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21 February 2025, 15:33 The US has held 'positive' talks with Zelenskyy. Picture: Alamy The US held "extensive and positive" talks with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Trumps envoy for war has said. Keith Kellogg met with Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Thursday amid rising tensions between Ukraine and the United States.Their meeting came less than 24 hours after President Trump branded Zelenskyy a dictator in a furious social media rant.Taking to X, Kellogg wrote: "A long and intense day with the senior leadership of Ukraine.A long and intense day with the senior leadership of Ukraine. Extensive and positive discussions with @ZelenskyyUa, the embattled and courageous leader of a nation at war and his talented national security team. Keith Kellogg (@generalkellogg) February 21, 2025 "Extensive and positive discussions with [Zelenskyy], the embattled and courageous leader of a nation at war and his talented national security team."Despite Kelloggs positive comments, Trump and his billionaire ally Elon Musk continue to attack the Ukrainian leader.A chainsaw-wielding Elon Musk accused Zelenskyy of running a 'fraud machine feeding off dead soldiers' in a fresh attack on the Ukrainian leader. Conservatives Gather For Annual CPAC Conference In Washington DC. Picture: GettyIt comes after the White House revealed that Donald Trump was "very frustrated" with Zelenskyy and had a "personal" problem with him.Musk reiterated calls for the Ukrainian president to hold an election but claimed he wouldn't because "he knows he would lose in a landslide". Writing on X, Musk said: "In reality, he is despised by the people of Ukraine, which is why he has refused to hold an election. I challenge Zelenskyy to hold an election and refute this. He will not."He added: "President Trump is right to ignore him and solve for peace independent of the disgusting, massive graft machine feeding off the dead bodies of Ukrainian soldiers."The tech billionaire did not elaborate further but appeared to echo previous accusations that Zelenskyywants to "keep the gravy train" of foreign aidrunning with the war.Musk attended the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) with Argentina Prime Minister Javier Milei on Thursday, where he appeared in a MAGA hat holding up a chainsaw - representing the cuts he was making to the federal government.As tensions between the US and Ukraine continue to grow, a joint conference, which was due to take place on Thursday, was cancelled.Cameras were briefly let in before being ushered out. The pair then went into talks.Zelenskyy later shared details of the talks in a social media post saying he had a "productive meeting" with US Chief Envoy to Ukraine Keith Kellogg."From the very first second of this war, Ukraine has sought peace. We must and can ensure that peace is strong and lastingso that Russia can never return with war. Ukraine is ready for a strong, effective investment and security agreement with the President of the United States."He added: "Strong Ukraine-U.S. relations benefit the entire world." Trump previously sparked outrage after called Zelenskyy a "dictator".The comments came as the US and Russia hold peace talks without Ukraine, leading many to believe the Trump administration has abandoned Europe to Putin and Russia. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky speaks with US envoy Keith Kellogg . Picture: GettyOn Wednesday night, Sir Keir Starmer backed Zelenskyy, saying it was "perfectly reasonable" for Kyiv to suspend elections during the war.Downing Street says Sir Keir also expressed his support for US-led efforts to get a lasting peace.Read more: Trump is living in a disinformation space, says Zelenskyy as he hits back at US for helping Putin 'come out of isolation'Read more: Starmer shows support for 'democratically elected' Zelenskyy after Trump 'dictator' commentsI spoke with UK Prime Minister @Keir_Starmer. The United Kingdoms role in fortifying Europes defense and security is important for us.We discussed upcoming plans and opportunities. UKs support matters indeed, and we will never forget the respect the British people have shownSix-hour bombardment of strategic hub in Dnipropetrovsk region came as airstrikes killed one person in OdesaRussian strikes killed three people across Ukraine on Saturday, authorities said, while Moscow had to briefly suspend trains in its southern Rostov region after an overnight drone attack by Kyiv.Russia, meanwhile, had to suspend trains for about four hours overnight in the southern Rostov region when it came under a Ukrainian drone attack which injured one railway worker.Dow Jones, The Wall Street Journals parent company, dared President Donald Trump to bring it on after the president launched a \$10 billion libel lawsuit against the publication. We have full confidence in the rigor and accuracy of our reporting, a spokesperson for Dow Jones said in a statement. [We] will vigorously defend against any lawsuit. Trump filed the suit on Friday, accusing the Murdoch-owned paper of glaring failures in journalistic ethics and standards of accurate reporting. aftStopping the story became a priority for the administration, according to