

# Femtosecond IN THE NEWS

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## World News

China is conducting military drills around Taiwan [1]. With all the uncertainty in Asia, many countries may be considering development of their own nuclear weapons [2]. Moreover, relations between China and the USA have fallen. For instance, on April 9, the US was imposing a 104% tariff on China's goods [3]. Then President Trump increased the Traffic on Chinese goods to 125% while pausing most nations tariffs [4]. Additionally, China is restricting the export of rare earth elements in a blow to the US [5]. China also ordered its airlines to boycott Boeing planes [6]. This comes as China continues to exert its military capabilities including probing Japanese airspace [7].

Reports indicate that Germany is expanding its military for war preparation [8]. Some have warned that Germany has moved from a culture of peace to a more militaristic society [9].

Meanwhile, the US continues to bomb Yemen. For instance, strikes at an oil terminal killed at least 70 people [10]. This was followed by additional attacks in the capital and a costal city [11].

In the war between Russia and the Ukraine, negotiations are strained. The US is threatening to walk away from the negotiations if progress is not made [12]. However, Russia is promising a unilateral cease fire for Easter [13].

1. Cash, Joe, et. al., Reuters, *China launches military drills around Taiwan, calls its president a 'parasite'*, April 1, 2025.
2. Sisci, Francesco, Asia Times, *Trump's step back abroad has triggered an*

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## Middle-East War

Israeli forces struck two airbases in Syria that were to hold Turkish military assets [1]. Additionally, the US announced that 600 troops will be removed from Syria [2].

Meanwhile, fighting continues between Hamas and Israeli forces on the Gaza strip [3]. Separately, Israel plans to maintain a buffer zone between the Gaza [4].

Israel proposed a cease-fire but the offer was rejected by Hamas [5]. However, Hamas says it is ready to release all hostages in order to end the conflict [6]. If

true, the war may be winding down.

Meanwhile, the war in Gaza continues to be opposed throughout the world. For instance, in Pakistan, Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants were subjected to anti-Gaza war protests [6].

1. Williamson, Lucy, BBC, *Israeli strikes in Syria a challenge to Turkey*, April 4, 2025.
2. Copp, Tara, AP, *US to withdraw 600 troops from Syria, leaving fewer than 1,000 to help counter IS militants*, April

17, 2025.

3. The Jerusalem Post, *Dozens of terrorists killed by IDF as northern Gaza fighting continue*, April 12, 2025.
4. Mackenzie, James, & Al-Mughrabi, Nidal, Reuters, *Israel will keep Gaza buffer zone, minister says, as truce bid stalls*, April 16, 2025.
5. Salman, Abeer, et. al., CNN, *Hamas rejects ceasefire offer as far-right Israeli lawmakers call for escalation in Gaza*,

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### Special points of interest:

- Tariffs
- China Trade War
- March CPI fell to 2.4%

(Continued from page 1)

April 17, 2025.

6. Al-Mughrabi, Nidal, Reuters, *Hamas says it is ready to release all remaining hostages for an end to Gaza war*, April 17, 2025.
7. NDTV /Agence France-Presse, *KFC Outlets Attacked In Pak Over US Backing Israel In Gaza War, 160 Arrested*, April 19, 2025.

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The real key to making money in stocks is not to get scared out of them.—  
Peter Lynch

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(Continued from page 1)

- atomic race in East Asia, April 1, 2025.
3. Gan, Nectar, CNN, *China vows 'resolute and effective measures' after Trump's 104% tariffs take effect*, April 9, 2025.
4. Lee, Liz, et. al., Reuters, *Trump's tariff pause focuses trade war on China, markets bounce*, April 10, 2025.
5. Perera, Ayeshea, BBC, *Why China curbing rare earth exports is a blow to the US*, April 16, 2025.
6. Picchi, Aimee, CBS, *China orders its airlines to stop accepting deliveries of Boeing jets, report says*, April 15, 2025.
7. McElhiney, Brian, & Koja, Keishi, Stars and Stripes, *Japan records 'extreme increase' in Chinese drones probing its airspace*, April 11, 2025.
8. Rainsford, Sarah, BBC, *Germany decides to leave history in the past and prepare for war*, April 30, 2025.
9. Milder, Stephen, Boston Review, *The Alarming Stakes of German Rearmament*, January 11, 2025.
10. Gambrell, Jon, AP, *Deadly US airstrike on Yemeni oil port escalates Trump's campaign against the Houthis*, April 18, 2025.
11. Magdy, Samy, AP, *Yemen's Houthi rebels report US strikes in the capital and a coastal city*, April 19, 2025.
12. Meijer, Bart H., et. al., Reuters, *US will abandon Ukraine peace push if no progress soon, Trump and Rubio say*, April 18, 2025.
13. Papachristou, Lucy, Reuters, *Russia's Putin declares unilateral Easter ceasefire in Ukraine*, April 19, 2025.

