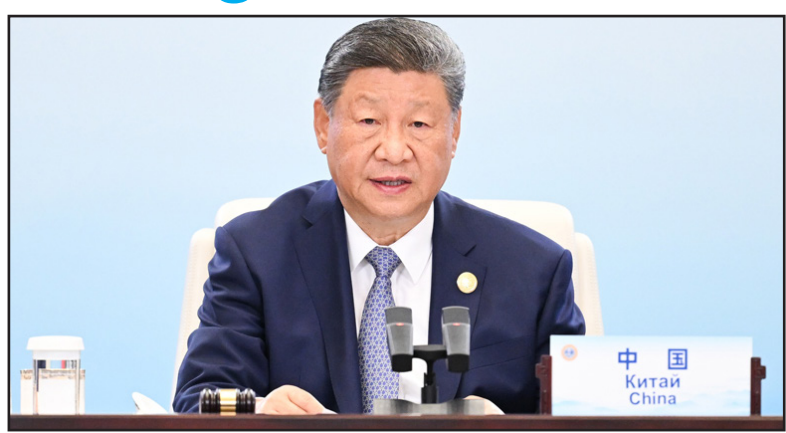


Xi Slams ‘Bullying’ in Speech to Regional Leaders at Summit



Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tianjin, north China, Sept. 1, 2025.

TIANJIN (Dispatches) - China’s President Xi Jinping blasted “bullying behavior” in the world order as he gathered Eurasian leaders Monday for a showpiece summit aimed at putting Beijing front and center of regional relations.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, comprising China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus, is touted as a non-Western style of collaboration and seeks to be an alternative to traditional alliances.

Xi told the SCO leaders, including Russian and Belarusian presidents Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko, that the global international situation was becoming more “chaotic and intertwined.”

The Chinese leader also slammed “bullying behavior” from certain coun-

tries — a veiled reference to the United States.

“The security and development tasks facing member states have become even more challenging,” he added in his address to all the gathered dignitaries in the northern port city of Tianjin.

“Looking to the future, with the world undergoing turbulence and transformation, we must continue to follow the Shanghai spirit... and better perform the functions of the organization,” Xi said.

Putin touched down in Tianjin on Sunday with an entourage of senior politicians and business representatives.

Xi held a flurry of back-to-back bilateral meetings with leaders including Lukashenko and Modi who is on his first visit to China since 2018.

Modi told Xi that India was committed to taking “forward our ties on

the basis of mutual trust, dignity and sensitivity.”

China and Russia have sometimes promoted the SCO as an alternative to organizations like NATO. This year’s summit is the first since Trump returned to the White House.

Official posters promoting the SCO lined Tianjin’s streets, displaying words such as “mutual benefit” and “equality” written in Chinese and Russian.

Many of the assembled dignitaries will be in Beijing on Wednesday to witness the military parade, which will also be attended by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India and Russia are exploring ways to deepen their cooperation, after talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in China.

Modi said on social media they had an “excellent meeting” and discussed “ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in all sectors,” including trade, space, and security.

“We exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine. Our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership remains a vital pillar of regional and global stability,” he wrote on X.

The SCO summit, which also involves 16 more countries as observers or “dialogue partners,” kicked off on Sunday, days before a massive military parade in the capital Beijing to mark 80 years since the end of World War II.

Venezuela Ready for ‘Any Attack’ From U.S., Says Defense Chief



Venezuela’s Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez

CARACAS (Xinhua) - Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez has said the country is prepared for “any attack” from the United States.

“We will fight if you dare to set foot in Venezuela,” Padrino Lopez warned the U.S. government in a statement released by state-run media.

Venezuela is under a siege that aims to provoke internal chaos and undermine the nation’s political leadership, said the defense chief.

“The announcement of these naval deployments in Caribbean waters is nothing more than a show of force, a way of marking territory, so that other powers will not take control of the Caribbean Sea,” he said, refer-

ring to U.S. military maneuvers in the region.