reportsFormer Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Stacy Williams told CNN her ex-boyfriend Jeffrey Epstein and president Donald Trump "were best friends" when she knew the pair.The California governor flipped the president's own words right back at him.Although Donald Trump presents himself as a fierce adversary of China, some of his policy moves appear to be a significant boon for the People's Republic. In Spring, as Trump's chaotic tariff war captured headlines, a game-changing electric vehicle provision lurked just below the surface as part of his "Big Beautiful Bill." After being signed into law on July 4, the massive piece of legislation is set to completely upend the American EV market. This is thanks to a provision in the bill terminatiDonald Trump vowed to sue the Rupert Murdoch, NewsCorp and the Wall Street Journal on Thursday night, not an hour after the paper published a story saying the future president had contributed a tawdry entry in a leather-bound compilation of birthday messages for then-50-year-old pal Jeffrey Epstein in 2003.The first thing to know about Britains flagship new fighter jet is that its big.Tourists, international students and business travelers may be required to pay a \$250 fee when visiting the United States on a non-immigrant visa. The new provision applies solely to visitors from countries that require a non-immigrant visa for entry, as outlined in the big, beautiful spending bill signed by President Trump, according to the EnvoySINGAPORE - Select units from the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) are part of a whole-of-government effort to deal with an ongoing cyber attack on Singapores critical information infrastructure, said Defence Minister Chan Chun Sing on July 19.After the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday night on a 2003 letter to Jeffrey Epstein that included Donald Trumps name and an outline of a naked woman, the presidents denial was comprehensive.Of all the crises to hit the White House since Donald Trump returned it is one entirely of his own making that is arguably causing the most damage.Marco Rubio has instructed U.S. diplomats not to comment on the legitimacy or fairness of foreign elections, breaking with decades of American diplomatic practice. The memo, sent to all Foreign Service officers overseas, states that U.S. missions abroad will no longer be issuing election-related statements or social media posts unless there is a clear and compelling foreign policy reason for doing so. When it is appropriate to comment on a foreign election, our message should be brief, focusSenator Bernie Moreno attempted to redirect attention from the Epstein Files scandal to the Biden autopen scandalTariffs are complicated, but ChatGPT breaks them down so a 12-year-old could understand. Find out how tariffs work and how they could affect you.Hundreds of people have been killed in days of violence in southern Syria which began with clashes between members of the Druze minority group and Bedouin tribes and drew a military intervention from Syria.Gavin Newsom showed no remorse to Fox News Jesse Watters after the host was forced to issue a groveling apology over the networks reporting on Donald Trumps phone call to the California governor. Newsom filed a \$787 million defamation lawsuit against the networkthe same amount Fox had to cough up to Dominion Voting Systems for airing false claims about the 2020 electionclaiming it misrepresented calls between him and Trump about unrest during the anti-ICE protests in Los Angeles. On his Thulran appears to be rearming Yemens Houthi rebels and Hezbollah, despite being significantly weakened by its recent war with Israel.BEIJING (Reuters) - China's Ministry of State Security on Friday said foreign spy agencies had tried to "steal" rare earths and pledged to crack down on infiltration and espionage targeted at its critical mineral sector. Foreign intelligence agencies and their agents had colluded with "domestic lawbreakers" to steal rare earth-related items from China, posing a serious threat to China's national security, the spy agency said in a statement on its WeChat account without naming any specific country. The ministry said it had detected attempts by an unnamed country to bypass export restrictions by forging labels, falsifying cargo manifests and transshipping cargoes, where products are routed through third countries before going to their final destination. ADVERTISEMENT US President Donald Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia Keith Kellogg and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had a "productive" meeting on Monday, the Ukrainian leader said, as anticipation grew over a major announcement Trump said he would make on Monday. Kellogg and Zelenskyy discussed what the US and Ukraine could "practically do", including "strengthening Ukraines air defence, joint production, and procurement of defence weapons in collaboration with Europe," as Ukraine continues to defend itself from Russia's all-out war, now in its fourth year. The meeting comes after Trump teased a "major statement" on Russia on Sunday night ahead of a meeting with Mark Rutte, telling reporters that he would "send Ukraine various pieces of very sophisticated military.""We will send them Patriots, which