

BRIEFLY

Zelenskyy seeks Trump, EU talks on stalled Russia peace efforts

Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that Ukrainian officials want to meet with US President Donald Trump and European leaders next week to discuss recent developments in efforts to end the three-year war with Russia.



The proposed meetings appeared designed to add momentum to the push for peace, as Zelenskyy expressed frustration with what he called Russia's lack of constructive engagement in the process while it continues to launch devastating aerial attacks on civilian areas.

Trump has bristled at Russian leader Vladimir Putin's stalling on an US proposal for direct peace talks with Zelenskyy, and said a week ago he expected to decide on next steps in two weeks if direct talks aren't scheduled.

Trump complained last month that Putin "talks nice and then he bombs everybody." But he has also chided Ukraine for its attacks.

At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Friday, the United States warned Russia to move toward peace and meet with Ukraine or face possible sanctions.

The meeting was called after a major Russian missile and drone attack on Ukraine overnight from Wednesday to Thursday that killed at least 23 people.

John Kelly, the US mission's minister-counselor, said the strikes "cast doubt on the seriousness of Russia's desire for peace" and demanded they stop. He said Putin and Zelenskyy must agree to meet, and reiterated Trump's warning that the US could impose sanctions on Russia if the war continues.

Indonesia: Protesters burn legislature, 2 dead

AGENCIES Jakarta, 30 August

An angry mob set fire to a local parliament building in an Indonesian provincial capital, leaving at least three people dead and five others hospitalised, officials said.



Protesters walk by as the local parliament building is engulfed in flames during a protest following the death of a delivery rider in clashes between riot police and students protesting against lawmakers' allowances in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, on Friday. AGENCIES

The blaze in Makassar, the capital city of South Sulawesi province, began late Friday. Television reports showed the provincial council building ablaze overnight, causing the area to turn an eerie orange color.

Rescuers retrieved three bodies by Saturday morning, while five people were hospitalized with burns or with broken bones after jumping from the building, said Fadli Tahar, a local disaster official.

Protesters in West Java's Bandung city also set a regional

parliament ablaze on Friday, but no casualties were reported. In Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, protesters stormed the regional police headquarters after destroying fences and torching vehicles. Security forces fired tear gas and used water cannons, but

demonstrators fought back with fireworks and wooden clubs.

Foreign embassies in Jakarta, including the US, Australia and Southeast Asian countries, have advised their citizens in Indonesia to avoid demonstration areas or large

public gatherings.

Calm largely returned to Indonesia's capital on Saturday as authorities cleaned up burned-out cars, police offices and bus shelters that were set ablaze by angry protesters.

Five days of protests began in Jakarta on Monday, sparked by reports that all 580 lawmakers receive a monthly housing allowance of 50 million rupiah (\$3,075) in addition to their salaries. The allowance, introduced last year, is almost 10 times the Jakarta minimum wage.

Critics argue the new allowance is not only excessive but also insensitive at a time when most people are grappling with soaring living costs and taxes and rising unemployment.

The protests grew wider and more violent following the death of 21-year-old ride-hailing driver Affan Kurniawan. A video on social media apparently showing

his death during a rally in the capital Jakarta on Thursday shocked the nation and spurred an outcry against the security forces.

Kurniawan was reportedly completing a food delivery order when he was caught in the clash. Witnesses told local television that the armored car from the National Police's Mobile Brigade unit suddenly sped through the crowd of demonstrators and hit Kurniawan, causing him to fall. Instead of stopping, the car ran over him.

On Saturday, hundreds of ride-hailing drivers and students in Bali staged a solidarity demonstration over Kurniawan's death in a rare protest on the tourist island. They called for police reform and the release of those arrested during the protests.

Protesters marched to Bali's regional police headquarters and riot police fired rounds

of tear gas at them to push back those who tried to reach the heavily guarded compound. Protesters responded by throwing rocks, bottles and flares.

Clashes between riot police and protesters erupted in multiple cities across Indonesia on Friday, including in Medan, Solo, Yogyakarta, Magelang, Malang, Bengkulu, Pekanbaru and Manokwari in easternmost Papua region.

Some 950 people were arrested in rallies in Jakarta alone by Thursday, according to the National Commission on Human Rights, or Komnas HAM.

Authorities said about 25 officers were hospitalised with serious injuries after being attacked by protesters in Jakarta. The Komnas HAM believed that the number of injured people on the community side is much bigger.