The Venezuelan Armed Forces are patrolling the country’s maritime borders and airspace in response to President Nicolas Maduro’s call to strengthen the Bolivarian National Militia, said the official.

Padrino Lopez added that 15,000 military personnel have been deployed to Venezuela’s western region.

The minister also highlighted the military’s domestic security efforts, noting that anti-drug operations have led to the destruction of over 30 criminal outposts and illegal boat-building facilities.

Tensions in the Caribbean Sea have escalated after the United States deployed warships near the coast of Venezuela earlier this month, which Washington describes as part of its strategy to fight the international drug cartels.

Several leaders in the region, including Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Colombian President Gustavo Petro, criticized U.S. military maneuvers near Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea.

Political Standoff Intensifies Over Trump’s Plans for Chicago Crackdown

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A political standoff over U.S. President Donald Trump’s plan to crack down on crime and illegal immigration in Chicago intensified as a top administration official promised to deploy more federal officers and the Democratic governor of Illinois portrayed Trump as a threat to democracy.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told CBS News’ Face the Nation that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations in Chicago and other parts of the country would be bolstered, but declined to provide details. Noem said Trump would make any decision to deploy National Guard troops.

On the same program, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker said Trump wanted to deploy troops so that he could halt or manipulate U.S. mid-

term elections in 2026.

“He’d like to stop the elections in 2026 or, frankly, take control of those elections,” Pritzker said. “He’ll just claim that there’s some problem with an election, and then he’s got troops on the ground that can take control.”

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson criticized Pritzker for not doing more to deal with crime.

“Chicago’s residents would be much safer if Pritzker actually did his job and addressed his crime problem instead of trying to be a Resistance Lib hero,” Jackson said in a statement.

Trump and top officials have said in the past week that Chicago would soon be a target for the Republican president’s efforts to tackle crime and illegal immigration. Trump for years has criticized crime in Chicago, a Democratic stronghold, al-

though city figures show most categories of violent crime have dropped this year.

Earlier this month, Trump kicked off an aggressive public safety campaign in Washington, DC, deploying National Guard troops, flooding streets with federal officers, and federalizing the city police department. The surge has generated political and community pushback in DC, a federal district where Trump wields exceptional power.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, a Democrat, issued an executive order on Saturday that said local police would not assist with National Guard or other federal operations.

Noem said that Trump’s decision to send thousands of National Guard troops to Los Angeles in June following protests saved that Democrat-led city from being decimated.

Report: Europe Drawing Up ‘Precise’ Plans to Send Troops to Ukraine



Moscow is adamantly against any NATO troops being deployed to Ukraine.

LONDON (Bloomberg) - Europe is drawing up “pretty precise plans” for a multinational troop deployment to Ukraine as part of post-conflict security guarantees that will have the backing of U.S. capabilities, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told the Financial Times in an interview published Sunday.

“President Trump reassured us that there will be an American presence as part of the backstop,” von der Leyen told the FT, adding that “That was very clear and repeatedly affirmed.”

The deployment is set to include potentially tens of thousands of European-led troops, backed by assistance from the U.S., including control and command systems and intelligence and surveillance assets, the report said, adding that this arrangement was agreed at a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and senior European leaders last month.

European leaders, including Ger-

man Chancellor Friedrich Merz, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and von der Leyen are expected to gather in Paris on Thursday, at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron, to continue the high-level discussions on Ukraine, the FT reported, citing three diplomats briefed on the plans.

The Kremlin said that European powers were hindering U.S. President Donald Trump’s efforts to achieve peace in Ukraine and that Russia would continue its operation in Ukraine until Moscow saw real signs that Kyiv was ready for peace.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian state media reporters that the “European party of war” was continuing to hinder U.S. and Russian efforts on Ukraine.

“We are ready to resolve the problem by political and diplomatic means,” Peskov said. “But so far we do not see reciprocity from Kyiv in this. So we shall continue the special military operation.”

