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## International News

### US-China Relations:

#### China seeks "healthy development" of trade ties:

China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao stated that China aims to bring commercial ties with the U.S. back to a state of healthy and sustainable development. He emphasized that a "forced decoupling" is impossible and that both sides remain important economic partners, calling for "equal dialogue and consultations."

**US tariffs on China:** The current overall tariff level imposed by the U.S. on China remains "still high" at 53.6%. China reiterated that it does not want a trade war but is not afraid of one.

**Trade deal progress:** US President Donald Trump stated that a trade deal with China is nearing completion, with China expected to supply rare earths and the U.S. to allow students.

### Middle East & Conflict Zones:

**US on Israeli strikes in Syria:** The US State Department stated it did not support recent Israeli strikes in Syria, expressing displeasure and actively engaging with both Israel and Syria to de-escalate tensions and seek a lasting agreement.

**Attack on Gaza's Catholic Church:** Israeli strikes reportedly hit the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza, the only remaining Catholic church, killing three people and injuring nine, including the priest. The Israel Defense Forces are reviewing the incident.

**Slovenia to ban Israeli ministers:** Slovenia plans to declare Israeli Ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich "persona non grata" due to their role in the "unbearable situation" in Gaza, becoming the first EU member state to do so.

**Russia-Ukraine ceasefire:** The White House warned Russia would face "very steep" tariffs if it does not agree to a ceasefire with Ukraine within 50 days.

**New PM in Ukraine:** Ukraine's parliament voted to approve Yulia Svyrydenko's nomination as the country's new prime minister.

**Iraq shopping mall fire:** Nearly 50 people were killed and injured in a shopping center fire in eastern Iraq.

### Global Politics & Diplomacy:

**US House approves \$9 billion cut to public broadcasting and foreign aid:** The US House of Representatives gave final approval to President Trump's request to claw back about \$9 billion from public broadcasting and foreign aid programs.

**India welcomes US designation of TRF as terrorist outfit:** India welcomed the U.S. designating The Resistance Front (TRF), a Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) proxy, as a global terrorist organization, describing it as a "strong affirmation" of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation.

**UK-Germany Friendship Treaty:** The UK and Germany signed a landmark "Friendship and Cooperation Treaty" aimed at strengthening bilateral ties across defense, foreign policy, economic cooperation, and migration.





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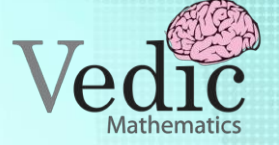
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**G20 Meetings in South Africa:** The Fourth G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies and Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meetings, as well as the Second Climate and Environment Sustainability Working Group Meeting, are concluding in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, South Africa.

#### Other International News:

##### **British Government to lower voting age to 16:**

The British government is planning to lower the voting age to 16 by the next general election.

##### **Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) ban lifted by UK:**

The United Kingdom lifted its five-year ban on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

**Uruguay cattle fund investigation:** An Uruguayan court ordered pre-trial detention for the founder of a collapsed suspected Ponzi scheme involving cattle investment.

#### MCQS

##### **1. What is China's stated goal for its commercial ties with the U.S. according to Commerce Minister Wang Wentao?**

- a) To initiate a full decoupling.
- b) To increase tariffs to match U.S. levels.
- c) To achieve healthy and sustainable development.
- d) To halt all trade until tariffs are removed.

**Answer:** c) To achieve healthy and sustainable development.

China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao explicitly stated that China aims to bring commercial ties with the U.S. back to a state of healthy and sustainable development, emphasizing that "forced decoupling" is impossible.

##### **2. Which EU member state plans to declare Israeli Ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich "persona non grata"?**

- a) Germany
- b) France
- c) Slovenia
- d) Italy

**Answer:** c) Slovenia

Explanation: Slovenia plans to declare Israeli Ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich "persona non grata" due to their role in the "unbearable situation" in Gaza, making it the first EU member state to do so.

##### **3. Who was approved as Ukraine's new Prime Minister by its parliament on July 18, 2025?**

- a) Denys Shmygal
- b) Rustem Umerov
- c) Yulia Svyrydenko
- d) Volodymyr Zelenskyy

**Answer:** c) Yulia Svyrydenko

Explanation: Ukraine's parliament voted to approve Yulia Svyrydenko's nomination as the country's new prime minister.

##### **4. What action did the US House of Representatives take regarding public broadcasting and foreign aid?**

- a) Approved a \$9 billion increase in funding.
- b) Gave final approval to a \$9 billion cut.
- c) Deferred a decision on funding.
- d) Allocated additional funds specifically for foreign aid.

**Answer:** b) Gave final approval to a \$9 billion cut.

Explanation: The US House of Representatives gave final approval to President Trump's request to claw back about \$9 billion from public broadcasting and foreign aid programs.







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**5. Which country recently lifted its five-year ban on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)?**

- a) United States
- b) Germany
- c) United Kingdom
- d) European Union

**Answer:** c) United Kingdom

Explanation: The United Kingdom lifted its five-year ban on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). (Note: The EU had also lifted its ban earlier in the year).

**6. Which religious institution in Gaza was reportedly hit by Israeli strikes, causing casualties?**

- a) Al-Azhar Mosque
- b) Church of the Holy Family
- c) Great Mosque of Gaza
- d) St. Porphyrius Church

**Answer:** b) Church of the Holy Family

Explanation: Israeli strikes reportedly hit the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza, the only remaining Catholic church, killing three people and injuring nine, including the priest.

**7. Where are the G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies and Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meetings concluding?**

- a) Cape Town, South Africa
- b) KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, South Africa
- c) Johannesburg, South Africa
- d) Durban, South Africa

**Answer:** b) KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, South Africa

Explanation: The Fourth G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies and Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meetings, as well as the Second Climate and Environment Sustainability Working Group Meeting, are

concluding in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, South Africa.

**8. According to the news, what is the current overall tariff level imposed by the U.S. on China?**

- a) 10%
- b) 25%
- c) 53.6%
- d) 100%

**Answer:** c) 53.6%

Explanation: The current overall tariff level imposed by the U.S. on China remains "still high" at 53.6%.

**9. What significant electoral reform is the British government planning?**

- a) Introducing compulsory voting.
- b) Lowering the voting age to 16.
- c) Raising the voting age to 21.
- d) Abolishing postal voting.

**Answer:** b) Lowering the voting age to 16.

Explanation: The British government is planning to lower the voting age to 16 by the next general election.

**10. Why did India welcome the U.S. designation of The Resistance Front (TRF) as a global terrorist organization?**

- a) It signifies new trade agreements with the U.S.
- b) It is seen as a strong affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation.
- c) It is a step towards resolving the Kashmir dispute.
- d) It indicates a joint military exercise with the U.S.

**Answer:** b) It is seen as a strong affirmation of India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation.

Explanation: India welcomed the U.S. designating The Resistance Front (TRF) as a





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