

Trump gives Russia **50** days to resolve **Ukraine war**

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● **Moscow has unleashed record waves of drone and missile strikes over the past few weeks**

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump on Monday told Russia to resolve its Ukraine war within 50 days or face massive new economic sanctions as he laid out plans for new infusions of weaponry for Kyiv.

“We’re very, very unhappy” with Russia, Trump told reporters as he met with NATO chief Mark Rutte in the White House.

“We’re going to be doing very severe tariffs if we don’t have a deal in 50 days, tariffs at about 100 percent,” said Trump, adding that they would be “secondary tariffs” that

target Russia’s remaining trade partners -- thereby seeking to cripple Moscow’s ability to survive already sweeping Western sanctions.

Trump and Rutte also unveiled a deal under which the NATO military alliance would buy arms from the United States -- including Patriot anti-missile batteries -- and then distribute them to Ukraine to help it battle Russia’s invasion.

“This is billions of dollars worth of military equipment is going to be purchased from the United States, going to NATO... and that’s going to be quickly distributed to the battlefield,” Trump said.

Rutte, a former Dutch prime minister, said Ukraine would get “massive numbers” of weapons under the deal.

Trump launched a bid at rapprochement with Putin shortly after starting his second term in January, as he sought to honor his election

campaign promise to end the Ukraine war within 24 hours.

His pivot towards Putin sparked fears in Kyiv that he was about to sell out Ukraine, especially after Trump and his team berated Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office in February.

‘Assassin’

But Trump has shown growing anger and frustration with Putin in recent weeks as the Russian leader, instead of halting his three-year invasion, instead stepped up attacks. Trump added of Putin on Monday: “I don’t want to say he’s an assassin, but he’s a tough guy.”

Last week, Trump had teased an announcement on Monday on Russia. He then announced on Sunday that he would send vital Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine to help it fend off escalating barrages of Russian attacks.

Washington has also U-turned from an announcement earlier this month that it would pause some arms deliveries to Kyiv.

Rutte’s visit to the White House is the first since the former Dutch prime minister described Trump as “daddy” at a NATO summit in The Hague in June.

Moscow has unleashed record waves of drone and missile strikes over the past few weeks, with the number of Ukrainian civilians killed or wounded in June hitting a three-year high, according to UN figures.

Trump’s announcement on Monday came as his special envoy Keith Kellogg arrived in Kyiv to meet Zelensky.

Zelensky hailed the “pro-

ductive meeting”, saying they had discussed “strengthening Ukraine’s air defense, joint production, and procurement of defense weapons in collaboration with Europe.”

The Ukrainian leader also said he was “grateful to President Trump for the important signals of support and the positive decisions for both our countries.”

‘Better late than never’

One Ukrainian soldier deployed in the war-scarred east of the country, who identified himself by his call sign Grizzly, welcomed Trump’s promise of fresh air defense systems.

“Better late than never,” he told AFP.

“Because while we are here defending the front line, our families are unprotected. Thanks to the Patriots they are giving us, our families will be safer,” the 29-year-old added.

Russian forces meanwhile said on Monday they had captured new territory in eastern Ukraine with the seizure of two villages, one in the Donetsk region and another in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Its forces also killed at least three civilians in the eastern Kharkiv and Sumy regions on Monday, regional Ukrainian officials announced.

Zelensky wants economy minister as new Ukraine PM in shakeup

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday that he was recommending economy minister Yulia Svyrydenko become prime minister in a significant political shakeup for the war-scarred country.

The announcement could herald a wider reshuffle in the government, three years and half into the Russian invasion.

“I have proposed that Yuliia Svyrydenko lead the government of Ukraine and significantly renew its work,” Zelensky wrote on social media, posting a picture of the two.

“I look forward to the presentation of the new government’s action plan in the near future,” Zelensky added.

Svyrydenko, 39, gained prominence this year during fraught negotiations around a rare minerals deal with the United States that nearly derailed ties between Kyiv and its most important military ally.

If the change is approved, she



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (L) attends a meeting with Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko (R) in Kyiv

would replace Denys Shmygal, who became prime minister in 2020, in pre-war times.

“The government needs a change because people are exhausted,” said Tymofiy Mylovanov, a former economy minister who worked with Svyrydenko.

Mylovanov, who now heads the Kyiv School of Economics, said the changes would likely bring “a sort of freshness” after

three and a half years of war.

Zelensky is also considering naming Defence Minister Rustem Umerov as Ukraine’s ambassador to Washington, he said at a press conference last week.

Zelensky met with Umerov over the weekend, after which he said that “Ukraine needs more positive dynamics in relations with the United States

and at the same time new steps in managing the defense sector of our state.”

Svyrydenko, who is also a deputy prime minister, was appointed to manage Ukraine’s struggling economy months before the Kremlin launched its full-scale assault in February 2022.



Ukraine’s economy shrank nearly 30% in 2022 but has since shown resilience, driven by foreign aid, agricultural exports, and digital services. However, full recovery hinges on peace and reconstruction.

Small plane crashes at London regional airport



AFP | London, United Kingdom

A small plane has crashed at a London regional airport, the police and Southend London airport announced Sunday, forcing its closure.

Video footage showed a 12-metre plane in flames with a plume of black smoke at Southend-on-Sea, an airport east of London.

“We are working with all emergency services at the scene now and that work will be ongoing for several hours,” said a statement from Essex

police, describing it as a “serious incident”.

Police said they had been alerted a little before 4:00 pm local time (1500 GMT). They evacuated a nearby golf club and rugby club as a precaution, they added.

A statement from London Southend Airport confirmed there had been “a serious incident” Sunday afternoon.

“We are working closely with the local authorities and will be able to provide more information as soon as possible,” it added.