Lagarde Calls Any Euro Area Government Collapse ‘Worrying’



European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde

PARIS (Bloomberg) - European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde warned that any government collapse in the currency bloc is a concern as the prime minister of her home country, France, appears likely to be toppled in a confidence vote next week.

The government in Paris is set to be forced to resign on Sept 8 as opposition parties refuse to back the plans of Prime Minister Francois Bayrou for sharp spending cuts and tax increases.

“All risks of governments falling in all euro area countries are worrying,” Lagarde said in an interview with France’s Radio Classique on Monday. “Markets evaluate risks and we’ve seen the country risk increase in recent days,” she added, in response to a question on France.

The prospect of renewed uncertainty over how France can tackle what’s now the euro area’s widest budget deficit with a bit-

terly divided parliament has reignited investor concerns. Selloffs in French bonds last week drove up borrowing costs relative to Germany to highs not seen since January.

Lagarde, a former French finance minister, said France is a “respected” borrower but has become associated with a risk premium.

“I look very closely at spreads,” she said. “The additional cost for French debt has increased and is just below Italy, which wasn’t the case a few quarters ago.”

The ECB president said tackling debt is crucial for all countries, but she would not comment on the political means to get there.

“There needs to be discipline in terms of public finances to send the signal that one wants a sustainable debt, that one has a credibility in financial markets to allow for the financing of the state, local authorities, and the country,” she said.

News in Brief

SEOUL (AP) - North Korea said Monday leader Kim Jong Un inspected a new weapons factory that’s key to his plan to accelerate mass production of missiles in a weekend visit before he departs for a major military parade in China. North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency did not disclose the location of the factory Kim visited Sunday, but it may be in Jagang province, a hub of the country’s munitions industry that borders China. Both China and North Korea confirmed last week that Kim will make his first visit to China in six years to attend a military parade in Beijing on Wednesday, which marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and China’s resistance against Japanese wartime aggression.

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - A plane carrying EU chief Ursula von der Leyen was hit by GPS jamming as it readied to land in Bulgaria on Sunday, Brussels said Monday. The European Commission said Bulgarian authorities suspected the disruption “was due to blatant interference” from Moscow but it was not clear if the chartered flight was deliberately targeted. “We can indeed confirm that there was GPS jamming,” Commission spokeswoman Arianna Podesta told a press conference in Brussels.

JAKATRA (AFP) - Thousands rallied across Indonesia Monday as the military was deployed in the capital after six people were killed in nationwide protests sparked by anger over lavish perks for lawmakers. At least 500 protesters gathered outside the nation’s parliament in Jakarta, watched by soldiers and police throughout the day, before dissipating after President Prabowo Subianto warned protests should end by sundown. But elsewhere protests were more volatile. In Gorontalo city on Sulawesi island protesters clashed with police, who responded with tear gas and water cannon, according to an AFP journalist.

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain’s manufacturers suffered a fresh setback in August after signs of a recovery with new orders dropping due to worries about trade tensions abroad and tax increases at home, according to a survey published on Monday. The S&P Global/CIPS manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index weakened for the first time in five months, decreasing to 47.0 from a six-month high 48.0 in July. The figure was weaker than a preliminary reading of 47.3 and the 11th month in a row that the PMI was in contractionary territory below the neutral 50 mark. Weak demand, global trade tariffs and rising costs for clients after April’s increase in the minimum wage and a tax hike on employers combined to push down exports and new orders which shrank at the fastest pace in four months, S&P Global said.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia will pay the small Pacific island of Nauru to resettle foreign-born criminals who the courts have ruled cannot be imprisoned indefinitely, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday. Nauru has become a political solution for the government after Australia’s High Court ruled in 2023 that non-citizens with no prospects of being resettled outside Australia could no longer be held indefinitely in immigration detention. Albanese did not confirm media reports that Australia would pay the tiny Pacific Island nation, population 13,000, 400 million Australian dollars (\$262 million) to establish the deal then A\$70 million (\$46 million) annually to maintain it. “People who have no right to be here need to be found somewhere to go, if they can’t go home,” Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp.