

Trump threatens to ramp up trade war

Says he could target 'at least' another \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods; Beijing remains defiant

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANNON/BEIJING

President Donald Trump threatened to hit China with tariffs on "at least" another \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods but said he thought both China and Mexico wanted to make deals in their trade disputes.

While Mr. Trump said on Thursday that talks with China were ongoing, no face-to-face meetings have been held since May 10, the day he sharply increased tariffs on a \$200 billion list of Chinese goods to 25%, prompting Beijing to retaliate. "Our talks with China, a lot of interesting things are happening. We'll see what happens... I could go up another at least \$300 billion and I'll do that at the right time," Mr. Trump told reporters.

"But I think China wants to make a deal and I think Mexico wants to make a deal badly," said Mr. Trump before boarding Air Force One at the Irish airport of Shannon on his way to France for D-Day commemorations.

Later, he said he would wait until after a G20 meeting in Japan at the end of the month before deciding on the tariffs. "Additional tariffs



Memories of a war: U.S. President Donald Trump with wife Melania, French President Emmanuel Macron and Brigitte Macron at a ceremony in Normandy on Thursday to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day landings that changed the course of the Second World War. • AP

on China? You mean, when am I going to put the extra \$325 billion worth of tariffs?" Mr. Trump said on his trip to northern France in response to a question from a reporter about when the new tariffs were coming.

"I will make that decision over the next two weeks, probably right after the G20," he said, adding that he would hold talks with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the summit in Osaka on June 28-29. "One way or the other I will make that decision after the G20," Mr.

Trump added. "I will be meeting with President Xi (at the summit) and we'll see what happens."

Tribute to war veterans
Mr. Trump also sought to reassure allies rattled by his nationalist rhetoric by saying the bonds between them were "unbreakable", on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

He joined other world leaders in northern France where thousands of well-wishers gathered to pay tribute to the veterans of the

famed landings which shaped the outcome of Second World War.

"To all of our friends and partners, our cherished alliance was forged in the heat of battle, tested in the trials of war and proven in the blessings of peace. Our bond is unbreakable," Mr. Trump said in Colleville-sur-Mer.

French President Emmanuel Macron, in a pointed message targeting Mr. Trump's "America First" slogan, said: "America is never as big as when it is fighting for the freedom of others."

Responding to Mr. Trump's threat on tariffs, China's Commerce Ministry struck a defiant tone. "If the United States wilfully decides to escalate tensions, we'll fight to the end," Ministry spokesman Gao Feng told a regular news briefing.

Groundless claims: China
The Commerce Ministry also issued a report on how the U.S. has benefited from years of economic and trade cooperation with China, saying U.S. claims that China has taken advantage in bilateral trade were groundless.

"Since the new U.S. administration took office, it has disregarded the mutually beneficial and win-win nature of China-U.S. economic and trade cooperation, and has advocated the theory that the United States has 'lost out' to China on trade," the Ministry said in a research report. "It has also taken the trade deficit issue as an excuse to provoke economic and trade frictions."

Adding to concerns China may target U.S. companies in the trade war, the Ministry last week said it was drafting a list of "unreliable entities" that have harmed Chinese firms' interests.

German killer nurse gets life term for 85 hospital murders

Police suspect Högel's final death toll may be over 200

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OLDENBURG

A German nurse believed to be the most prolific serial killer in the country's post-war history was handed a life sentence on Thursday for murdering 85 patients in his care.

Judge Sebastian Buehrmann called Niels Högel's killing spree "incomprehensible" and acknowledged that the trial left many families with painful, unanswered questions.

Högel, 42, murdered patients selected at random with lethal injections between 2000 and 2005, when he was caught in the act.

Exhumation, autopsy
Högel has already spent a decade in prison following a previous life sentence he received for six other murders. The exhumation and autopsy of more than 130 bodies were necessary to build the case for the prosecution. Police suspect that Högel's final death toll may be more than 200.