they desperately need," Trump said, referring to US-made air defence missiles, regarded as one of the world's best systems for detecting and intercepting incoming air targets. Trump's comments signal a shift in tone toward Moscow and Russian President Vladimir Putin, with whom he has grown increasingly frustrated as Putin continues to evade a US-backed ceasefire proposal and escalate attacks on Ukrainian towns and cities.After taking office in January, Trump boasted of his good relations with Putin and repeatedly said that Russia was interested in reaching a deal.However, in April, Trump urged Putin to "stop" launching deadly barrages on Kyiv, and in the following months, accused the Russian leader of "going crazy" as drone and missile attacks continued. A top ally of Trump, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, said Sunday that Moscow's war was reaching an inflexion point as Trump shows interest in helping Ukraine fight back against Russia's attacks. In the coming days, you'll see weapons flowing at a record level to help Ukraine defend themselves, Graham said in an interview for CBS television.One of the biggest miscalculations Putin has made is to play Trump. And you just watch, in the coming days and weeks, theres going to be a massive effort to get Putin to the table, Graham said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday that "strong Ukraine-U.S. relations benefit the entire world," an apparent attempt to calm tensions with Washington after he and U.S. President Donald Trump traded barbs this week over efforts to end Russia's three-year war on Ukraine.Zelenskyy said in Kyiv he had a "productive meeting" with Trump envoy Keith Kellogg on the "battlefield situation, how to return our prisoners of war and effective security guarantees" for Ukraine if the war is ended.Earlier in the week, Zelenskyy had complained that Ukraine was excluded from high-level talks in Saudi Arabia between the top U.S. and Russian diplomats as they discussed setting up negotiations about how to end the war and contended that Trump was living in a Russian-influenced "disinformation space."Meanwhile, Trump called Zelenskyy a "dictator without elections" and claimed falsely that Ukraine started the war three years ago next week, even though Russian President Vladimir Putin initiated it.Kellogg said he went to Kyiv to listen to Zelenskyy's views and would report back to Trump.The Trump administration has proposed that part of the settlement of war would involve the U.S. investing in Ukrainian mining operations. The U.S. would gain access to rare earth minerals it needs for the manufacture of American technology products and recoup some of the money for the tens of billions of dollars' worth of munitions it has sent to Ukraine to fight Russian forces while also boosting the war-ravaged Ukrainian economy.Zelenskyy so far has balked at the proposition for what he sees as lack of adequate security for Ukraine if the war is ended.A building stands heavily damaged on Feb. 20, 2025, after a Russian strike in Kherson, Ukraine. (Kherson Regional Military Administration via AP)In Washington, Mike Waltz, Trump's national security adviser, told reporters: "We're going to continue to have discussions about where that deal is going again. We have an obligation to the taxpayer. I think this is an opportunity. The president thinks this is an opportunity for Ukraine."Going forward, there can be, in my view, nothing better for Ukraine's future and for their security than to have the United States invested in their prosperity long term," Waltz said. "And then a key piece of this has also been security guarantees. Look, the reality that we're talking about here is, is it in Ukraine's interest? Is it in Europe's interest? It certainly isn't in Russia's interest or in the American people's interest, for this war to grind on forever and ever and ever."Understand, this war needs to come to an end, this kind of open-ended mantra [supporting Ukraine military operations] that we had under [President Joe Biden's] administration, that's over, and I think a lot of people are having a hard time accepting that," he said.Ukraine fears that Trump is moving to settle the war on terms more favorable to Moscow. Russia currently controls about a fifth of Ukraine's internationally recognized territory.U.S. Vice President JD Vance told a gathering of conservative activists outside Washington on Thursday that Trump "wants the killing to stop" in Ukraine and that "peace is in the interest of the American people."After the U.S.-Russian talks in Riyadh, "we're on the cusp of peace," he said, not mentioning Ukraine's role in settling the conflict. U.S. officials have said Kyiv and Moscow will both be involved in the settlement and will have to make concessions to achieve peace.European leaders have responded to Trump's recent remarks about Ukraine by pledging to step up spending on defense, and some are considering a U.S.