

Trump says medical check-up went 'perfectly'

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said a routine medical check-up on Tuesday had gone "perfectly," as his health faces growing scrutiny ahead of his 80th birthday.

"Everything checked out PERFECTLY," Trump said on his Truth Social network as he drove back to the White House from Walter Reed Medical Center near Washington.

Four dead after train hits school bus in Belgium

AFP | Buggenhout, Belgium

Four people, including two children, were killed when a train hit a school minibus carrying in northern Belgium yesterday, the country's deputy prime minister said.

"A tragic collision between a train and a school bus took place in Buggenhout this morning. Four people have been killed, including two children," Maxime Prevot wrote on X.

Prime Minister Bart De Wever posted that he was "deeply moved by the horrific accident ... My thoughts go out to the affected families".

Rubio revives 'Quad' with new Asia projects after questions on US

Signed by the United States, India, Australia and Japan

AFP | New Delhi, India

The United States, India, Australia and Japan announced new maritime and critical minerals cooperation yesterday, reviving a forum following questions over the US commitment and disagreement on Iran.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio took part in the meeting in New Delhi, 10 days after President Donald Trump paid a friendly state visit to China.

Meeting his counterparts in the Indian capital, Rubio said the Quad comprised countries "who share strong values -- strong, vibrant democracies" and have "many aligned inter-



Quad foreign ministers met in New Delhi (L-R): Australia's Penny Wong, India's S. Jaishankar, Japan's Toshimitsu Motegi and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio



Unlike a formal military alliance such as NATO, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has no mutual defence treaty or permanent secretariat, functioning instead through regular summits, naval exercises and strategic cooperation.

ests".

The Quad said in a joint statement members would together mobilise \$20 billion in government and private money to strengthen critical mineral supply chains, including by identifying projects in the four countries. It was unclear if that would be entirely new funding.

The four powers said they would also work together on two maritime initiatives -- one that combines their surveillance capabilities, and another that will provide enhanced real-time information to commercial traf-

fic at sea.

In a first, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the Quad was cooperating on assisting port development in Fiji -- a key island nation in the South Pacific, where China has made a concerted push for greater influence.

"We recognise our obligation -- our responsibility -- to provide real choices, particularly as strategic circumstances in our region are deteriorating," Wong said.

The Quad in a statement also set a goal of connecting South

Pacific islands through undersea cables by the end of the year, integrating them economically to the four democracies rather than China.

Reacting to the meeting, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said that cooperation "should not be directed against any third party".

"We also do not support exclusive cliques or bloc confrontations," she told reporters.

Trump has been dismissive of major allies, repeatedly saying they unfairly burden the United States financially.

Poland, Britain to sign defence treaty

AFP | Warsaw

Poland and the United Kingdom will sign a defence treaty in London today, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Tuesday.

"This is a historic moment because, after having signed a treaty in Nancy with the French Republic, Poland will sign this treaty with the United Kingdom tomorrow," Tusk told reporters in Warsaw.

The security and defence pact, which Tusk will sign with his British counterpart Keir Starmer, paves the way for joint military exercises and information-sharing, and will also cover cooperation in cyber and health security, according to the Polish government.

Poland -- an EU and NATO member state -- shares its eastern border with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

But that geography means instability has become a reality for the former Warsaw Pact country, Tusk said.

"Certainly not for a month, but for years, given the neighbourhood," he added. As a result, Poland's defence pacts with European countries, alongside its alliance with the United States, are designed to guarantee "total security", he added.

Poland, the most populous country on NATO's eastern flank, spends the most in the alliance on defence -- more than 4.8 percent of its gross domestic product this year alone.



A massive 122 kWh battery offers a range of over 530 kilometres and weighs 2.26 tonnes. With fast charging, the vehicle can reach an 80% charge from 10% in 20 to 25 minutes

Ferrari unveils 'Luce', its first fully electric car

AFP | Rome, Italy

Italian luxury carmaker Ferrari has unveiled its first fully electric model, the Luce, belatedly joining rivals like Porsche and Lamborghini to offer clean-energy driving thrills.

But the Luce -- Italian for "Light" -- has yet to win over investors, with Ferrari shares the worst performers on the Milan stock exchange Tuesday, tumbling six percent following a presentation of the new vehicle in Rome.

Renowned for its powerful engines, the prestigious sports car manufacturer already sells nearly half of its cars in hybrid versions. Yet the brand with the prancing horse logo took several

years before deciding to throw its hat into the all-electric ring.

The five-seat Luce -- which analysts believe could be priced upwards of 700,000 euros (\$815,000) -- boasts a top speed of over 310 kilometres per hour (190 miles per hour), accelerating to 100 kph in 2.5 seconds, according to Ferrari.

With a massive 122 kWh battery, it offers a range of over 530 kilometres and weighs 2.26 tonnes. With fast charging, the vehicle can reach an 80 percent charge from 10 percent in 20 to 25 minutes, the company claims.

The

car is only the second Ferrari model with four doors in the company's history, after the Purosangue SUV, and the first five-seater for a brand better known for its sleek two-seaters.

"This new model carries into the future the values that make Ferrari instantly recognisable all over the world," Ferrari chairman John Elkann said.

While the brand developed many of the components in-house, the Luce's design was entrusted to the LoveFrom

collective of Jony Ive, who designed many of Apple's most iconic products, and industrial designer Marc Newson.

Ferrari describes its new electric vehicle as a "glass house", with headlights that are invisible when switched off, and a rear end reminiscent of famous models such as the 360 Modena.

Built in a brand-new factory in Maranello, northern Italy, the first cars are scheduled for delivery toward the end of this year.

Not so fast

Investors are not yet convinced by Ferrari's shift to electric, which comes as other carmakers have hit the brakes on expanding their electric ranges due to slower takeup than they hoped for.

"We maintain the view that an electric model with a high price tag... will not generate significant volumes" capable of bolstering Ferrari's earnings, Equita analysts wrote in a research note Tuesday.

Banca Akros analysts were more positive, noting that even with the risk of margin di-

lution, "we believe that the extremely high price (over 700,000 euros after customisation) more than offsets this dilution, with the Luce already expected to be profitable."

Akros noted that Ferrari's chief executive Benedetto Vignola has said he expects half of the Luce orders to come from new clients.

Ferrari scaled back its electric ambitions at the end of 2025, projecting that electric models would account for 20 percent of its lineup in 2030, down from its previous target of 40 percent.

