



218 people dead in Dominican nightclub roof collapse disaster



GLOBAL WEATHER table with columns for location and weather conditions like SNY, LC, LR, HR, TDS.

US says tariffs on China 145%; EU halts retaliation for 90 days

White House says 125% is over and above 20% already imposed by Trump earlier

WASHINGTON

THE US-China trade war intensified Thursday, sending the global economy into unknown territory and dampening relief after President Donald Trump's earlier climbdown from a wider tariff onslaught against the rest of the world.

The White House clarified that Trump's big hike in tariffs on China announced 24 hours earlier had actually taken his total levies this year on imports from the world's second biggest economy to a staggering total of 145 per cent — not the previously reported 125 per cent.

This was because latest tariff hike comes on top of a 20 percent tariff already imposed earlier. The superpower confrontation threw a deep shadow over jubilation that Trump was retreating from threats to impose punishing tariffs on dozens of other countries — everywhere from European Union allies to Asian manufacturing hubs like Vietnam and even tiny, remote ocean islands.

Trump maintained a blanket 10 percent tariff on most countries. However, his retreat from more damaging levies against European countries prompted the EU to pause plans for its own retaliation. Amid relief, Asian and European stock markets rocketed, with Tokyo closing 9.1 per-



Containers with Yang Ming Marine Transport Corporation stacked up at the Port of Los Angeles with the Long Beach International Gateway Bridge seen in the background on Wednesday | AP

cent higher.

But realisation that Trump's splashy about-face on Wednesday masked the reality of a surging trade war with China dampened spirits.

The Dow Jones in New York fell more than three percent and the S&P dropped 4.5 percent in morning trading. Gold prices hit a record high as the US dollar crumbled.

Amid questions over how far

Trump is ready to push, the European Union welcomed the US president's partial row-back on his original threat to impose 20 percent tariffs against the bloc.

The 27-nation grouping responded with its own olive branch, suspending for 90 days tariffs on 20 billion euros' worth of US goods that had been greenlit in retaliation to duties on steel and aluminum. AFP



European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas speaks during a press conference at the end of the EU-Ukraine Association Council at the European Council building in Brussels | AFP

Defence chiefs from 30 countries meet for talks on Ukraine peace

so-called coalition of the willing — comes after a visit to Kyiv last week by senior British and French military officers. It's expected to work on fleshing out an agreement reached at an earlier meeting between leaders.

John Healey, Britain's defense minister, opening the meeting said, "We must put more pressure on (Russia's) President Putin to end his war." He said 200 military planners from 30 countries were working to develop plans for deepening European involvement in Ukraine. "We must be ready for when that peace comes. That's why the work of this coalition is so vital. We're stepping up. We're serious," Healey said.

Ukrainian government officials and military analysts have said that Russian forces are preparing to launch a fresh military offensive in

Ukraine in the coming weeks to maximise pressure on Kyiv and strengthen the Kremlin's negotiating position in ceasefire talks.

As usual with coalition gatherings, the United States will not take part, but the success of the coalition's operation hinges on US backup with airpower or other military assistance. However, the Trump administration has made no public commitment to provide support.

The Netherlands, Sweden and Finland underlined the "crucial" role of the United States. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said ministers were "trying to keep the United States on board." The ceasefire is likely to be monitored with technical means such as surveillance cameras and satellites. Any troops doing this would have to be acceptable to both sides. AP

BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S defence minister on Thursday urged military leaders from around 30 countries to press ahead with plans to deploy troops to Ukraine to police any future peace agreement with Russia.

The meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels — the first between defense ministers representing the

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BRANCH SHIFTING advertisement for Muthoot Finance in Coimbatore - Annur.

BRANCH SHIFTING advertisement for Muthoot Finance in Madathukulam.

Schedule 'A' advertisement for Aditya Birla Capital Limited regarding a sale of immovable property.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED advertisement with E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable properties.

ANAND RATHI WEALTH LIMITED advertisement featuring financial statements and company information.