



Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter (L) reacts with Councillor of the Swiss Canton of Valais Franziska Biner (R) upon her landing in Wiler, in Switzerland



Young cadets sing the national anthem during a graduation ceremony at the cadet lyceum in Kyiv, Ukraine



English comedian and actor Russell Brand arrives at Southwark Crown Court where he is charged with rape and sexual assault in London



People walk pass flowers decorating the Bolshoy Moskvaretsky Bridge over the Moscow River ahead of Moscow Summer festival in Moscow, Russia

US President Trump signals fresh trade tensions with China

AFP, WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signaled renewed trade tensions with China on Friday, arguing that Beijing had "violated" a deal to de-escalate tariffs, at a time when both sides appeared deadlocked in negotiations.

Trump's post on his Truth Social platform came hours after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that trade talks with China were "a bit stalled," in an interview with broadcaster Fox News.

The world's two biggest economies had agreed this month to temporarily lower staggeringly high tariffs they had imposed on each other, in a pause to last 90 days, after talks between top officials in Geneva.

But on Friday, Trump wrote that: "China, perhaps



New tit-for-tat levies from both sides reached three digits before the de-escalation earlier this month, where Washington agreed to temporarily reduce its additional tariffs on Chinese imports from 145 percent to 30 percent

not surprisingly to some, HAS TOTALLY VIOLATED ITS AGREEMENT WITH US," without providing further details.

Asked about the post on CNBC, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer took

aim at Beijing for continuing to "slow down and choke off things like critical minerals."

He added that the United States' trade deficit with China "continues to be enormous," and that

Washington was not seeing major shifts in Beijing's behavior.

On Thursday, Bessent had suggested that Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping could get involved in the situation.

He said there could be a call between both leaders eventually.

Since Trump returned to the presidency in January, he has imposed sweeping tariffs on most US trading partners, with especially high rates on imports from China.

New tit-for-tat levies from both sides reached three digits before the de-escalation earlier this month, where Washington agreed to temporarily reduce its additional tariffs on Chinese imports from 145 percent to 30 percent.

Appeals court allows Trump to continue collecting tariffs

AP, WASHINGTON: A federal appeals court on Thursday allowed US President Donald Trump to continue collecting tariffs under an emergency powers law for now, as his administration appeals an order striking down the bulk of his signature set of economic policies.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit granted an emergency motion from the Trump administration arguing that a halt is "critical for the country's national security."

The appeals court temporarily halted the order from a federal trade court issued a day before.

Trump is facing several lawsuits arguing his "Lib-

eration Day" tariffs exceeded his authority and left the country's trade policy dependent on his whims.

A three-judge panel of the US Court of International Trade ruled Wednesday that Trump overstepped his authority when he invoked the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to declare a national emergency and plaster taxes - tariffs - on imports from almost every country in the world.

The ruling was a big setback for Trump, whose erratic trade policies have rocked financial markets, paralysed businesses with uncertainty and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

allovertheworld



Balinese women perform a traditional dance at Art Center Denpasar on Indonesia's resort island of Bali

Britain's hard-right Reform UK to accept crypto donations

LONDON: Britain's hard-right Reform UK has become the first political party in the country to accept donations through bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, raising fresh concerns over transparency. Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, whose party has risen in the polls, made the announcement at a bitcoin conference in Las Vegas on Thursday evening. "As of now, provided you are an eligible UK donor ... we are the first political party in Britain that can accept donations in Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies," he said. Farage has pledged to launch a "crypto revolution" if Reform UK comes to power, including the creation of a bitcoin digital reserve at the Bank of England - inspired by recent measures in the United States. On the party's website on Friday, it was possible to make a donation via cryptocurrency.

Egypt denies court ruling threatens historic monastery

CAIRO: Egypt and Greece sought to ease tensions over the historic St Catherine's monastery in the Sinai peninsula on Friday after a controversial court ruling said it sat on state-owned land. Cairo has denied that the ruling threatens the UNESCO world heritage landmark, after Greek and church authorities warned of the sacred site's status. St Catherine's monastery was established in the sixth century at the biblical site of the burning bush in the southern mountains of the Sinai peninsula, and is the world's oldest continually inhabited Christian monastery. A court in Sinai ruled on Wednesday in a land dispute between the monastery and the South Sinai governorate that the monastery "is entitled to use" the land, which "the state owns as public property".

Severe floods threaten historic Romanian salt mine

BUCHAREST: Romanian authorities scrambled Friday to save a salt mine in the northern village of Praid from further damage after heavy rains worsened flooding at a site that provides the region's economic lifeline. The floods in recent days have swollen a stream near the partially inundated salt mine, which has been shut down since 5 May. The mine is among the biggest tourist attractions in northern Romania, with almost half a million people visiting the site in 2024, and many locals have depended on tourism related to the mine for decades. "We have to save not just the salt mine there, but the entire community, with thousands of people in danger of not being able to put a loaf of bread on the table," Environment Minister Mircea Fetecet told a local TV station Friday, saying "a real tragedy" was hitting the region. According to the National Salt Company, underground stockpiles of salt "have been compromised, including equipment and machinery that can no longer be recovered".