But the court was unable to say for sure because of the gaps in Högel's memory and



Niels Hoegel at his trial in Oldenburg, Germany, on Thursday. • REUTERS

because many likely victims were cremated before autopsies could be performed. Judge Buehrmann of the regional court in the northern city of Oldenburg said the number of deaths at Högel's hands "surpasses human imagination".

"Your guilt is unfathomable," he told the defendant. "Sometimes one's worst nightmares fail to capture the truth." He expressed regret that the court had not been "fully able to lift the fog" for loved ones about other likely victims.

On the final day of hearings on Wednesday, Högel asked his victims' families for forgiveness for his "hor-

rible acts". "I would like to sincerely apologise for everything I did to you over the course of years," he said.

Caught in 2005

Caught in 2005 while injecting an unapproved medication into a patient in Delmenhorst, Högel was sentenced in 2008 to seven years in prison for attempted murder. A second trial followed in 2014-2015 under pressure from alleged victims' families. He was found guilty of murder and attempted murder of five other victims and given the maximum sentence of life.

At the start of the third trial in October, Judge Buehrmann said its main aim was to establish the full scope of the killing that was allowed to go unchecked for years. "It is like a house with dark rooms - we want to bring light into the darkness," he said.

After admitting on the first day of testimony to killing 100 patients in his care, Högel later revised his statement. He now says he committed 43 murders but denies five others.

African Union suspends Sudan, seeks civilian rule

More than 100 have died in crackdown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KHARTOUM

The African Union (AU) suspended Sudan on Thursday, demanding a "civilian-led transitional authority" to resolve an entrenched and bloody crisis.

Calls for the AU to take action had mounted after Monday's crackdown on protesters who had camped outside Army headquarters in Khartoum. Sudanese authorities admitted that dozens were killed.

An Opposition-linked doctors' group said on Wednesday that 40 bodies had been pulled from the Nile,

taking the toll to at least 108.

"The AU Peace and Security Council has with immediate effect suspended the participation of the Republic of Sudan in all AU activities until the effective establishment of a Civilian-led Transitional Authority, as the only way to allow the Sudan to exit from the current crisis," the AU tweeted.

Patrick Kapuwa, the chairperson of the AU's Peace and Security Council, said the military leadership that took control after the ouster of Omar al-Bashir in April had failed to hand over power to civilians.

Taiwan's move to buy U.S. arms riles China

Its Defence Ministry wants 108 battle tanks and 250 anti-aircraft missiles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TAIPEI

Taiwan on Thursday confirmed that it is hoping to buy state-of-the-art tanks and portable missiles from the U.S. in a proposed deal that drew an angry rebuke from China.

Taipei's Defence Ministry has formally asked for 108 M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks, more than 1,500 Javelin and TOW anti-tank missiles, and 250 shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, it said in a statement.

The request was proceeding "as normal", the Ministry added. The U.S. government has given Congress informal notification of its plan to sell

the equipment in a deal worth \$2 billion, Bloomberg News reported.

'Serious concerns'

Beijing said it had "serious concerns" about the sale. "We have repeatedly emphasised to the U.S. to fully understand the extremely sensitive and damaging nature of their decision to sell arms to Taiwan, and abide by the One China principle," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Thursday. Taiwan has been ruled separately since the end of a civil war in 1949 but China still views it as its territory and has vowed to take the island, by force if necessary.



Members of Taiwan's artillery in Pingtung. • AP

Beijing has significantly stepped up diplomatic and military pressure on Taipei since Beijing-sect president Tsai Ing-wen was elected in 2016. The U.S. govern-

ment announced plans last year to sell spare parts worth \$330 million to Taiwan for its U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets and C-130 military transport planes. Taipei has also submitted a formal request to Washington for new fighter jets to upgrade its air force but there has been no public response yet from the U.S.

