

# Trump firm as China warns of tariffs war

AAP

WASHINGTON: Unwilling to yield, President Donald Trump and China's government escalated their trade clash yesterday, with Beijing vowing to "counterattack with great strength" if Trump follows through on threats to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods.

Trump made his out-of-the-blue move when China threatened to retaliate for the first round of tariffs planned by the United States.

But for someone who has long fashioned himself as a master negotiator, Trump left it unclear whether he was

bluffing or willing to enter a protracted trade war.

"They aren't going to bully him into backing down," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser who is now a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation.

He said the Chinese "are going to have to make concessions – period."

The White House sent mixed signals as financial markets slid from investor concern about a significant trade fight. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC he was "cautiously optimistic" that the US and China could reach an agreement before any tariffs are implemented but added,

## The Chinese are going to have to make concessions

STEPHEN MOORE

"there is the potential of a trade war."

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said the US was "not in a trade war," adding, "China is the problem. Blame China, not Trump."

Trump's latest proposal in-

tensified what was already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle for more than a half century.

The US bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports.

The US sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

Global financial markets have fallen sharply as the world's two biggest economies squared off – the Dow Jones industrial average sank 572 points on Friday. Trump told

advisers on Thursday he was unhappy with China's decision to tax \$50 billion in American products in response to a US move to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods.

China said negotiations were impossible under the circumstances.

But Trump officials said the president and his team remained in contact with President Xi Jinping.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the two sides remained in "routine contact."

In Beijing, a Commerce Ministry spokesman said China doesn't want a trade war – but isn't afraid to fight one.

## Royals to visit Sydney

UK: Prince Harry and fiancée Meghan Markle have revealed their first foreign tour as husband and wife will be to the Invictus Games in Sydney, in October.

The news was released yesterday as the couple met British athletes who are vying for a spot in the international sporting event. The pair visited the University of Bath's sports training village, with Meghan chatting with athletes.

"She told me she had never been to Australia but was going to this year's event and really looking forward to being there with Harry," said Michael Mellon, a sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball competitor.

Harry is the founder and patron of the Invictus Games, which is the world's only global sporting event exclusively for wounded, injured and sick armed forces veterans.

## US targets Putin circle

WASHINGTON: The United States has struck at the heart of President Vladimir Putin's inner circle, imposing sanctions on seven of Russia's most influential oligarchs and stoking a diplomatic crisis that some have dubbed a new Cold War.

Those hit include metals magnate Oleg Deripaska, described as operating for the Russian government, as well as Alexei Miller, director of state-owned energy giant Gazprom. Any assets they hold in areas under US jurisdiction could now be frozen.

Also on the list is Kirill Shmalov, a billionaire reported to be Putin's son-in-law.

"The United States is taking these actions in response to the totality of the Russian government's ongoing and increasingly brazen pattern of malign activity across the world," a senior official told reporters.

## Fake Grenfell victim jailed

LONDON: A judge has sentenced a fraudster to four and a half years in prison for posing as a survivor of the Grenfell Tower fire in order to collect money and donations.

Joyce Msokeri, 47, had falsely claimed that her husband and sister-in-law had died in the west London blaze that killed 71 people in 2017.

She lived miles away and was not married.

Msokeri claimed around \$A34,800 in cash donations and goods including electronics, handbags and hotel costs.

Authorities say she could have taken more than \$A170,000 had she not been caught.

Judge Michael Grieve chastised Msokeri, saying that her "greed" in taking advantage of the tragedy "was insatiable".

Her story began to crumble when she was unable to give the number of her alleged Grenfell apartment.



Palestinian protesters chant slogans next to burning tyres during clashes with Israeli troops along Gaza's border with Israel on Friday

Picture: AP

# Israel border remains a tinderbox

JACK KHOURY

MIDDLE EAST: Israeli forces are preparing for further clashes today after 10 Palestinians – including a 16-year-old boy – were killed and 400 others were injured along the Gaza Strip border.

Palestinians burned mounds of tyres and threw stones at sol-

diers over the border fence, who responded with volleys of tear gas and live fire. Israel said there were also attempts to break through the barrier.

Thousands of protesters – estimated at 20,000 – gathered in locations near the border east of Khan Yunis, in the south of the blockaded Palestinian enclave, and east of Gaza City, among

other spots. The number of protesters, however, was lower than last week, when a demonstration by tens of thousands led to clashes in which Israeli forces killed 19 Palestinians on March 30.

Hamas's leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, hailed the protests and condemned Israel's blockade of Gaza.

"They said Gaza would give up its principles, its project of liberation and dream of return if they starve it, but Gaza is coming out today," he said.

Israel's military said "attempts were made to infiltrate into Israel under the cover of a smokescreen". It also said explosive devices and firebombs were thrown, adding that sol-

diers opened fire "in accordance with the rules of engagement".

Israeli army Brigadier General Ronen Manelis defined the day's events a success.

"None of our troops were wounded, the border was not crossed," he said, noting what happened last week had "deterred Hamas from approaching the (border) fence".