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CIA Director Visits Cuba Amid Renewed US Pressure on Havana

CIA Director John Ratcliffe visited Cuba amid growing pressure from the Trump administration for political and economic reforms. The visit signaled heightened US engagement with Havana while reflecting broader tensions over governance, sanctions, migration, and bilateral relations as Washington reassesses its policy towards the Cuban government.





US and Brazil Increase Ethanol Exports Amid Energy Supply Pressures

The United States and Brazil recorded significant increases in ethanol exports as global consumers sought alternative fuel supplies. Discussions highlighted energy security, biofuel markets, supply diversification, and the growing strategic importance of renewable fuels in addressing market volatility and strengthening resilience within global energy systems.



Canada Strengthens Arctic Defence Cooperation with Nordic Partners

Canada deepened defence cooperation with Nordic countries to enhance Arctic security and regional resilience. Discussions focused on military coordination, surveillance capabilities, infrastructure development, and protecting northern interests amid growing geopolitical competition, climate-driven changes, and concerns regarding sovereignty and security in the Arctic region.

Brazil Launches Major Credit Programme for Transport Workers

Brazil introduced a \$6 billion subsidized credit programme for ride-hailing drivers and taxi operators. The initiative aims to improve access to financing, support employment, stimulate economic activity, and modernize transportation services while addressing challenges faced by workers in the rapidly evolving mobility sector.





Anglo American Agrees Major Coal Asset Sale

Mining giant Anglo American announced plans to sell Australian coal assets for up to \$3.9 billion as part of its portfolio restructuring strategy. The transaction reflects shifting priorities within global mining markets, capital allocation decisions, and broader industry efforts to balance profitability with changing energy transition dynamics.

Panama Canal authorities confirmed they do not plan to restrict vessel traffic during 2026 despite concerns over drought conditions. Discussions focused on water management, operational resilience, global trade continuity, and safeguarding one of the world's most important maritime transit routes amid increasing climate-related challenges.

PANAMA CANAL MAINTAINS FULL OPERATIONS DESPITE DROUGHT CONCERNS





United States Imposes New Sanctions on Cuban Leadership

Washington announced new sanctions targeting Cuban political and military leaders, increasing pressure on the Cuban government. The measures reflected ongoing US concerns regarding governance, human rights, and political freedoms while further complicating bilateral relations and adding to existing economic and diplomatic tensions between the two countries.



G7 Finance Ministers Address Global Economic Imbalances

G7 finance ministers called for coordinated action to address global economic imbalances during discussions shaped by the aftermath of the Iran conflict. Several participants highlighted concerns regarding China's industrial policies and trade practices while emphasizing economic stability, financial resilience, and strengthening international cooperation amid uncertain global conditions.





Cuba Rejects White House Criticism of Government Policies

Cuba's foreign minister dismissed a White House statement criticizing Havana, describing it as inaccurate and misinformed. The exchange highlighted continuing diplomatic tensions between both countries, with disagreements centred on governance, sanctions, political reforms, and broader issues affecting bilateral relations and regional diplomacy.



Brazil Advances New Measures for Digital Platform Oversight

Brazil moved forward with proposals aimed at strengthening regulation of online platforms and enhancing digital safety. Discussions focused on combating harmful content, increasing accountability for technology companies, protecting users, and balancing digital freedoms with growing concerns surrounding misinformation, cybersecurity, and online governance.



Complete First Round of Trade Negotiations

The United States and Mexico concluded the first round of discussions covering automobiles, metals, security cooperation, and trade issues. The talks aimed to strengthen economic integration, address emerging commercial challenges, and enhance bilateral coordination on strategic industries and cross-border security concerns.



US and Cuban Military Officials Hold Rare Meeting Near Guantanamo

In a rare diplomatic engagement, a senior US military official met Cuban counterparts near Guantanamo Bay. Discussions focused on operational coordination, border management, communication mechanisms, and maintaining stability around the naval base, demonstrating limited but important channels of military dialogue between the two countries.



Argentina Receives New IMF Disbursement to Support Reforms

Argentina secured a \$1 billion disbursement from the International Monetary Fund following progress in economic reform commitments. The funding is expected to support fiscal stabilization, debt management, inflation control, and broader efforts aimed at restoring investor confidence and strengthening macroeconomic recovery.

US Military Conducts Exercise Over Caracas

The United States carried out a military exercise over Venezuela's capital, Caracas, drawing attention across the region. The operation underscored ongoing tensions between Washington and Caracas while highlighting broader concerns regarding regional security, military signaling, and the future trajectory of US-Venezuela relations.





US Labour Union Calls for Stronger Standards in North American Trade

The United Auto Workers union urged negotiators to adopt stricter labour protections during discussions on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. The proposals focused on workers' rights, wage standards, enforcement mechanisms, and ensuring that trade integration delivers broader economic benefits across North America.

Mexico and European Union Finalise Long-Awaited Trade Agreement

Mexico and the European Union signed a long-delayed trade agreement aimed at expanding economic cooperation and reducing dependence on the US market. Discussions focused on market access, investment, supply chains, and strengthening strategic economic partnerships amid changing global trade dynamics and geopolitical uncertainty.





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