



China's exports jumped 12.4% and imports fell as Trump pushed US tariffs higher

BANGKOK, Apr 14 (AP)

CHINA'S exports jumped 12.4% in March from a year earlier as companies rushed to beat increases in US tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, the Government said on Monday.

Imports fell 4.3%, the customs administration reported.

It said exports from the world's second largest economy rose 5.8% in the first three months of the year

from a year earlier while imports sank 7%. China's trade surplus with the United States was \$27.6 billion in March as its exports rose 4.5%. It logged a surplus of \$76.6 billion with the US in the first quarter of the year.

China is facing 145% tariffs on most exports to the United States as of the most recent revisions in Trump's trade policies.

However, the biggest increases in exports were to China's Southeast

(Contd on Page 5)

Jaishankar discusses regional devpt with Oman Foreign Minister

NEW DELHI, Apr 14 (ANI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of Oman, Badr Albusaidi and shared the details of the conversation in a post on X on Sunday. In a post on X, the EAM said that the two leaders discussed the regional developments taking place.

The EAM wrote on X, "Appreciate the telecon with FM @badrbusaidi of Oman today. Discussed recent regional developments." Previously, Al Jazeera reported that the United States



S Jaishankar

and Iran had concluded "indirect" negotiations in Muscat, Oman, and agreed to hold further talks next week.



Badr Albusaidi

The discussions, mediated by Oman, aimed to address key issues between the two countries.

The talks were described as being conducted in a "constructive atmosphere and based on mutual respect."

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff led their respective delegations, with Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi acting as chief mediator, as per Al Jazeera.

Trump Again Accuses Zelensky Of Starting War

Says Ukraine Prez Is Always Looking To Buy Missiles; Also Slams Putin & Biden

President Donald Trump continued to blame Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky for the war in Ukraine amid questions about which side is responsible for the failure to achieve the ceasefire Trump has promised to deliver.

Trump made the remarks Monday as he was answering a reporter's question about Ukraine's request to purchase additional Patriot missiles for its resistance to the war that started with Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour in 2022.

"He's always looking to purchase missiles," Trump said of Zelensky while meeting with El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele in the Oval Office. "Listen, when you start a war, you know that you can win the war, right? You don't start a war against somebody that's 20 times your size and then hope that people give you some missiles."

Trump subsequently broadened his critique to assert that the deaths from the war were the responsibility of three men, adding Russian President Putin and Trump's predecessor Joe Biden. "Let's say Putin No. 1, but let's say Biden, who had no idea what the hell he was doing, No. 2, and Zelensky," Trump said. "And all I can do is try and stop it." Trump's comments came after Ukraine said more than two dozen people were killed and scores injured after Russian missiles struck the ci-



'ALL I CAN DO IS TRY & STOP WAR'

ty of Sumy in the country's northeast on Sunday morning.

The latest criticism of Zelensky came days after Trump said in a post that "Russia has to get moving" to achieve a ceasefire. Trump's new comments also followed a meeting between US envoy Steve Witkoff and Putin to discuss ending the war.

Asked about the attack on Sumy, Trump told reporters Sunday night that "it was terrible. And I was told they made a mistake." He didn't elaborate and quickly shifted to blaming the war on his predecessor. "Remember this," he said. "This is Biden's war. I'm just trying to get it stopped so that we can save a lot of lives." Trump also said that Biden had enabled the war by not allowing more energy development in the US. "All you had to do is lower oil prices," Trump said. "If you lowered oil prices — Biden kept the prices so high because he made it impossible to get it." BLOOMBERG

Semiconductor tariffs coming, may be this week, hints US prez

President Trump has signalled that he will announce further tariffs this week on semiconductors. The move would raise the cost of importing chips, which are a vital component in electronics, cars, toys and other goods. Speaking Sunday night from Air Force One, the president said tariffs on electronics would "be announced very soon," but suggested there might be room for exemptions. "I'm a very flexible person....," Trump said on Monday, when asked about possible exemptions. He added he had spoken to Apple CEO Tim Cook and "helped" him recently. NYT

El Salvador prez says he won't return man mistakenly deported

El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele on Monday said he would not return a man who the Trump govt admits was mistakenly deported to the Central American country as part of US migration crackdown. "How can I return him to the US? It's like, I smuggle him into the US?... I don't have the power to return him to the US," Bukele said at a meeting with President Trump in Oval Office. The Trump govt has been ordered by a court to facilitate the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran living in Maryland, after he was deported without due process. AFP & AP

In tariff war, China plays rare earth card, suspends exports

Elements Integral To Tech, From EVs To Missiles

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Dysprosium and Neodymium sound like the names of cough syrups, perhaps. In fact, they are two rare earth elements from group 17 in the periodic table that are critical for a range

► **EDIT: Chuckling Chinese**

of technologies, from missiles to wind turbines to EVs, and they made a splash Monday after China, which has a 90% hold on the field, suspended all exports.

The move, one of the cards held by Beijing in the tariff war launched by US, sent shock waves through American tech industry, even as the

TRUMP TIMES

► Nobody's 'getting off the hook' for unfair trade balances, 'especially not China', says Trump

► 'He's always looking to purchase missiles,' Trump says of President Zelensky, continuing to blame him for the war in Ukraine

► El Salvador president says won't return man who was wrongly deported from Maryland last month

P 13

White House has momentarily relaxed tariffing some electronic imports. Even though the US has gradually dialled down rare earths import from China from 80% in 2017 to around 70% now, its import from other countries also involve Chinese processing.

► **Continued on P 13**