25 suspects in crypto kidnapping plots to face judges in France

PARIS: Twenty-five people on Friday were set to appear before French investigating judges as part of several probes into a spate of kidnapping plots targeting cryptocurrency entrepreneurs, prosecutors said. This week authorities said they had foiled a new abduction attempt in the western city of Nantes, and detained more than 20 people over that attempt and another against crypto boss Pierre Noizat's pregnant daughter and young grandson. The judges will decide on Friday whether to charge the suspects. The 25 suspects are implicated in particular in the attack in mid-May on the family of Noizat, the CEO and co-founder of Paymium, a French cryptocurrency exchange platform.

Rain, storms in Pakistan kill 32 in a week

KARACHI: At least 32 people have been killed and more than 150 injured in Pakistan in a week of storms that followed a heatwave, with officials reporting on Friday five more deaths. Five people including a child were killed on Thursday in different districts of northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during heavy rains and strong winds, the province's disaster management authority said. Stormy weather is expected to continue in northern and central parts of Pakistan until Saturday, according to the national meteorological office. Heavy windstorms killed 10 people on Tuesday and 14 on Saturday in different parts of the country, one of the most vulnerable to climate change and grappling with increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

20 detained, officers injured as Morales supporters clash with police in Bolivia

LA PAZ: Twenty people were arrested and three officers were injured in Bolivia Thursday after supporters of former president Evo Morales, who has been barred from running for office again, clashed with law enforcement, police said. Demonstrators have been pushing for the indigenous leader to be allowed to participate in August elections, urging electoral authorities in La Paz to act despite a court ruling barring him from taking part and the fact that the May 19 registration deadline has passed.

UN chief hails India's leadership in peacekeeping efforts

PTI, UNITED NATIONS: India is a very important supporter of peacekeeping, including its support for various efforts such as its lead on efforts to ensure accountability for crimes against peacekeepers, the UN's top peacekeeping official has said.

Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix's comments came during a press briefing on Thursday on the occasion of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

He had visited New Delhi to attend the first-ever Conference for Women Peacekeepers organised by India on February 24-25.

"Yes, I really wanted to go to New Delhi and to that conference," Lacroix said in response to a question by

PTI about the conference and his assessment of it.

"First of all, because India is a very important troop and police contributing country. It's also a very important supporter of peacekeeping, beyond the important contribution of men and women from India, but also in terms of supporting various efforts. I'm thinking in particular, but there are many other examples, of the lead from India on the accountability for crime against peacekeepers," Lacroix said.

The Delhi conference with the theme of 'Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective' was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK).

FEATHERED SURPRISE



A peacock alights next to a pickup truck at Mack's Fish Camp, a family-owned airboat tour business and campground on the Eastern edge of the Everglades, near Miramar, Florida

Russia accuses Serbia over arms supplies to Ukraine

AP, BELGRADE: Russia on Thursday accused Serbia of exporting arms to Ukraine, saying it's a stab in the back by its longtime Slavic Balkan ally.

"Serbian defence enterprises, contrary to the neutrality declared by Belgrade, continue to supply ammunition to Kyiv," the Russian foreign intelligence service, SVR, said in a statement.

The statement alleged that the export of Serbian arms to Ukraine are going through NATO intermediaries, "primarily the Czech Republic, Poland and Bulgaria. Recently, exotic options involving African states have also been used for this purpose".

Serbian arms exports to Ukraine, mostly the Soviet-era-caliber ammunition still used by Ukraine's defence forces, have long been known since 2023, but it's not clear why the Russian foreign security service decided to react now.

Ukraine seeks clarity before June 2 peace talks with Russia

AP, KYIV: Ukraine is ready to resume direct peace talks with Russia in Istanbul on Monday, a top adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, following days of uncertainty over whether Kyiv would attend a meeting proposed by Moscow.

But Ukrainian officials have insisted that the Kremlin provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the more than three-year war, before the two delegations sit down to negotiate.

"Ukraine is ready to attend the next meeting, but we want to engage in a constructive discussion," Andrii Yermak said in a statement on the website of Ukraine's Presidential Office late Thursday.

"This means it is important to receive Russia's draft. There is enough time - four days are sufficient for preparing and sending the documents," Yermak said.

Ukraine and its Europe-



an allies have repeatedly accused the Kremlin of dragging its feet in peace efforts, while it tries to press its bigger army's battlefield initiative and capture more Ukrainian land.

Kyiv's Western partners, including the US, are urging Moscow to agree to an unconditional ceasefire, something Kyiv has embraced while the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Ukraine's top diplomat, Andrii Sybiha, also told reporters on Friday that Kyiv is waiting for Russia to clarify its proposals ahead of a next round of talks.

"We want to end this war this year. We are interested in establishing a ceasefire, whether it is for 30 days, 50 days, or 100 days. Ukraine is open to discussing this directly with Russia," Sybiha said at a joint news conference in Kyiv with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan.

Sybiha and Fidan also held the door open to a future meeting between Presidents Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin of Russia, possibly also including US President Donald Trump. Fidan said the ongoing peace push in Istanbul could be "crowned with" such a meeting.

Faizan Zaki overcomes shocking, self-inflicted flub, wins Scripps National Spelling Bee



a black hoodie and spelling his words with casual glee.

Throughout Thursday night's finals, the 13-year-

old from Allen, Texas, looked like a champion in waiting. Then he nearly threw it away. But even a

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Thanks you to the St. John Paul II for my promotion. Bosco Coutinho

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