-backed European peacekeeping force for the country if the fighting ends. The Kremlin says the plan is a major cause for concern, but Zelenskyy and NATO have welcomed it.Watch related video by Katherine Gypson: "It is vital that ... Russia will never again try to take one more square kilometer of Ukrainian land." NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said, adding that a peace pact would have to entail robust security guarantees for Ukraine "While there is much that still needs to be decided, there is no question that Europe has a vital role to play in securing peace in Ukraine," he told reporters in Bratislava. Slovakia.In a string of comments on his Truth Social platform this week, Trump accused Zelenskyy of refusing to hold elections in Ukraine, which had been scheduled for April 2024 but were delayed after Russia invaded in 2022.Trump disparaged Zelenskyy as "a modestly successful comedian" and said, "The only thing he was good at was playing Biden 'like a fiddle'" for more U.S. military assistance."I love Ukraine," Trump said, "but Zelenskyy has done a terrible job, his Country is shattered, and MILLIONS have unnecessarily died And so it continues."Earlier, Trump had scoffed at Zelenskyy's complaint about not being invited to the Tuesday talks in Riyadh, which were headed by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov."Today I heard, 'Well, we weren't invited.' Well, you've been there for three years," Trump said of Ukraine's leaders. Updated [hour]:[minute] [AMPM] [timezone], [monthFull] [day], [year] KYIV, Ukraine (AP) President Donald Trumps envoy to Ukraine and Russia said on Friday that he had held extensive and positive discussions with Ukraines President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the three-year war with Russia and praised the Ukrainian leader as an embattled and courageous leader of a nation at war.Retired U.S. Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg who traveled to Kyiv on Wednesday and whose planned news conference with Zelenskyy on Thursday was changed at the last minute to a simple photo opportunity struck a positive tone after what he said on the social platform X was a long and intense day of talks with Ukraines senior leadership.His comments marked a departure from recent rebukes of Zelenskyy by Trump and other senior U.S. officials that appeared to indicate an abrupt deterioration of relations. Trump called Zelenskyy a dictator without elections and warned him that hed better move fast to negotiate an end to the war or risk not having a nation to lead. The possibility that vital U.S. military aid for Ukraine was in doubt darkened the mood in Kyiv as Ukrainian forces struggle to hold back Russias bigger army on the battlefield. European governments, uneasy about being sidelined so far in talks between senior U.S. and Russian officials, have jumped to shore up Zelenskyy and at the same time avoid a breakdown in transatlantic relations. Polish President Andrzej Duda, whose country has been a vocal supporter of neighboring Ukraine, said Zelenskyy phoned him on Friday. Duda said he told Zelenskyy to remain committed to the course of calm and constructive cooperation with Trump.We consistently believe there is no other way to stop the bloodshed and achieve lasting peace in Ukraine except with the support of the United States, Duda said he also told Zelenskyy.I trust that goodwill and honesty form the foundation of the U.S. negotiation strategy, Duda said on X. I have no doubt that President Trump is guided by a deep sense of responsibility for global stability and peace. The European Unions top defense official said Friday that the bloc plans to send a strong message of support to Ukraine next week with a new aid package to mark Mondays third anniversary of the war.EU Defense Commissioner Andrius Kubilius said senior members of the blocs executive branch are weighing how, in a very urgent way, to send a very strong message to Ukrainians and to the world that we are standing together with Ukraine.European policy commissioners, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other top EU officials are traveling to Kyiv on Monday.Russia has pressed on with its invasion even as talks with the U.S. take place, striking civilian targets almost daily.On Friday, Russian forces dropped three powerful glide bombs on Kostiantynivka, in Ukraines eastern Donetsk region, killing one man and injuring two others, regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said.Another Russian glide bomb damaged homes and injured five people in the northeastern Kharkiv region, Ukraines Interior Ministry said. The public quarrel between Trump and Zelenskyy began after Russia and the U.S. agreed Tuesday to start working toward ending the war in Ukraine and improving their diplomatic and economic ties. With that, and a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump abruptly reversed the three-year U.S. policy of isolating Russia.Trumps national security adviser, Mike Waltz, said during a White House briefing on Thursday that the U.S. president is obviously very frustrated with Zelenskyy.Zelenskyy was unhappy that a U.S. team opened the talks without inviting him or European governments that have backed Kyiv.When Trump claimed without evidence Zelenskyy was deeply unpopular in Ukraine and falsely suggested that Ukraine was to blame for the war, Zelenskyy said Trump was living in a Russian-made disinformation space, suggesting he had been duped by Putin.____Follow APs coverage of the war in Ukraine at Skip to main content

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