ban will remain in effect until International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh completes the trials of Awami League members and activists accused of crimes against humanity during last year's anti-govt



Ban marks an escalation in govt bid to reshape post-Hasina political landscape

ICT investigators file 1st report against ex-PM

The investigation agency of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on Monday submitted its first report against deposed PM Sheikh Hasina, accusing her of crimes against humanity during last year's July mass uprising, reports **Ahsan Tasnim**. Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun were also named in the report. The investigators handed over the report and supporting documents to chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam. Hasina faces two additional cases at the tribunal — one involving enforced disappearances and murders during her 15 years in office, and another for killings during a Hefazat-e-Islam rally at Shapla Square in Motijheel in May 2013.

protests, which led to the ousting of Hasina on Aug 5, ending her 16-year rule.

On Saturday, the interim govt announced the prohibition of all Awami League activities, including online engagement, press statements, and public gatherings. The following night, President Mohammed Shahabuddin promulgated an ordinance reinforcing the law by banning all forms of publicity or expression of support for individuals or entities charged under Section 18(1). Awami League has rejected

govt's decision and vowed to continue its political activities "in an appropriate manner".

The ban will be there until ICT completes the trial of the party and its leaders.

Meanwhile, Gono Odhikar Parishad, a political party, has urged Election Commission to cancel the registration of Awami League and other members of the 14-party alliance, including Jatiya Party. However, the CEC, AMM Nasir Uddin, said, "Let the official notification come first. We are waiting for the gazette."

Trump says many tariffs he imposed to stay, expects to talk to Xi this wk

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Explaining that many of the tariffs that he imposed remain in place, Trump said talks would be focused in part on "opening up" China to American businesses. He said he expected to talk to President Xi Jinping later this week, but putting a full deal on paper would take a while.

The outcome of the frenzied weekend of negotiations in Switzerland brought tariff rates close to where they were before Trump ratcheted them higher on April 2, which he billed as "Liberation Day".

However, the talks did not appear to yield any meaningful concessions beyond an agreement to continue discussions.

"We concluded that we have a shared interest," said treasury secretary Scott Bessent at a news conference in Geneva where US and Chinese offici-

als met over the weekend. "The consensus from both delegations is that neither side wanted a decoupling," he said.

China said it will suspend or revoke countermeasures adopted in retaliation for escalating tariffs. In early April, the Chinese govt had ordered restrictions on the export of rare earth metals and magnets, critical components used by many industries, including automakers, aerospace manufacturers and semiconductor firms.

Bessent said the two countries may also discuss purchase agreements of American goods by Chinese govt.

The agreement breaks an impasse that had brought much trade between China and US to a halt. Many American businesses had suspended orders, holding out hope the two countries could strike a deal to lower the tariff rates. Economists have warned the dis-

pute will slow global growth, fuel inflation and create product shortages, potentially tipping US into a recession. "We came with a list of problems we were trying to solve, and I think we did a good job on that," Bessent said.

Global markets jumped on the announcement. The two countries said the ongoing negotiations will involve Bessent; Jamieson Greer, the US trade representative; and He Lifeng, China's vice-premier for economic policy, who led the talks for the Chinese.

Global markets jumped on the announcement. Bessent said the Chinese "understood the magnitude" of the fentanyl crisis in US and that there is a "positive path forward". Greer said the talks were underscored by "mutual understanding and mutual respect", but noted China was the only country to retaliate after Trump imposed reciprocal tariffs on dozens of countries last month. NYT



Scott Bessent

Post Pahalgam, Pak amassed troops at Shakargarh Bulge

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New Delhi: The Indian defence establishment was outraged when Pakistan violated the understanding to stop all cross-border military action from 5pm onwards on Saturday by sending another wave of drones across the entire western front later that night.

Lt General Ghai had on Sunday declared that India would deliver "a fierce and punitive response" if Pakistan violated the bilateral understanding, with Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi granting "full authority" to commanders for "counteraction in the kinetic domain" to any more misadventures.

As for the build-up after the Pahalgam terror massacre, Pakistan has moved several reserve army formations, tanks and Chinese-made SH-15 self-propelled 155mm howitzers closer to the LoC as well as the International Border. India, of course, had also made "mirror deployments" of its forces.

Sources said the Shakargarh Bulge, which protrudes into India between the Chenab and Ravi rivers, was one of the places where a major build-up of tanks and armoured vehicles by the Pakistan army was spotted.

The area's flat terrain and its proximity to Indian cities such as Amritsar, Pathankot, Batala and Gurdaspur as well as road links to Jammu makes it a high priority area for the Indian Army. It was the site of the famous 'Battle of Basantar' during the 1971 war.



Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai during a press briefing on 'Operation Sindoor' on Monday

Pakistani bomb defused in Jaisalmer

A potential disaster was averted in Jaisalmer when a live bomb, believed to have been dropped by a Pakistani drone during the recent military flare-up following India's 'Operation Sindoor', was successfully neutralised by the Army's bomb disposal squad on Monday, reports **Vimal Bhatia**.

The explosive device, weighing around 5 kg, was discovered in the morning behind a Food Corporation of India warehouse nearly 10 km from Jaisalmer city. The bomb was concealed in bushes, slightly off the main road.