Taiwan would be massively outgunned in terms of troop numbers and firepower in any war with China and it desperately needs to upgrade much of its equipment. Its current tank force consists of around 1,000 CM 11 Brave Tiger and M60A3 tanks, technology that is increasingly obsolete.

'Defence cut won't affect response potential'

Pak. Army chief comments on move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Army's move to slash its defence budget for one year will not impact the military's "response potential" to all types of threat, Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa asserted, as he celebrated Id-ul-Fitr with soldiers posted along the Line of Control (LoC).

Speaking on the voluntary decision to forego even the routine increase in the annual defence budget, the Army chief said, "This initiative is not a favour to the nation as we are one through thick and thin."



General Qamar Javed Bajwa. • REUTERS

He said the Pakistan Army will manage the shortfall during the financial year by "tightening our belt".

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has welcomed the voluntary cuts.

ELSEWHERE



Abe to visit Iran on mediation mission

TOKYO
Shinzo Abe plans to travel to Iran next week, the first visit by a Japanese Prime Minister in more than four decades, as Tokyo hopes to ease tensions in the region by mediating between Washington and Tehran. Local media said he will hold talks with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani. AFP

U.K. relaxes travel advice for Sri Lanka

LONDON
Britain on Thursday relaxed its travel advice on Sri Lanka after earlier warning against "all but essential travel" following the April terror attacks. "If you're visiting or resident in Sri Lanka, you should continue to remain vigilant and keep up to date with developments," the Foreign Office said. Tourists were still warned that "terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks". AFP

Death toll in Hungary boat accident rises to 15

BUDAPEST
The bodies of two more South Korean tourists have been found after a sightseeing vessel sunk in Budapest last week, bringing the death toll to 15, with 13 still missing, police said. Police said late on Wednesday that a body found 50 km south of the Hungarian capital, near the town of Ercsi, was that of a South Korean woman passenger from the boat. AFP

Former Sri Lankan official points to fissures within govt.

Says President had asked him not to invite PM for meetings

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's suspended police chief said on Thursday that he did what he could do as Inspector General of Police with the intelligence inputs he got on possible terror attacks, while the former Defence Secretary pointed to the fissures within the government.

"There was no emergency declared. I had no power to declare a curfew. I could not do this alone," Pujith Jayasundara, the former IGP, told the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) set up to probe Easter attacks.

Pressured by Sirisena

The IGP also admitted that he was pressured by President Maithripala Sirisena to accept blame for the attacks and resign.

Responding to PSC members' questions, he said the President had offered him an ambassadorial position in return for his resignation, and also assured him that a presidential committee investigating the blasts would "clear his name".

He has also petitioned the Supreme Court, against being asked to go on "compul-



Ex-Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando.

sory leave". According to AFP, his 20-page complaint revealed serious communication gaps between intelligence agencies and security arms of the government.

Thursday's sitting was the third held by the PSC, which is expected to obtain testimonies from the Director-SIS and the CID in the coming weeks. President Sirisena, who holds both Defence and Law and Order Ministries, was in Singapore on the day of the attacks, on a private visit. He has said the prior intelligence available with officials had not been passed on to him.

Former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando,

who told the legislators' panel that he was aware of a possible threat on April 21, said he "assumed" that the State Intelligence Service chief would have informed the President, "as was the practice". His testimony, too, disclosed the glaring lapses in intelligence sharing within the security establishment helmed by Mr. Sirisena.

"As Defence Secretary, I struggled to meet my Minister [Mr. Sirisena] even once in two weeks. I was helpless," he told the panel. Asked why, he said: "He didn't have time".

Further, Mr. Fernando's testimony exposed the fissures within the government that appeared to have only deepened since the October 2018 political crisis.

Responding to a question, Mr. Fernando confirmed that the President had specifically told him not to invite Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, the IGP and the State Minister for Defence to the National Security Council meetings since November 13, 2018. At least four meetings took place from then until April 25, 2019, the day Mr. Fernando resigned.

