

# 14-04-2025 : News Bulletin

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## 1. US-China Trade War and Economic Fallout

### 1.0 Intro to Topic

- President Trump's imposition of tariffs on Chinese goods, particularly technology products, has caused a seismic shift in the US-China trade war.
- This has led to market volatility, with concerns of a recession or worse, and a flight to safe haven assets like gold.
- Trump's administration has offered exemptions for some products, creating confusion and raising concerns about US credibility.

### 1.1 Trump's Tariff Rollback

- Trump unexpectedly rolled back tariffs on certain Chinese technology products, causing a market rebound.
- The rollback was announced by US Customs, not directly by Trump.
- This includes products like smartphones and laptops.

### 1.2 Reasons for Rollback

- The US's heavy dependence on China for electronics manufacturing made the tariffs unaffordable for American consumers.
- Public disapproval of Trump's handling of the economy, reaching 56%, influenced the decision.

### 1.3 Further Tariff Plans

- Despite the rollback, Trump maintains that his tariff policy remains in place and intends to introduce new tariffs on semiconductors and other electronics.
- A national security investigation into semiconductors and the electronics supply chain is underway.
- New tariffs are expected within two months.

## **1.4 Economic Consequences**

- The tariffs have created market volatility and trillions of dollars in losses.
- Top banks and billionaire investors like Ray Dalio are predicting a recession or worse, citing potential breakdowns in global relations.
- The dollar has fallen to a six-month low.

## **1.5 China's Strategy**

- Xi Jinping's Southeast Asia tour emphasizes regional stability and investment, contrasting with Trump's unpredictable policies.
- China is looking to deepen its relationships with its largest trading partners in the region (Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia).
- Xi Jinping's statements suggest China does not want to escalate the trade war.

# **2. Russia's Attacks on Ukraine and International Response**

## **2.0 Intro to Topic**

- Russia launched deadly missile attacks on Ukraine on Palm Sunday, killing civilians, including children.
- The attacks sparked international condemnation, with some countries calling for stronger action against Russia.
- Trump's response was notable for downplaying the severity of the attacks and assigning blame to the Biden administration.

## **2.1 Palm Sunday Attacks**

- Missile strikes in Sumy killed 34 people and wounded 117.
- Kiev also faced attacks, including one on an Indian pharmaceutical company's warehouse.
- Ukrainian President Zelenskyy strongly condemned the attacks and called for a global response.

## **2.2 International Reactions**

- European leaders like Macron and Sunak condemned the attacks.
- Trump called the attacks "terrible" and a "mistake," attributing responsibility to the Biden administration.
- Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkov, met with Putin in Russia to discuss a ceasefire.

## **2.3 Proposed Partition of Ukraine**

- Trump's envoy to Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, proposed partitioning Ukraine, similar to post-WWII Germany.
- This proposal was met with strong opposition from Ukraine and Europe.
- Zelenskyy urged Trump to visit Ukraine to see the devastation.

## **2.4 Germany's Potential Military Aid**

- Germany's incoming chancellor, Friedrich Merz, is considering providing Ukraine with Taurus missiles.
- Germany previously hesitated due to concerns about the missiles' range and potential escalation.
- Merz's support is contingent on coordination with European allies.

## **3. US Teenager's Plot to Assassinate President Trump**

### **3.0 Intro to Topic**

- A 17-year-old from Wisconsin, Nikita Kasab, was arrested and charged with murdering his parents.
- The FBI's involvement stems from evidence suggesting the murders were part of a larger plot to assassinate President Trump and overthrow the government.
- The case highlights concerns about the influence of online extremism among youth.

### **3.1 The Murders and Investigation**

- Kasab allegedly killed his parents to obtain funds and resources for his planned assassination.
- Authorities found \$14,000 in cash, jewelry, and a firearm in his possession.
- He faces multiple felony charges, including murder and concealing corpses.

### **3.2 The Assassination Plot**

- Kasab allegedly planned to assassinate President Trump and trigger a political revolution.
- He is linked to the Order of Nine Angels, a neo-Nazi terrorist network.
- He allegedly purchased a drone and explosives to carry out the assassination.

### **3.3 Rise in Youth Violence**

- The case highlights a rise in youth violence in some US cities.
- Social media and smartphones are implicated in radicalization and access to weapons.
- Online extremist groups are actively recruiting and spreading propaganda through various platforms.

## **4. North Korea's New Warship and Regional Arms Race**

### **4.0 Intro to Topic**

- North Korea is building its largest warship yet, estimated to be 140 meters long.
- Satellite images reveal the ship's construction at the Nampo shipyard.
- This development fuels concerns about an escalating regional arms race and North Korea's growing military capabilities.

### **4.1 The New Warship**

- The warship is believed to be capable of carrying ballistic missiles, potentially including hypersonic missiles.
- The ship's construction suggests a close collaboration with Russia, which is providing North Korea with military technology in return for troops fighting on their side.
- Experts believe the warship is a statement of North Korea's growing power and military intentions.