## World News

## Terrorism

Domestic terrorism in the US continues. For instance, a Walgreens employee was killed in California by a man who had a grudge against bid pharma [1]. Then a man in Pennsylvania set fire to the house where the Governor was sleeping [2]. The attacker was supporting Palestine [3]. In Wisconsin, a man was arrested for killing his parents and planning to assassinate President Trump [4].

In Nigeria, Africa, at least 40 people were killed when Muslim gunmen attacked a Christian farming community [5]. In a separate incident, at least 60 Christians in the Plateau state, Nigeria, were killed by Fulani terrorists [6].

1. Garcia, Nic, ABC 30, Suspected Madera Walgreens killer had "grudge" against large pharmacies, police say,

April 1, 2025.

2. Erickson, Bo, Reuters, Harrisburg man to be charged for arson attack on Pennsylvania governor residence, April 13, 2025.
3. Katersky, Aaron, & Pezenik, Sasha, ABC News, Alleged arsonist targeted Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro over Palestine, search warrant says, April 16, 2025.
4. El-Bawab, Nadine, & Arancio, Victoria, ABC News, Wisconsin teen allegedly killed parents in extremist plot to assassinate Trump, FBI says, April 12, 2025.
5. Shibayan, Dyepkazah, AP, Attack by gunmen leaves at least 40 people dead in Nigeria, the country's president says, April 15, 2025.

6. Christian Today, Fulani herdsmen kill more than 60 Christians in 'genocide' in Nigeria, April 10, 2025.

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*Communism is the  
corruption of a dream of  
justice.—Adlai Stevenson*

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## Economy

On April 2, President Trump imposed a 10% import tariff along with reciprocal tariffs [1]. As a consequence, on April 3, the major stock indexes tanked with the Dow down 3.98%, S&P 500 down 4.84%, and Nasdaq down 5.97% [2]. The stock market continued to free fall into April 4 [3].

For March, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to 2.4% [4]. Meanwhile, President Trump has called on the Fed Chairman Powell to lower interest rates [5].

The tariff war between the US and China is fostering change. For example, the President of China, Xi, is reaching out to neighboring countries trying to build a coalition against the US [6]. On the other side, Nvidia announced plans to produce a half Trillion dollars

of Artificial Intelligence chips in the US over the next four years [7].

1. Chaturvedi, Neelabh, & Chua, Asriel, CNBC, *How did the U.S. arrive at its tariff figures?*, April 3, 2025.
2. Towfighi, John, CNN, *Trump's massive tariffs shake markets, spark recession fears*, April 3, 2025.
3. Sherter, Alain, CBS News, *Stock market rout deepens as Dow plunges more than 2,200 points and Nasdaq enters bear market*, April 5, 2025.
4. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Inflation rate eases to 2.4% in March, lower than expected; core at 4-year low*, April 10, 2025.
5. Haring, Alex, CNBC, *Trump renews call for interest rate cut, says rates would be lower if Fed chief Powell 'understood what he was doing'*, April 18, 2025.
6. Wu, Huizhong, AP, *Xi makes a case for free trade as he tours Southeast Asia*, April 15, 2025.
7. Parvini, Sarah, AP, *Nvidia plans to manufacture AI chips in the US for the first time*, April 14, 2025.

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*I am a tariff man,  
standing on a tariff  
platform.—William  
McKinley*

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