Russia willing to drop New START pact: Putin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ST. PETERSBURG

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia was prepared to drop a nuclear weapons agreement treaty with the U.S. and warned of "global catastrophe" if Washington keeps dismantling a global arms control regime.

Speaking to heads of global news agencies at an economic forum, Mr. Putin said Washington showed no genuine interest in conducting talks on extending the New START treaty, which caps the number of nuclear war-

heads well below Cold War limits. "If no-one feels like extending the agreement - New START - well, we won't do it then," said Mr. Putin. "We have said a hundred times that we are ready to extend it," Mr. Putin said.

Mr. Putin said the potential implications of letting New START treaty expire would be huge, suggesting its demise could fuel a nuclear arms race. "If we don't keep this 'fiery dragon' under control, if we let it out of the bottle - God forbid - this could lead to global catastrophe," Mr. Putin said.

Ban on photos of mosque gunman lifted

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON

A New Zealand judge ruled on Thursday that media outlets can now show the face of the man accused of killing 51 people at two Christchurch mosques.

Two New Zealand courts had previously ruled that television stations, websites, newspapers and other media could only publish images which pixelated the face of Brenton Harrison Tarrant.

But High Court Judge Cameron Mander wrote in a court note on Thursday that prosecutors had advised him that there was no longer any need to suppress images of his face and he was lifting the order. The previous rulings hadn't stopped images of Tarrant from circulating on the Internet.

Egypt kills 14 'militants' in Sinai

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CAIRO

Egyptian security forces have killed 14 suspected militants during a raid carried out in the restive Sinai Peninsula in response to a deadly checkpoint attack, the authorities said. Wednesday's at-

tack, claimed by the Islamic State group, left dead eight policemen southwest of El-Arish, capital of North Sinai, and five militants were killed in exchanges of fire that ensued.

Some other suspected militants fled the scene be-

fore security forces tracked down and killed 14 of them in the raid, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The security forces surrounded the suspected militants before engaging "in a heavy shootout" which killed 14 of them, it added.

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192023/000424	Coal Handling works at TNPL Unit 2	20.06.2019
192023/000425	Maintenance of Drip Irrigation system at Plantation area in TNPL Unit 2	20.06.2019

Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in Tender document at our Websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in & www.tnpl.com
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192013/001630	Transportation of Undepithed Loose Bagasse from various Co.Op Sugar Mills within Tamil Nadu to TNPL Unit 1, Kagithapuram	26.06.19

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NIT No. 01 & 02 (2019-20) / EE (Project) Water-II
(For Press Publication)

NIT No	Name of the Work	Type of Contract	Bid Security / Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion Period	Date of issue of NIT & Last date and time for Submission of Bid Documents
01	Improvement of Water Supply System including Operation and Maintenance of Transmission and Distribution pipes, Pumping Stations, Service Connections, and Consumer Meters with DMA formation and NRW Reduction in Chandrawal WTP Command Area (East Zone)- Package-4.	Bill of Quantity (BOQ)	Rs. 2.10 crore (in form of BG) in favour of Delhi Jal Board	i) Construction period : 4 years ii) Preparatory period : 6 months iii) O&M during construction period : 3.5 years iv) O&M after construction period : 5 years	03/06/2019 & 02/08/2019 at 15:00 Hours
02	Improvement of Water Supply System including Operation and Maintenance of Transmission and Distribution pipes, Pumping Stations, Service Connections, and Consumer Meters with DMA formation and NRW Reduction in Chandrawal WTP Command Area (West Zone)- Package-2.	Bill of Quantity (BOQ)	Rs. 5.20 crore (in form of BG) in favour of Delhi Jal Board	i) Construction period : 5 years ii) Preparatory period : 6 months iii) O&M during construction period : 4.5 years iv) O&M after construction period : 5 years	-do-

The cost of work will be financed out of the proceed of the ODA loan extended for the project by JICA and bidding procedure shall be in accordance with the guidelines for procurement under JICA ODA Loans.
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ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) (B.S. Rawat)
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