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Stop buying Russian oil

Trump tells Nato states

REUTERS, Bedminster

President Donald Trump yesterday said that the United States is prepared to impose fresh energy sanctions on Russia, but only if all Nato nations cease purchasing Russian oil and implement similar measures.

"I am ready to do major sanctions on Russia when all Nato nations have agreed, and started, to do the same thing, and when all Nato nations stop buying oil from Russia," Trump said in a social media post.

In recent weeks, the United States has stepped up pressure on Nato countries to tighten energy sanctions on Russia in a bid to help end its war with Ukraine – a conflict Trump has struggled to bring to a close despite repeated threats of harsher penalties on Moscow and its partners.

Trump has also faced criticism at home for repeatedly setting two-week deadlines for Russia to de-escalate and allowing them to pass without concrete action.

The Group of Seven nations' finance ministers in a Friday call discussed further sanctions on Russia and possible tariffs on countries they consider "enabling" its war in Ukraine.

Energy revenues remain the Kremlin's single most important source of cash to finance the war effort, making oil and gas exports a central target of Western sanctions. But officials and analysts warn that aggressive curbs on Russian crude also carry risks of driving up global oil prices, a prospect that could strain Western economies and weaken public support for the measures.

Since 2023, Nato member Turkey has been the third-largest buyer of Russian oil, after China and India. Other members of the alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia.

Trump said Nato, acting as a bloc, should impose tariffs of 50% to 100% on Chinese imports, a move he argued would weaken Beijing's economic grip on Moscow.



A Buddhist devotee feeds pigeons at the Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu yesterday. Kathmandu took a step back towards normality yesterday as a curfew was eased and daily life returned, with markets opening, traffic returning, and families visiting temples.

PHOTO: STAR

GAZA GENOCIDE



"The Hamas terrorist chiefs living in Qatar don't care about the people in Gaza. They blocked all ceasefire attempts in order to endlessly drag out the war. Getting rid of them would rid the main obstacle to releasing all our hostages and ending the war."

Benjamin Netanyahu
Israeli PM

"The targeted operation in Qatar proved beyond any doubt that there is one obstacle to returning the... hostages and ending the war: Prime Minister Netanyahu."

Israel's Hostages and Missing Families Forum

Nepalis hope protest deaths will bring change

AFP, Kathmandu

Grieving families of those killed in Nepal's anti-corruption demonstrations say they hope the deaths will not be in vain, as the protesters' choice of interim prime minister took charge yesterday.

Among the dead was 30-year-old Santosh Bishwakarma, one of at least 51 people killed in two days of chaos this week – the worst unrest since the end of a decade-long civil war and the abolition of the monarchy in 2008.

His widow Amika, also 30, her eyes swollen with grief, recalled his "ultimate dream" to "die having contributed to the nation".

Santosh was shot dead on Monday during the first wave of protests, led by the youth-driven "Gen Z" movement.

A temporary social media ban sparked the demonstrations, tipping longstanding frustration over entrenched corruption and economic malaise into wider anger.

"He used to say he wouldn't die like a dog," Amika told AFP in her modest Kathmandu home, clutching a framed photo of her late husband.

"His dream was to make Nepal known to the world – and he did."

KP Sharma Oli, the 73-year-old leader of the Communist Party, quit as prime minister a day after Santosh's death and as protesters torched parliament, ending his fourth term in the post.

On Friday, former chief justice Sushila Karki was sworn into office to lead a six-month transition to elections.

But Amika, now raising her 10-year-old son Ujwal and seven-year-old daughter Sonia alone, fears for the future.

"My husband would have done everything to fulfil their dreams, even at the cost of his life," she said.

"But how am I supposed to manage everything on my own? He



sacrificed his life for the country, and I hope the new government will help me."

Family friend Solan Rai, 42, said he believed the protests marked a turning point.

"I hope we finally see real change this time," he said, adding that the anger had been "more intense than anything we've seen before".

The World Bank says a "staggering" 82 percent of Nepal's workforce is in informal employment – among the highest rates in the world.

Its GDP per capita stands at just \$1,447.

At Kathmandu's Pashupatinath temple on Friday, hundreds gathered for mass cremations.

Families wept over the bodies of loved ones, including young men shot dead in the clashes.

"I hope there is some justice – and our people finally get the

change they so desperately seek," said Ratna Maharjan, grieving for her son, breaking down into tears.

One mother refused to release her son's body, wrapped in a shroud, clinging to him on the temple steps.

Nearby, police officers laid garlands of marigolds on their fallen colleague as a bugler played over the smoke-filled riverbank.

Amika's plea was simple.

"What we seek isn't too much to ask – just equality," she said. "So the rich don't thrive while the poor languish."

Pak Taliban kills 12 troops in northwest

AFP, Peshawar

At least 12 soldiers were killed in an ambush in northwest Pakistan yesterday, government and security officials said, in an attack claimed by the Pakistani Taliban.

Militancy has surged in the border regions with Afghanistan since the return to power of the Afghan Taliban in Kabul in 2021, although yesterday's attack was one of the deadliest in months in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Islamabad accuses neighbouring Afghanistan of failing to expel militants using Afghan territory to launch attacks on Pakistan, an accusation that authorities in Kabul deny.

The Pakistan military said after the ambush early on Saturday that intelligence reports "have unequivocally confirmed physical involvement of Afghan Nationals in these heinous acts".

