



Trump and Xi Open High-Stakes Beijing Summit on Trade, Taiwan, and Iran

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping convened inside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday morning, launching a two-day summit that marks the first U.S. presidential visit to China since 2017 and the highest-stakes bilateral meeting between the world's two largest economies in years. The encounter comes at a moment of compound geopolitical pressure: a grinding Iran war that has disrupted the Strait of Hormuz and sent global oil prices surging, an uneasy trade truce between Washington and Beijing, and deepening anxieties over Taiwan and artificial intelligence. Xi opened by invoking the 'Thucydides Trap'—the historical pattern in which a rising power and a ruling power drift toward war—and urged the two countries to become partners rather than rivals. 'Success in one is an opportunity for the other, and a stable bilateral relationship is good for the world,' he said in remarks broadcast on Chinese state television. Trump, for his part, said the U.S. delegation

looked forward to discussing 'reciprocal' trade, signaling that commercial grievances remain near the top of the American agenda. After an opening session lasting more than two hours, the two leaders toured the Temple of Heaven, a 15th-century landmark in central Beijing, while Trump told reporters the meetings had gone 'great.' Taiwan cast a shadow over the proceedings almost immediately. Beijing's foreign ministry said Xi warned Trump directly that mishandling the self-ruled island would cause 'clashes and even conflicts, putting the entire relationship in great jeopardy.' Taiwan's government, which had expressed anxiety about being 'on the menu' at the talks, said it was staying in close contact with Washington and preparing for possible surprises. Trump traveled with an unusually prominent business delegation, including Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Apple CEO Tim Cook, and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang—who had boarded Air Force One in Alaska after initially not being invited. The CEOs' presence

underscored how deeply intertwined American technology and EV sectors are with the Chinese market, and how much both governments see AI and semiconductor supply chains as central to the relationship's future. On Iran, Trump said he expected a long conversation with Xi, though trade would remain the summit's primary focus. Analysts noted that China, as the largest buyer of Iranian oil by far, holds significant leverage over Tehran and could push it toward a diplomatic settlement that reopens the Strait of Hormuz—a step that would ease the energy shock battering both economies. A U.S. intelligence analysis circulating in Washington concluded that China has been exploiting the Iran conflict to maximize its strategic advantages over the United States. Whether the two-day summit produces concrete deliverables—on rare earths, agriculture, AI safety dialogues, or Iran—remains to be seen as the meetings continue into Friday.

Top Global News



Russia Launches One of Its Largest Drone Barrages on Ukraine

Russia launched one of its most massive aerial assaults on Ukraine on May 13–14, sending over 800 drones in waves across the country, striking Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa, and Kharkiv. President Zelenskyy called it 'one of the longest, massive Russian attacks against Ukraine,' with at least six people killed and dozens injured. The strike hit energy facilities, apartment buildings, and a gas pipeline in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Zelenskyy said Russia's 'obvious aim is to overload air defence systems and inflict as much grief and pain as possible.' He noted pointedly that the escalation came precisely as U.S. President Trump landed in Beijing. Ukraine's Air Force said Russia has become more active with strategic aviation and that aircraft are being redeployed to distant airfields, possibly in preparation for additional strikes. The Institute for the Study of War noted that Russia's combined night-and-daytime drone assault strategy increases damage to civilian areas.

Top US News

Senate Confirms Kevin Warsh as Next Federal Reserve Chair

The Senate voted on Wednesday to confirm Kevin Warsh as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve, succeeding Jerome Powell whose term as Fed chair expires Friday, May 15. Powell plans to remain on the Fed's Board of Governors. Warsh, a former Fed governor and Wall Street veteran, takes the helm amid a challenging backdrop: April's Producer Price Index rose 1.4%, the biggest monthly gain since March 2022, stoking fears that inflation remains stubbornly elevated amid Iran war-driven energy costs.

