

Turkey revokes licence of Iran's Bank Mellat

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Turkey has revoked the licence of Iran's Bank Mellat, a semi-private financial entity that has been subject to Western sanctions for years, the official gazette said early yesterday.

The decision was announced some two weeks after Washington slapped sanctions on a Turkish bank over alleged ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

although it was not immediately clear whether the two issues were related. The move follows a decision by Turkey's banking regulator over the Tehran-based bank, which provides financial support to Iran's government and is subject to US, EU and UK sanctions, according to OpenSanctions, an open-source database of information on sanctions-hit entities. The Iranian government is also the largest shareholder of the bank, it said.

US sanctions merit Russian 'military deterrence', Medvedev says

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia's response to new US sanctions should involve "military deterrence", the country's former president Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday.

Medvedev, a senior ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and one of Moscow's most prominent anti-Western hawks, did not

elaborate on his remarks.

"Even across the ocean, they hear only the language of direct military deterrence, and that is the language in which we should respond to Russophobic atrocities, such as the law of the dead terrorist, Graham," Medvedev, who now serves as deputy chair of Russia's Security Council, said on Telegram.



CNN, MS NOW, Politico denied access to White House grounds

AFP | Washington, United States

The White House made good yesterday on President Donald Trump's vow to deny CNN, MS NOW and Politico access to the presidential mansion as punishment for reporting what he calls "fake news."

The three news outlets denounced the ban as a violation of the US constitution and vowed to keep reporting on the US government.

They are expected to take the bans to court to regain access to the White House, fighting back as Trump expands his battle against mainstream news outlets that he detests

and routinely slams as crooked.

"The White House belongs to the American people and the decisions made inside are funded with our tax dollars," MS NOW, formerly known as MSNBC, said Saturday on X.

In its own statement, CNN said "we have a right under the US Constitution to do our reporting without hindrance or interference from the government, and this ban is an illegal assault on this fundamental right."

Reached for comment, the White House referred AFP to President Donald Trump's comments Friday announcing the bans.

China vice premier to visit US ahead of Trump-Xi summit

AFP | Beijing, China

Vice Premier He Lifeng, China's top negotiator for trade, will visit the United States for talks ahead of a summit between presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump, state media said yesterday.

The leaders of the world's two biggest economies are due to meet at the White House on September 24 in a bid to ease tensions over trade, technology and broader strategic issues.

While both sides have maintained a tariff truce for nearly a year, they have yet to secure a lasting agreement.

He will lead Vice Premier He Lifeng

a Chinese delegation to the United States from September 19 to 23 for consultations on "economic and trade issues of mutual concern", the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing the commerce ministry.

The talks will be guided by the "important consensus" reached by the two leaders, according to the ministry.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said this week he would meet him over the weekend.

Bessent suggested the discussions could also touch on Iran, whose close economic ties with China have long been a source of friction between Washington and Beijing.



Denmark hails 'binding' Greenland deal with Trump

AFP | Copenhagen, Denmark

Denmark yesterday hailed a "binding" deal announced by US President Donald Trump to give Washington "permanent control" over Greenland's security and bar Russian and Chinese bases from the Arctic territory.

Since returning to the White House in January 2025, Trump has repeatedly insisted that Washington needed to control Greenland for strategic reasons, alarming NATO ally Denmark and sparking fierce pushback from the alliance.

Denmark and Greenland -- an autonomous Danish territory -- both hailed the agreement and said they would sign it on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York next week.

"A long period of uncertainty will hopefully be replaced by a binding agreement that strengthens security in the Arctic and North Atlantic," Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said. Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen



said in a social media post on Saturday.

The deal respected Denmark's "red lines" and was "important" in light of a changed security situation,

he said.

'Permanent control'

While the terms are still unclear, Denmark maintains that its sovereignty remains intact.

Prime Minister Mette



Frederiksen said the agreement with Washington "recognises the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom and the Greenlandic people's right to self-determination".

It was "good for NATO and Europe", she said. Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said the deal "recognises Greenland's interests" and "strengthens" its security.

Trump hailed it as an "'Infinite Life' Agreement, there is no end!". Washington would immediately start building up a large military presence in the territory, he added.

"From now on, no US adversary can EVER have a base in Greenland, have a military presence in Greenland, or make sensitive investments in Greenland, without our express written approval."

While Trump presented the deal as a major triumph, Danish commentators said he had likely gained little.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen

Trump signs bill authorizing sweeping Russia sanctions

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump has signed a bill authorizing new sanctions designed to pressure Russia over its war in Ukraine, after Congress gave its approval following months of delay.

Washington is pushing to revive a mediated path towards ending the conflict as Moscow intensifies attacks against Ukraine, even though much of its attention -- and munitions -- are focused on the ongoing war against Iran.

The legislation, which US lawmakers approved this week and Trump signed on Friday, takes aim at Russia's energy and defense sectors, alongside President Vladimir Putin and other senior officials.

It also targets Moscow's so-called shadow fleet of tankers used to evade Western sanctions, and allows Trump the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100 percent on major buyers of Russian oil and gas.

That could potentially cover China and India, and furthers efforts to cut off revenue financing Moscow's war.



for the war.

The Republican-led House of Representatives passed the package by a 262-159 vote on Wednesday.

The bill would also target com-

panies and foreign actors supporting Russia's military, and extend sanctions involving Iran.

But the broad powers to impose tariffs sparked an unusual split among Democrats, who largely support Ukraine but have

resisted handing Trump wider authority over trade.



US approves potential \$2.7 bn air defense sale to Ukraine

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States approved a potential \$2.68 billion sale of air defense equipment to Ukraine on Friday, after Kyiv made repeated pleas for support to fend off Russian attacks.

The State Department said in a congressional notification that it made "a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Ukraine" for buying air defense development upgrades and related equipment and services.

Kyiv has requested to buy equipment including multiple types of missiles, launchers, counter-drone radars and trailers, according to the State Department.

The proposed sale is subject to congressional review.

"If the proposed purchase is concluded, Ukraine would finance it using a combination of European contributions and US Foreign Military Financing appropriated during the prior Administration," the State Department said.

US President Donald Trump said this month he would ask Europeans to repay the American aid provided to Ukraine under the administration of his predecessor Joe Biden.

Trump has long demanded that Europeans shoulder more of the cost of Western support for Ukraine.

Friday's proposal, which the State Department estimated would cost \$2.68 billion, came as Trump signed a bill authorizing new sanctions to squeeze Russia.