Pakistan expects the Interim Afghan Government to uphold its responsibilities and deny use of its soil for terrorist activities against Pakistan," it said in a statement.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack in a message on social media.

The group is separate from but closely linked with the Afghan Taliban.

'We're more than our pain'

Miss Palestine to compete on global stage

AFP, Dubai

Nadeen Ayoub, the first Palestinian to compete in Miss Universe, will step onto the stage at the height of one of the most harrowing periods in her people's history, determined to show they are more than headlines of war.

"We're more than our struggle and pain," she told AFP in Dubai, where she is preparing to raise the Palestinian flag at the pageant in Thailand in November.

"Right now, our people need a voice and we don't want our identity to be erased," she said, nearly two years into the Israeli war on the people of Gaza.

Palestinians are also "children who want to live, women who have dreams and aspirations," she said.

Part of the difficulty of electing Miss Palestine is that Palestinians are divided between the occupied West Bank, besieged Gaza and annexed East Jerusalem, while many are refugees in neighbouring countries, living abroad or in Israel.

In 2022, the first Miss Palestine pageant was held online to allow for Palestinians scattered abroad, in Israel and in the territories to participate.

As the first winner of the title, Ayoub has worked on the organisation's philanthropic activities and competed in Miss Earth, an environmentally minded pageant, in 2022. But since the Gaza war erupted in October 2023, she has not participated in any beauty pageants.

Ayoub said she would take any opportunity to speak out for her people. "We must be present on every single international stage. Every single opportunity that we have to talk about Palestine, to show Palestine, we must take it," she said.

Lalon songbird takes final bow

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a week. On September 2, she was admitted to the hospital after a routine dialysis session left her critically unstable. She was shifted to the ICU and placed on ventilation as her condition deteriorated further on Wednesday.

She leaves behind a legacy that transcends generations, rooted in the rich soil of Bangladeshi folk music. Her life, intertwined with Lalon's philosophy, was a testament to music's power to inspire, heal, and elevate the spirit.

Born on December 31, 1954, in Natore and raised in Kushertia, Farida grew up in a cultural environment that nurtured her passion for music.

Her father's encouragement led to her first lessons in classical music. But it was a chance encounter during a Dol Purnima event that changed her life – she met Moksed Ali Shai, a prominent Lalon singer who became her mentor and introduced her to the spiritual world of Lalon's songs and philosophy.

The mystic verses found a perfect interpreter in Farida's voice. Her renditions were not just performances but spiritual exercises, connecting deeply with life,

love, and humanity. Her iconic "Shatyo Bol Shupothey Chol" became emblematic of her journey – a call to walk the path of honesty and sincerity.

Her rise to fame, however, began not with Lalon songs, but with a patriotic anthem – "Ei Padma Ei Meghna" in 1973 – which earned her nationwide recognition. But it was her mastery of Lalon's music that later cemented her place as an icon of Bangladeshi folk music.

Her albums, including "Khachar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi" and "Milon Hobe Koto Dine", have become timeless classics of Baul tradition.

Farida's soulful yet commanding voice drew listeners into the philosophical and existential world of Lalon's teachings while preserving the authenticity of folk culture.

Her contributions extended beyond performance. Through the Farida Parveen Foundation, she nurtured young musicians, teaching them patience, sincerity and dedication. "Our new generation prefers shortcuts to become famous," she once lamented. "They should follow the footsteps of their honourable Gurus to become

sustainable and successful singers."

Her stellar career brought her some of the highest honours in the country and abroad – the Ekushey Padak in 1987, the Bangladesh National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer in 1993, and the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2008.

Farida often spoke about the transformative power of Lalon's songs – how they brought her inner peace and connected her to a larger humanity.

She was a vocal critic of the commercialisation of folk music, warning that its spiritual essence must not be diluted. "We are doing injustice to our traditional folk music in the name of fusion," she had earlier told The Daily Star.

Her final years were spent working on a project to notate and preserve 100 Lalon songs for future generations, and she dreamt of establishing a university dedicated to his philosophy.

Farida Parveen's life was one of devotion, passion, and unshakable faith in the power of music.

She was not just a singer but a custodian of Bangladesh's cultural soul.



Police Officers scuffle with far-right activists during a 'Free speech' march in central London yesterday. More than 100,000 people massed in central London for the march amid growing anti-immigration sentiment in the country.

Lankans outclass Tigers

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9.5 overs.

However, thanks to an 86 run sixth-wicket stand between Shamim Hossain and Jaker Ali, Bangladesh managed to post a respectable total. Shamim remained unbeaten on 42 off 34 deliveries, while Jaker was not out on 41 off 34 balls.

Sri Lanka leg spinner Wanindu Hasaranga took two wickets for 25 runs in his four overs.

Bangladesh struck early with the ball as Mustafizur Rahman had Sri Lanka opener Kusal Mendis nick one behind in the second over. The Tigers could have built more pressure had Mahedi Hasan not dropped Kamil Mishra on just 1 in the fifth over off Shoriful Islam's bowling.

Mishra and opener Pathum Nissanka increased the scoring rate after that, putting together a 95 run second-wicket stand to take Sri Lanka close to victory. Nissanka departed after a 34-ball 50, but Mishra stayed till the end, scoring an unbeaten 46 off 32 balls to take the Lankans over the line with ease.