Trump Administration Threatens to Pull Federal Medicaid Funding from States

The Trump administration threatened to suspend federal funding to all states that do not aggressively prosecute Medicaid fraud. Vice President Vance and Dr. Mehmet Oz—the head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—announced a sweeping new initiative targeting what they described as widespread fraud in federal health programs, with particular focus on Democratic-run states. The moves escalated a standoff between the administration and blue states over federal health spending.

Top NJ/NY News



NJ Transit and NYC Cut World Cup Transit Fares After Public Outcry

New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill announced Tuesday that round-trip NJ Transit rail tickets to World Cup matches at MetLife Stadium will now cost \$98—down from an initial \$150 that sparked widespread outrage, given the same 18-mile trip normally costs \$12.90. The governor said the reduction was achieved 'without New Jersey taxpayer money,' thanks to corporate partners including DoorDash, Audible, FanDuel, and PSE&G. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul also cut the price of shuttle bus tickets from Manhattan to the stadium from \$80 to just \$20, which will be able to carry up to 18,000 fans on non-school match days. The FIFA World Cup kicks off June 11 at the temporarily renamed New York New Jersey Stadium (MetLife), which will host eight matches including the July 19

Dorchester Elementary School News & Events

Tonight: Board Meeting at 7:00 PM
The Woodcliff Lake Board of Education holds its regular Board Meeting tonight, Thursday, May 14, at 7:00 PM. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend. Upcoming meetings and events are posted on the district website at woodcliff-lake.com.
Note for 2nd-grade families: The Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents is coming up on Monday, May 18, at 7:00 PM—an important event for families planning for next school year.

Top Tech and AI News



Cisco Surges 17% After Record Revenue and \$9 Billion AI Order Target

Cisco Systems reported record quarterly revenue of \$15.8 billion for its fiscal Q3 2026, up 12% year-over-year, beating Wall Street estimates and sending shares up 17% in after-hours trading on Wednesday. The company's AI infrastructure order total has hit \$5.3 billion year-to-date, and Cisco now expects nearly \$9 billion in full-year AI hyperscaler orders—up dramatically from its prior \$5 billion target. Networking revenue surged 25% to \$8.82 billion. For Q4, Cisco guided for revenue of \$16.7–\$16.9 billion versus analyst expectations of \$15.82 billion, a massive beat. Alongside the results, the company announced it would cut fewer than 4,000 jobs—less than 5% of its workforce—beginning May 14, to reallocate resources toward AI infrastructure. CEO Chuck Robbins said 'the companies that will win in the AI era will be those with focus, urgency, and the discipline to continuously shift investment toward the areas where demand and long-term value creation are strongest.'

Claude Code Gets 'Agent View'—Manage All Your AI Coding Sessions in One Dashboard

Anthropic launched a new 'Agent View' feature for Claude Code on May 12, giving developers a centralized dashboard to manage all their concurrent AI-assisted coding sessions. Users can spin up new background tasks while keeping others running, only re-entering a session when Claude needs input. The feature is in research preview for Pro, Max, Team, Enterprise, and API plan users and can be activated by running 'claude agents' in the terminal. The release came on the heels of Anthropic's second annual Code with Claude developer conference in San Francisco, where the company showcased multi-agent orchestration, a 'Dreaming' self-improvement feature for agents, and Claude Finance with 10 pre-built financial workflow agents. Anthropic's head of product Cat Wu noted that Claude Code is seeing API volume up 17x year-over-year, and that business customers have increasingly shifted preference toward Claude over ChatGPT—with Anthropic reportedly quadrupling its market share among enterprise users since May 2025.

