

Trump pushes for fair trade deal with China

REUTERS, Aboard Air Force One

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said the US was meeting with many countries, including China, on trade deals, and his main priority with China was to secure a fair trade deal.

Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he had no plans to speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, but US officials were speaking with Chinese officials about a variety of different things.

Asked if any trade agreements would be announced this week, Trump said that could "very well be" but gave no details.

He suggested that he did not expect to reach an agreement with some countries, but could instead be "setting a certain tariff" for those trading partners in the next two to three weeks.

It was not immediately clear if he was referring to the reciprocal tariffs announced on April 2, which are due to kick in on July 8 after a 90-day pause.

Trump repeated his claim that China had been "ripping us for many years" on global trade.



Activists and members of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, a Kashmiri refugee organisation, shout slogans beside burning tires during an anti-India protest in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Risks multiply in any potential Indo-Pak conflict

Say experts as both nations upgraded their military capabilities since the neighbours clashed in 2019

REUTERS, Islamabad/New Delhi

India and Pakistan have significantly upgraded their military capabilities since the nuclear-armed neighbours clashed in 2019, posing increased risks of escalation even in a limited conflict, former military officers and experts say.

Pakistan says India plans a military incursion after New Delhi blamed Islamabad for a deadly attack on domestic tourists in Indian Kashmir last month. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to punish the backers of the attack "beyond their imagination".

Pakistan has denied involvement in the attack but has warned it will hit back if it is targeted.

In 2019, India carried out air strikes inside Pakistan after the bombing of an Indian military convoy in Kashmir and said it destroyed "terrorist camps". Pakistani jets conducted a retaliatory air strike and shot down an Indian aircraft during actions spread over two days.

The neighbours have fought



three wars - in 1948, 1965 and 1971 - and clashed countless times since gaining independence, mostly over the Kashmir region which both claim. Both acquired nuclear weapons in the 1990s and Kashmir is considered one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world.

Military experts say neither side will consider nuclear weapons unless pushed to the wall, but even a limited conflict would carry high risks of escalation.

They say such a conflict is likely to involve aircraft, missiles or

drones, where India and Pakistan are considered closely matched, although India's far greater resources would come into play over a longer period.

"Decision makers in both states now have a higher risk appetite for conflict initiation and escalation than prior to 2019," said Frank O'Donnell, a non-resident fellow at the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center, a think-tank in Washington, as they had managed then to clash without nuclear weapons being used.

"But without a clear mutual sense of the precise actions, that could trigger inadvertent escalation," he added.

Both sides have acquired new military hardware since 2019, opening up new conventional strike options.

"Each side will think they are in a better position than last time," said Muhammad Faisal, a South Asia security researcher based at the University of Technology, Sydney. "It is only when we see actual combat that we will find out."



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French President
EMMANUEL MACRON
says as Trump battles
universities

'Take care of India'

West Bengal CM Mamata takes potshots at Modi over Pahalgam attack, Waqf bill violence

AGENCIES

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday accused Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of dividing people and asked him to take care of India and secure borders in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Banerjee, who arrived in Murshidabad for the first time since last month's riots there, urged the Prime Minister to give justice to the people who have lost their loved ones in Pahalgam.

She also accused the BJP of playing "dirty politics" over the Murshidabad violence in which three people were killed during protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, reports News18 online.

"Instead of doing communal violence, please take care of the border. Please take

care of India. We love India, please save India from any disaster. Please give justice to the people who have lost their loved ones. Don't play dirty politics; I am the last one to tolerate dirty politics..." she said.

In a sharp criticism of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Trinamool Congress supremo questioned the panel's priorities in view of the recent visit of its members to Murshidabad.

She also asked whether NHRC members visited BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and ethnic violence-hit Manipur, which is now under the President's rule.

"I have unearthed most of the conspiracy, I will expose this before the media... Unfortunately, some media houses played into the hands of the BJP in spreading canards," she claimed.



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- The application fee is BDT 1,500 to be paid at the time of application form submission

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**কুতুবদিয়া ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD-2 এ বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর
যুদ্ধ বিমান কর্তৃক তাজা গোলা বৰ্ষণের জন্য**

সতর্কবাণী

ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জের নকশা

বিপজ্জনক সীমা সমূহ পঞ্চ হতে ৩০,০০০ ফুট

বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীর বিভিন্ন প্রকার যুদ্ধ বিমান কর্তৃক আগামী ০৭ হতে ১০ মে ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ সকাল ০৮০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৭০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রত্যহ ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ VGD 2 (২১°৫১'০০" উ ০৯১°৪০'০০" পূ, ২১°২৫'০০" উ ০৯১°৪০'০০" পূ, ২১°২৫'০০" উ ০৯১°২৩'০০" পূ) এবং ২১°৫১'০০" উ ০৯১°৫১'০০" পূ) আকাশসীমায় তাজা গোলা বৰ্ষণ প্রশিক্ষণ মহড়া পরিচালনা করবে। তাজা গোলা বৰ্ষণ চলাকালীন সময় বিমান, জাহাজ, ছেটি ছেটি নৌযান ও কুতুবদিয়া দ্বীপ সংলগ্ন জনসাধারণকে উপরেন্দ্রিত এলাকা পরিহার করে নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রেখে চলাচলের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

আই এস পি আর/৪৫

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