Locals in the border area, who continue to be on high alert even after the cessation of fighting, immediately notified the district administration and police, prompting a swift response. Military personnel were quickly dispatched to the scene, and the area was secured.

Trump may join Russia-Ukraine talks

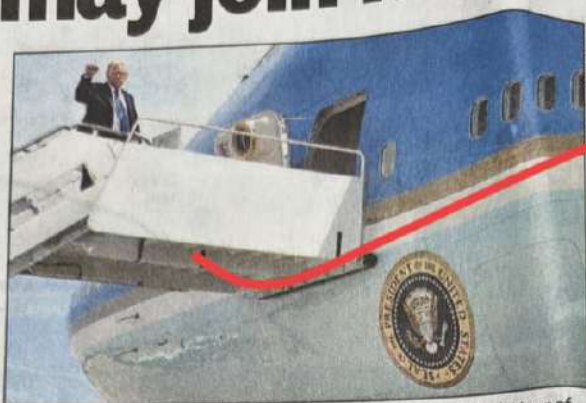
Hints At Going To Turkiye On Thurs; Zelensky Calls It 'Right Idea'

Washington: President Donald Trump on Monday raised the prospect of joining talks between Russia and Ukraine in Turkiye on Thursday.

Trump will be visiting Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar. He said, "I think you may have a good result out of the Thursday meeting in Turkiye between Russia and Ukraine. I was thinking about flying over. I don't know where I'm going to be on Thursday. I've got so many meetings, but I was thinking about actually flying over there. There's a possibility of it, I guess, if I think things can happen, but we've got to get it done," he told reporters at the White House.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed the possibility and expressed hope that Russian President Putin will not "evade the meeting". "All of us in Ukraine would appreciate it if President Trump could be there with us at this meeting in Turkiye. This is the right idea. We can change a lot," Zelensky said on X. He added that Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "can indeed host highest-level meeting".

Russia, meanwhile, laun-



Trump left for Saudi Arabia on Monday on what he called a 'historic' tour of West Asia that will mix diplomacy on Gaza and Iran with huge business deals

EU warns Russia of fresh sanctions if it rejects truce; Moscow says 'ultimatums unacceptable'

European leaders stepped up pressure on Russia to accept an unconditional ceasefire in Ukraine, threatening to immediately impose a new round of punishing sanctions if the Kremlin did not change its stance by the end of Monday. "The clock is ticking — we still have 12 hours until the end of this day," the German govt spokesperson, Stefan Kornelius, said at a news conference. On Monday, the Kremlin spokesperson brushed off the threat. "The language of ultimatums is unacceptable — you cannot talk to Russia like this," the spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, told Russian news agencies. Russian President Putin has so far rejected an unconditional 30-day truce. French President Macron said, "Either Russia — Putin — is serious and wants peace, or it's not serious and we have to impose even more sanctions." Britain's foreign secretary, David Lammy, told reporters in London that it was time for Russia to stop stalling. **NYT**

ched more than 100 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine in nighttime attacks, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, after the Kremlin effectively rejected an unconditional 30-day

ceasefire in the more than three-year war, but reiterated that it would take part in possible peace talks later this week without preconditions. There was no direct response from

Only 'stupid' people reject gifts: Trump on Qatari jet

President Trump angrily brushed off ethical concerns about accepting a \$400 million luxury jet from Qatar to be used as a new Air Force One, saying only someone "stupid" would turn down such an offer.

"I think it's a great gesture from Qatar. I appreciate it very much," Trump said. "I would never be one to turn down that kind of an offer. I mean, I could be a stupid person say, 'No, we don't want a free, very expensive airplane.' But it was — I thought it was a great gesture." Qatari officials say the plan for Trump to accept the plane for use as Air Force One while he's in office is not finalised. Some senior US officials, however, have openly described it as an eventuality, one signed off on by the White House counsel and attorney general, Pam Bondi.

Trump has repeatedly complained of delays and cost overruns in a contract with Boeing for two new presidential jets. But on Monday Trump said wh-

en the Qatari plane is turned over to his library at the end of his term, he won't continue flying in it. He grew angry at the questions of an ethical quagmire, including whether Qatar expected anything in exchange for the donation, which he said would be to the defence department and not to him personally. Democrats and govt watchdogs have suggested the donation would violate the emoluments clause of the Constitution, and create an incentive structure for Trump regarding Qatar.

"You should be embarrassed asking that question," Trump told an ABC News reporter who pressed him on the issue. "They're giving us a free jet. I could say, 'No, no, no, don't give us. I want to pay you a billion or \$400 million, or whatever it is.' Or I could say, 'Thank you very much.'" He then invoked a golf analogy about accepting a free putt during a round, suggesting that following rules when one doesn't have to is foolish. **NYT**

the Kremlin, meanwhile, to Zelensky's challenge for Putin to meet him for face-to-face peace talks in Turkiye on Thursday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to say who

might travel to Istanbul from the Russian side. "Overall, we're determined to seriously look for ways to achieve a long-term peaceful settlement. That is all," Peskov said. **REUTERS**