

Japan calls on US to reconsider new tariffs amid trade deal concerns



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Tokyo, August 7 – Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has urged US President Donald Trump to amend a recent executive order imposing higher tariffs on Japanese exports, as a new 15% duty officially came into effect today.

The appeal reflects growing concerns in Tokyo over the potential economic impact of the new

tariffs, especially on Japan's vital automobile sector. Major manufacturers such as Toyota and Honda, which rely heavily on the US market, could face serious challenges if the tariffs remain in place.

Earlier this week, Japan's top trade negotiator Ryosei Akazawa traveled to Washington in a bid to clarify and resolve tariff terms agreed upon in the countries' recent bilateral trade deal. Before his departure, Akazawa told lawmakers that his mission was to ensure both sides share a common understanding of the agreement.

However, a White House official stated Wednesday that Japanese imports would not receive any special exemptions under the trade pact, contrary to Tokyo's expectations.

Under the current deal, Japan has committed to increasing investment in the US as part of a \$550 billion economic initiative, while the US had agreed to gradually reduce its car import tariff from 27.5% to 15%.

With the new tariffs now active, Japan is pressing for urgent dialogue to avoid further strain on economic ties and to safeguard its key industries. Negotiations are expected to continue in the coming days.