### **4.2 Russia's Role**

- North Korea and Russia have strengthened relations since the meeting between Kim Jong-un and Putin in June 2024.
- North Korea is sending troops to fight alongside Russian forces in Ukraine.
- Russia is providing North Korea with advanced military technology in return.

### **4.3 Regional Implications**

- South Korea and Japan are likely to increase their defense spending and military cooperation with the US in response.
- The US is expanding its Indo-Pacific footprint, including establishing a new war command in Japan.
- The arms race adds another layer to the complicated geopolitical landscape of the region.

## **5. India's New Laser Weapon System**

### **5.0 Intro to Topic**

- India successfully test-fired a domestically developed laser weapon capable of neutralizing aerial threats.
- The test involved shooting down both a single drone and a swarm of drones using the 30-kilowatt directed energy weapon.
- This puts India in an elite club of nations possessing this type of technology.

## **5.1 Laser Weapon Test**

- The DRDO conducted the successful test of a 30-kilowatt directed energy weapon in Andhra Pradesh.
- The weapon employs cameras and sensors to accurately target and destroy drones.
- The technology offers a significant advantage over traditional anti-drone systems.

## **5.2 Advantages of Laser Weapons**

- Laser weapons offer significant advantages over traditional anti-drone systems due to their energy efficiency and ability to engage multiple targets simultaneously without overheating.
- The system has demonstrated its ability to effectively counter drone threats.
- The DRDO plans to develop larger laser weapons for use on warships and aircraft.

## **5.3 Strategic Implications**

- The development of this laser weapon system is a major boost to India's defense capabilities.
- This development is likely to increase India's capability in defending itself from drone incursions, particularly those coming from Pakistan.
- This places India among an elite group of nations - USA, China, and Russia - with such weaponry.

# **6. The Booming Doomsday Bunker Industry**

## **6.0 Intro to Topic**

- The market for doomsday bunkers and luxury survival shelters is experiencing rapid growth, projected to reach \$3 billion by 2030.
- The demand is fueled by a range of concerns, including nuclear war, pandemics, financial collapse, and civil unrest.
- High-net-worth individuals are leading the demand, investing millions of dollars in sophisticated shelters with advanced features.

## **6.1 Luxury Bunkers**

- Billionaires are building elaborate underground bunkers and tunnels connected to their homes.
- These bunkers include amenities like gyms, home theaters, and greenhouses.
- Some bunkers incorporate security features such as secret passages and shooting ranges.

## **6.2 Market Growth and Demand**

- The market for doomsday bunkers is estimated to exceed \$1 billion by 2030.

- There is growing demand for both luxury and more affordable panic rooms.
- Various factors, such as pandemics and geopolitical instability, are driving the market.

### **6.3 Notable Individuals Investing in Bunkers**

- Individuals such as Mark Zuckerberg, Peter Thiel, Bill Gates, Kim Kardashian, and Tom Cruise have either built or are investing in doomsday shelters and bunkers.
- These bunkers are built to withstand various threats, and include advanced features like air filtration and water purification systems.
- The construction of these bunkers showcases the willingness of individuals with significant wealth to invest in securing their future.

## **7. International News Briefs**

### **7.0 Intro to Topic**

- A collection of shorter news items from around the world.

### **7.1 El Salvador's President and US Immigration**

- President Trump hosted the president of El Salvador, referring to him as a key US ally.
- The US is sending immigrants to a notorious Salvadoran prison.
- Trump claims the deportees are gang members, but some have been mistakenly deported.

### **7.2 Indian Fugitive Arrested in Belgium**

- Indian diamond merchant Mehul Choksi was arrested in Belgium.
- He fled India in 2018 and is accused of defrauding the Punjab National Bank.
- India has requested his extradition.

### **7.3 Gabon's Presidential Election**

- Gabon's opposition leader won the presidential election with 90% of the vote.
- He ended decades of rule by the Bongo family.
- He promised to return Gabon to democratic rule.

### **7.4 Maldives' Smoking Ban**

- The Maldives is planning to make it illegal for anyone born after January 2007 to buy cigarettes.
- This aims to effectively prevent future generations from smoking.

## **7.5 Katy Perry's Space Flight**

- Pop star Katy Perry completed an all-woman space flight with Blue Origin.
- It was the first all-woman space crew since 1963.
- The journey lasted approximately 11 minutes.

## **7.6 Pakistan Cricket League**

- Pakistan's cricket league began on Friday.
- James Vince, an English batter, received a hairdryer as a gift from his franchise after a match.

## **7.7 Vantage Shots: News in Brief**

- Hundreds celebrated Palm Sunday in Jerusalem.
- Water fights took place in Bangkok during the Songkran festival.
- A rare blue-gold colored diamond was expected to fetch around \$50 million at auction.
- The Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1988 was noted.