Ukraine News



Ukraine Recaptured More Territory Than It Lost in April—A Potential Turning Point

Ukraine may have reversed the tide of Russian territorial gains in April, according to a Russia Matters analysis of Institute for the Study of War data. Russian forces suffered a net loss of 45 square miles during the April 14–May 12 period—roughly twice the size of Manhattan—a sharp reversal from the 1-square-mile net loss in the prior four-week stretch. Russia's average daily advance slowed to 2.9 sq km per day in the first third of 2026, down from 9.76 sq km per day in the same period last year. Russia launched more than 8,000 drones in April alone—the highest monthly total on record. Russia's total combat losses have now reached approximately 1,344,180 personnel since February 2022, with 1,130 troops lost in the past day. Ukraine also struck gas facilities in Russia's Orenburg region—over 1,500km from the border—in what Zelenskyy called a retaliatory strike for Russian attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure.

Peace Talk Signals Mixed: Kremlin Claims Progress, Zelenskyy Warns of Continued Russian Aggression

The Kremlin reiterated on May 13 that peace in Ukraine is 'approaching,' with spokesperson Dmitry Peskov saying that groundwork laid in talks with the U.S. and Ukraine will soon bring the conflict to a close. Putin had said the previous weekend he was willing to meet Zelenskyy in a neutral country if a peace deal is finalized—his most open signal yet. However, Zelenskyy flatly rejected the characterization, warning that 'Russia has no intention of ending this war' and that Ukraine is 'preparing for new attacks.' The EU's Kallas said Putin's signals reflect weakness rather than genuine intent to negotiate. Trump told reporters before departing for Beijing that 'the end of the war in Ukraine, I really think is getting very close.' A Washington report also indicated the U.S. was attempting to negotiate a temporary ceasefire that would include sanctions relief for Russia.

Vietnamese News

Bui Thi Minh Hoai Re-elected as Head of Vietnam Fatherland Front; New Laws Proclaimed

Bui Thi Minh Hoai was re-elected as President of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) Central Committee for the 2026–2031 term at the 11th National Congress in Hanoi on May 13. The VFF serves as the nucleus of national unity and plays a key role in shaping policy mechanisms. Separately, the Presidential Office announced eight new laws passed by the 16th National Assembly during its first session, including a revised Law on Belief and Religion, expected to improve the legal system and promote administrative reform. Party General Secretary and State President To Lam also chaired a working session reviewing the central steering committees for legal and judicial

reform, as part of a broader push to streamline governance and strengthen accountability ahead of major structural changes for the 2026–2031 period.

Vietnam's U17 Football Team Qualifies for FIFA U17 World Cup for First Time

Vietnam's U17 national football team defeated the United Arab Emirates 3-2 to advance to the quarter-finals of the 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup, simultaneously qualifying for the FIFA U17 World Cup for the first time in the country's history. The achievement marks a major milestone for Vietnamese football development and has been greeted with widespread celebration across the country, which is also following the senior FIFA World Cup 2026 with enormous interest as host cities in North America prepare. Additionally, Vietnam's automobile market showed an intriguing split in April 2026: overall sales slowed, but the hybrid vehicle segment surged 86% in the first four months of the year, reflecting growing consumer interest in fuel-efficient options amid high global energy prices.

Vietnam Launches Cultural Week in Laos; Foreign Minister Visits North Korea

The 2026 Vietnam Cultural Week in Laos opened in Vientiane on May 12, featuring cultural and artistic activities running through May 16. Vietnamese Minister of Culture Lam Thi Phuong Thanh met with Lao counterpart Suonsavan Vignaket to review their 2021–2025 partnership and set the 2026–2030 cultural agenda between the two neighboring nations. Separately, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung—serving as Special Envoy of Party General Secretary To Lam—held meetings with officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on May 13 during an ongoing visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. Ho Chi Minh City is also developing a plan to provide free bus travel

for all residents as part of a green transport and congestion-reduction initiative.

