TRUMP IS VISITING BEIJING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2017

TRUMP LANDS IN CHINA FOR SUPERPOWER SUMMIT WITH XI

BEIJING

US president Donald Trump landed in Beijing yesterday for a high-stakes summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping aimed at easing deep tensions between the rival superpowers.

Beginning the first visit to China by a US president in nearly a decade, Trump touched down on Air Force One at Beijing Capital International Airport at 7:50pm (1150 GMT) after the long flight from Washington.

Ructions over Iran, trade and Taiwan loom over the highly anticipated meeting between the leaders of the world's largest economies, which Trump had already delayed from March because of the war in the Middle East.

But Trump appeared firmly focused on business deals, with Nvidia chief Jensen Huang boarding the plane at the last minute in Alaska and Tesla's Elon Musk also travelling on the presidential jet.

As the global AI race hots up, China is currently banned from purchasing the cutting-edge chips that Huang's company produces under US export rules that Washington says are to protect national security.

Trump said in a social media post en route that he would "be asking President Xi, a leader of extraordinary distinction, to 'open up' China so that these brilliant people can work their magic".

Visiting China for the first time since 2017 during his first term, Trump is expected to receive a lavish welcome from Chinese authorities and will have a packed itinerary.

AFP PHOTO



US president Donald Trump (centre) is escorted by China's vice-president Han Zheng (right) upon his arrival at Beijing Capital Airport in yesterday. He is set to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping

Trump and Xi will hold talks at 10:00am (0200 GMT) today in Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People, where they will also enjoy a state banquet in the evening.

On Friday, they are set to have tea and a working lunch before the US president heads home.

BETWEEN THE LINES

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TALK ABOUT IRAN WAR

As he departed the White House, Trump said he expected a "long talk" with Xi about the joint US-Israeli war with Iran, which sells most of its US-sanctioned oil to China.

But he also downplayed disagreements, telling reporters that "I don't think we need any help with Iran" from China and that Xi had been "relatively good" on the topic.

The Chinese foreign ministry said yesterday it "welcomes" Trump's visit and that "China stands ready to work with the US... to expand co-operation and manage differences".

BIG DEAL

Yet Beijing is growing impatient for peace, with foreign minister Wang Yi urging his Pakistani counterpart on Tuesday to step up mediation efforts between Iran and the US.

Trump said on Monday he would speak to Xi about the US arms sales to Taiwan, the self-governing democracy claimed by China — a departure from historic US insistence that it will not consult Beijing on its support to the island.

The long-simmering trade war between the two countries will also be top of the agenda, after Trump's sweeping tariffs last year triggered tit-for-tat levies that exceeded 100%.

Trump and Xi are set to discuss extending a one-year tariff truce, which the two leaders reached during their last meeting in South Korea in October, although a deal is far from certain.

China's controls on rare earth exports and agriculture exports are also expected to be on the menu.

The tense buildup to the summit was already visible on the streets of Beijing, with police monitoring major intersections and checking the ID cards of passengers on the metro, AFP journalists saw.

"It's definitely a big deal," said Wen Wen, a 24-year-old woman travelling from the eastern city of Nanjing, when asked by AFP about Trump's visit.

"Some progress will certainly be made," she said, noting that she hopes China and the US can ensure "lasting peace" despite "recent instability in the global situation".

STRONG TRUMP-XI RELATIONSHIP

Trump has repeatedly touted a strong personal relationship with Xi, which he insisted on Monday would prevent a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

Trump's trip will be closely scrutinised by Taiwan and Asian allies for any sign of weakening US support.

AFP

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IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF MBALE
HOLDEN AT MBALE
ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO.011 OF 2026

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