Israel to cut humanitarian aid to northern Gaza as it expands offensive

AGENCIES Jerusalem, 30 August

Israel will soon slow or halt humanitarian aid into parts of northern Gaza as it expands its offensive attempting to cripple Hamas, an official said on Saturday.

The official who spoke on condition of anonymity, told agencies that Israel will stop aid trucks into Gaza City in the coming days and reduce the arrival of aid trucks into the northern part of the strip as it prepares to evacuate hundreds of thousands of Palestinians south.

Israel on Friday ended recently imposed daytime pauses in fighting to allow aid delivery, describing Gaza City as a Hamas stronghold and alleging that a tunnel network remains in use, despite previous large-scale raids on the area. The United Nations and partners have said the pauses, airdrops and other recent measures fell far short of the 600 trucks of aid needed daily in Gaza. Agencies video footage overnight showed several large explosions across Gaza. In recent days, Israel's military has increased strikes on the outskirts of Gaza City

US appeals court rules Trump tariffs illegal

AGENCIES Washington, 30 August

A federal appeals court ruled Friday that US President Donald Trump had no legal right to impose sweeping tariffs on almost every country on earth but left in place for now his effort to build a protectionist wall around the American economy.

The ruling from the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found Trump overstepped his authority under an emergency powers law, a major legal blow that largely upheld a May decision by a specialised federal trade court in New York.



"It seems unlikely that Congress intended to grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs," the judges wrote in a 7-4 ruling. But they did not strike

down the tariffs immediately, allowing his administration until mid-October to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The president vowed to do just that. "If allowed to stand, this Decision would literally

destroy the United States of America," Trump wrote on his social media platform.

White House spokesman Kush Desai said Trump had acted lawfully, and "we look forward to ultimate victory on this matter."

An attorney for small businesses affected by the tariffs, meanwhile, said the ruling shows Trump doesn't have unlimited power to impose tariffs on his own.

"This decision protects American businesses and consumers from the uncertainty and harm caused by these unlawful tariffs," said Jeffrey Schwab, director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Centre.

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Taiwan opposes China's 'Victory Day' parade

ASHOKUTEIA Taipei, 30 August

Taiwan has expressed its serious concern over China's plan to hold a "Victory Day" parade in Beijing next week and has appealed to all nations to refrain from attending such events in the greater interest of peace in the Taiwan Strait.

"China is organising a large-scale military parade in September. These kinds of parades heighten tension in the region. We are appealing to all countries that have been invited to reconsider any decision to attend it," Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Deputy Minister Shen Yu-chung told visiting

journalists from Indo-Pacific nations.

He said China invariably makes it a point to use such events to demonstrate its military power to its immediate neighbours. "They (China) have the ability to annex Taiwan. But we are also strengthening our defence forces and have been steadily increasing our defence budget," he added.

The Taiwanese minister's statement came in the wake of reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and several other leaders would attend the September



parade, marking the end of World War Two after Japan's formal surrender.

Mr Shen said major world powers and democratic countries should issue a stern warning to China that

there would be economic sanctions against it if it were to use force against Taiwan. China must be made to pay a heavy price if it were to threaten or use force against Taiwan or its

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India becomes Ukraine's top diesel supplier amid US tariffs over Russian crude

AGENCIES New Delhi, 30 August

India has become Ukraine's largest diesel supplier, despite facing a 50 per cent tariff from the US, according to a report on Saturday.

The report comes as the



US alleges that India is indirectly supporting Russia's war against Ukraine by buying Russian crude.

As per the Ukrainian oil market analytics firm NaftoRynok, India supplied 15.5 per cent of Ukraine's total diesel imports in July 2025, the highest share from any country. July saw daily deliveries average 2,700 tonnes, marking

it as one of India's strongest export months this year.

From January to July in 2025, India's share of Ukraine's diesel supply increased to 10.2 per cent, up from 1.9 per cent in the same period of 2024. Much of the fuel reportedly reached Ukraine through tanker shipments via the Danube from Romania and through the Opet terminal

in Turkey. Other significant suppliers in July included Slovakia (15 per cent), Greece (13.5 per cent), Turkey (12.4 per cent), and Lithuania (11.4 per cent), the report said.

Analysts, cited by the Ukrainian research firm, noted that a portion of these exports could include diesel refined from Russian-origin crude, though official data remains undisclosed. The development comes at a time of intensifying trade tensions between India and the US. President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that imposed 50 per cent tariffs effective since 27 August, citing ongoing purchases of discounted Russian crude and labelled both India and Russia as 'dead economies.'

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