

Door for US trade talks 'wide open'

Says China after Trump signals tariffs will fall

AFP, Beijing

China said yesterday the door was "wide open" for trade talks with Washington, a day after US President Donald Trump signalled the possibility of a "substantial" lowering of tariffs on Beijing.

Bringing further relief to global markets spooked by his aggressive trade policies, Trump also said on Tuesday he had no intention of firing US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell. Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has imposed additional tariffs of 145 percent on many products from China.

These include duties initially imposed over China's alleged role in the fentanyl supply chain and later over practices Washington deemed unfair.



Local residents wait in a park in Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday, following an initial earthquake of 6.2 magnitude at 12:49 pm, which was followed by three others with magnitudes ranging from 4.4 to 4.9. A total of 151 people were hurt and received hospital treatment after leaping from buildings in panic during the tremor but none were in a critical condition, the Istanbul governor's office said.

PHOTO: AFP

Strike a deal or US will 'walk away'

VP Vance tells Russia, Ukraine

AGENCIES

US Vice President JD Vance warned yesterday that Moscow and Kyiv must strike a deal or Washington will end its efforts to reach a ceasefire.

"We've issued a very explicit proposal to both the Russians and the Ukrainians, and it's time for them to either say yes, or for the United States to walk away from this process," Vance told reporters in India.

Vance spoke as envoys from Washington, Kyiv and European nations gathered for talks in Britain amid a new US push to end Russia's war in Ukraine, reports AFP.

"It's now time, I think, to take, if not the final step, one of the final steps, which is, at a broad level, the party saying we're going to stop the killing, we're going to freeze the territorial lines at some level close to where they are today," Vance added. "Now, of course, that means the Ukrainians and the Russians are both going to have to give up some of the territory they currently own," he added.

Meanwhile, a Russian drone hit a bus carrying workers in the Ukrainian city of Marhanets yesterday, killing 9 people, reports Reuters.

Israeli airstrikes hit Gaza school, hospital

20 Palestinians killed; President Abbas calls on Hamas to hand over arms to his authority

REUTERS, Gaza

An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced families in northern Gaza killed at least 10 people, while another hit a children's hospital, local health authorities said, taking yesterday's death toll to 20.

Medics said the airstrike on the Yaffa School in the Tuffah area of Gaza City set fire to tents and classrooms. There has been no Israeli comment on the school attack.

Some furniture was still in flames several hours after the strike as people sifted through blackened classrooms and the schoolyard in search of their belongings.

"We were sleeping and suddenly something exploded, we started looking and found the whole school on fire, the tents here and there were on fire, everything was on fire," said eyewitness, Um Mohammed Al-Hwairi.

"People were shouting and men were carrying people, charred (people), charred children, and were walking and saying: 'Dear God, dear God, we have no one but you.' What can we say? Dear God, only," she told Reuters.

Medics said at least 10 other people were killed in separate Israeli strikes across the enclave.

Since a January ceasefire collapsed on March 18, Israeli attacks have killed more than 1,600 Palestinians, according to the Gaza health authorities.



Meanwhile, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in a televised speech yesterday, called on Hamas to cede its responsibility over the Gaza Strip, hand over its arms to the Palestinian Authority and turn itself into a political party.

Yesterday, the Gaza health ministry said an Israeli missile also hit the upper building of the Durra Children's Hospital in Gaza City, damaging the intensive care unit and destroying the solar panel system that feeds the facility with power. No one was killed in the hospital strike.

Gaza's healthcare system is close to collapse due to an Israeli blockade on all supplies to Gaza, including fuel and electricity, since

the beginning of March, when it relaunched military operations.

The health ministry said many Palestinian victims of Israeli military strikes remained trapped under rubble and on the roads, as rescue teams are unable to reach them because of ongoing bombardments.

The attacks have also hit dozens of bulldozers and machinery used to clear roads, remove debris and to carry out rescue operations.

The Israeli military said on Tuesday it had hit 40 "engineering vehicles" that were used for "terrorist actions. Some of those heavy vehicles were parked on the road and others inside the garages of municipalities.

“The European Union is not giving up on our closest, deepest and most important partnership with the United States.”
EU Economy Commissioner **VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS**

Tens of thousands say goodbye to Pope Francis lying in state

AFP, Vatican City

Tens of thousands of mourners began saying their last goodbyes to Pope Francis at St Peter's Basilica yesterday, as the body of the late Argentine pontiff began three days of lying in state.

A long line of pilgrims and tourists stretched across the sprawling St Peter's Square before the doors opened at 11:00 am (0900 GMT), when the public were allowed inside to file past the open coffin.

"I came to say a last goodbye to a great man. He stood for the people," Simonetta Marini, 67, a Roman pensioner, told AFP.

For the next three days, it will rest on a low bier before the Altar of the Confession underneath the soaring dome painted by Michelangelo, before being closed at 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) on Friday evening ahead of Saturday's funeral.

Vincenza Nocilla, a 67-year-old retired nurse, left her home in Formia, south of Rome, at 4:00 am to be among the first to see the pontiff. "It was really moving," she said after exiting the basilica, adding: "They don't let you stay long, you walk by, say a quick goodbye and go."

US FUNDING CUTS WHO announces 'significant' layoffs

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization (WHO) chief said Tuesday that operations and jobs would be slashed as US funding cuts had left the UN agency with a budget hole of several hundred million dollars.