Financial and Stock News

Markets at Record Highs as Tech Rally Outpaces Inflation Fears

Wall Street extended its tech-driven bull market on Wednesday with both the S&P 500 (7,444.25, +0.58%) and Nasdaq (26,402.34, +1.2%) hitting fresh all-time records. The gains came despite a blistering April PPI reading of +1.4% monthly—the hottest since March 2022—which sent the 10-year Treasury yield touching 4.48%, its highest level of the year, and wiped out most expectations for a 2026 rate cut. Tech stocks diverged sharply from the rest of the market: the VanEck Semiconductor ETF (SMH) gained 2% while roughly two-thirds of S&P 500 components fell. The S&P 500 earnings season continues to outperform, with first-quarter profits up 27% on average—far ahead of the 12% analysts had initially expected. Cisco's blowout AI earnings in after-hours sent futures higher heading into Thursday. Energy stocks and utilities lagged, with the latter down nearly 5% in May as Iran war-driven oil prices weigh on business costs.

Cerebras Systems IPO Prices Above Range at \$185/Share, Raising \$5.55 Billion

AI chip maker Cerebras Systems priced its initial public offering at \$185 per share on Wednesday—well above the expected range of \$150 to \$160—raising at least \$5.55 billion and underscoring the surging investor appetite for AI infrastructure plays. Cerebras will trade on the Nasdaq under the ticker CBRS. The IPO is one of the largest in the AI chip space and signals continued optimism about demand for specialized AI accelerators beyond Nvidia's dominant H-series and Blackwell chips.

CALENDAR

TODAY — MAY 14

- 12:00 AM Me Nga's birthday
- 8:00 AM Sprinkler turn on
- 12:00 PM Lunch with Nastya
- 5:00 PM William: Karate
- 5:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop
- 6:00 PM Mai Huong Nguyen
- 6:30 PM Soccer: Dorchester practice
- 7:00 PM Board Meeting
- 8:25 PM Robinhood Gold: The Gold Bar Private Sale

TOMORROW — MAY 15

- 12:00 AM Bring Kay necklaces for polish and inspection
- 12:00 PM Pickleball
- 3:40 PM Lizzy teeth appointment
- 6:00 PM [William] Soccer Lakeland (H)

SATURDAY — MAY 16

- 12:00 AM WCL Spring Festival
- 2:00 PM Music class William and Elizabeth
- 6:00 PM Dinner reservations

SUNDAY — MAY 17

- 11:00 AM Joba: Picture day

MONDAY — MAY 18

- 12:00 AM Bo Tao's birthday
- 5:00 PM Lizzy Ballet
- 6:00 PM WCL Hoops - Free Clinic (2nd Grade Girls REC)
- 7:00 PM Transition 2nd to 3rd grade
- 7:00 PM Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents

TUESDAY — MAY 19

- 4:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop

WEDNESDAY — MAY 20

- 12:00 AM Hien Nguyen's birthday
- 9:30 AM Huong: Patient follow up
- 7:00 PM Racquetball weekly

THURSDAY — MAY 21

- 5:00 PM William: Karate

FRIDAY — MAY 22

- 12:00 AM Memorial Day Weekend School Closed

MONDAY — MAY 25

- 12:00 AM Memorial Day - School Closed

MOVIES

The Big Break

In theaters May 12, 2026
A costumed mascot, fueled by an unyielding ambition to break into the entertainment industry, unexpectedly finds himself in a high-stakes situation: a chance encounter with a renowned Hollywood agent at a boisterous children's birthday party, where he must use his comedic timing and infectious energy to make a lasting impression, all while navigating a chaotic environment filled with cake, confetti, and the boundless enthusiasm of screaming kids...& Adults.



The Sheep Detectives

In theaters May 8, 2026
George Hardy is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.



My Hero Academia: More

In theaters May 2, 2026
Eight years later, Deku and his friends are on their adult hero journeys, but something is bothering Uraraka...



Swapped

In theaters May 1, 2026
A small woodland creature and a majestic bird, two natural sworn enemies of the Valley, magically trade places and set off on an adventure of a lifetime to switch back. Their journey soon uncovers a greater threat—one that could endanger not only their species, but the entire valley they call home.