"The sudden drop in income has left us with a large salary gap and no choice but to reduce the scale of our work and workforce," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told member states, according to a transcript of his remarks.

The United Nations health agency has been bracing for President Donald Trump's planned full withdrawal of the United States -- by far its largest donor -- next January.

Global coral reefs pushed to brink

Say scientific authorities as bleaching crisis worsens after hottest year

REUTERS

More than four-fifths of the world's coral reef areas have been affected by devastating mass bleaching spurred by record-high ocean temperatures, turning many once-colourful reefs a ghostly pale hue, scientific authorities said yesterday.

Bleaching is triggered by anomalies in water temperature that cause corals to expel the colourful algae living in their tissues. Without the algae's help in delivering nutrients to the corals, the corals cannot survive.

The world's fourth mass bleaching event, which scientists declared one year ago, has shown few signs of slowing down, according to the International Coral Reef Initiative and data from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which track reef health. Instead, it

has grown to be the most widespread on record, with 84 percent of reef areas -- from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic to the Pacific -- subjected to intense heat stress for a duration expected to cause bleaching as of March 2025.

Last year was the hottest on record and the first to reach over 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times, contributing to unprecedented ocean temperatures and triple the previous record number of marine heatwaves around the world.

"The magnitude and extent of the heat stress is shocking," said Melanie McField, a marine scientist working in the Caribbean. "Some reefs that had thus far escaped major heat stress and we thought to be somewhat resilient, succumbed to partial mortalities in 2024."



US sanctions show 'lack of goodwill' in nuke talks: Iran

REUTERS, Dubai

New US sanctions against Iran's energy sector point to Washington's "lack of goodwill and seriousness" over dialogue with Tehran, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday ahead of Iran-US nuclear talks this weekend.

On Tuesday, Washington targeted an Iranian liquefied petroleum gas magnate with sanctions, which fall within the scope of President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign and its objective to drive Iranian oil exports to zero.

"The continued imposition of sanctions against various economic sectors of Iran is in clear contradiction with the US claim for dialogue and negotiation and indicates the lack of goodwill and seriousness of the US in this regard," Esmail Baghaei said in a statement shared on Telegram.

Both high-level and expert-level talks are to take place this Saturday in Oman to begin drawing up a framework for a potential deal over Iran's disputed nuclear programme.

On a visit to Beijing where he met Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iran's state media it was too early to judge the outcome of Iran-US talks, which he said were going in the right direction.

"We are cautiously optimistic and if the Americans continue to stay in a constructive way and avoid any unrealistic, undoable demands, I am confident we can conclude a good deal at the end," Iran's top diplomat added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Environment
"Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division" Project (A component of HELP Project)
1st Floor, Room: 202, Poribesh Bhaban New Building
E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.doe.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Selection of Individual Consultants (National)

1.	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change		
2.	Agency	: Department of Environment (DoE)		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	: Project Director		
4.	Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka		
5.	Expression of Interest for selection of	: Individual Consultant (National)		
6.	Eoi Ref No.	: 22.02.0000.020.14.001.25-10		
7.	Date	: 23 April 2025		
Key Information				
8.	Procuring Method	: Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)		
Funding Information				
9.	Source of Funds	: World Bank through DoE		
10.	Grant No.	: E325-BD		
Particular Information				
11.	Project ID	: P501274		
12.	Project Code	: 224403000		
13.	Project Name	: Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division		
14.	Eoi Closing Date and Time	: 15 May 2025, 02:00 pm		
Information for Applicants				
Package No.	Name of Positions	Number of Positions	Duration	Terms of References (ToR) including Educational Qualification
HELP/S-01	Junior Consultant (Procurement)	1 (One)	6 months (intermittently)	Master's in procurement/ economics/ statistics/ finance/ business administration/ management or other relevant subjects.
HELP/S-02	Junior Consultant (Finance)	1 (One)	24 months	Master of Commerce in Accounting/Finance or MBA with major in Accounting/Finance. Candidate having fully or partly professional accountancy degree (CA/ACCA/CMA/ equivalent) will get preference.
Procuring Entity Details				
15.	Name of Official Inviting Eoi	: Md. Samsuzzaman Sarker		
16.	Designation of Official Inviting Eoi	: Project Director, Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division		
17.	Address of Official Inviting Eoi	: Department of Environment 1 st Floor, Room: 202, Poribesh Bhaban New Building E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
18.	Contact details of Official Inviting Eoi	: Phone: 02-2222218378, Email: helpdoepd@gmail.com		
19.	Place of submission of Eoi	: Project Director, Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division 1 st Floor, Room: 202, Poribesh Bhaban New Building E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
20.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Eois without showing any reason.			

The Department of Environment is implementing the "Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division" Project. The overall objective of the project is to assess the environmental impact and damage occurred out of Rohingya influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram division.

Project Director of the "Comprehensive Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar of Chattogram Division" invites eligible applicants to express their interest in providing the services. Applicants are advised to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in completed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and proven documents with a cover letter. Request for Application Form with detailed Terms of References (ToR) are available in the website of the Department of Environment (www.doe.gov.bd).

One original and two copies of Eoi must be submitted in the Project office on or before 15th May 2025, 02:00 pm in sealed envelope and be clearly marked the position for Expression of Interest.

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Eoi. Persons who are in service should submit Eoi through the proper channel, otherwise Eoi will be rejected.

-signed-
Md. Samsuzzaman Sarker
Project Director
Email: helpdoepd@gmail.com

GD-972