



HM King hails Gaza ceasefire as step towards regional peace

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday welcomed the agreement to end the war in Gaza, describing it as a positive step toward security, stability, and advancing the peace process in the region.

In a congratulatory message to US President Donald Trump, HM reiterated Bahrain's support for efforts to consolidate peace and strengthen international cooperation to ensure a secure and stable future for the region's peoples.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation for President Trump's role in achieving the agreement and commended his leadership in launching this historic initiative.

UK, France, Germany aim to restart Iran nuclear talks

London, United Kingdom

Britain, France and Germany will seek to restart stalled nuclear talks with Iran and the United States, the three European countries said in a joint statement yesterday.

Iran has said that, following those revived sanctions, it would not immediately resume nuclear talks.

UK ex-PM Sunak lands roles at Microsoft, Anthropic

London, United Kingdom

Former British prime minister Rishi Sunak will take senior advisory roles at Microsoft and AI startup Anthropic, a UK government document said Thursday. At Microsoft, he will serve part-time, providing strategic insights on macroeconomic and geopolitical trends, according to the advisory body for former senior officials.

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Bahrain backs Gaza ceasefire, HRH praises US role

US Secretary of State hold talks with HRH CP, PM

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday reaffirmed Bahrain's support for the agreement reached to end the war in Gaza during a telephonic conversation with Marco Rubio, the United States Secretary of State.

During the call from Rubio, His Royal Highness expressed both His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's and his own gratitude to President Donald Trump for his unwavering support for peace in the Middle



East and his direct role in securing this landmark agreement.

HRH Prince Salman also underscored the importance of all parties to the conflict honouring



their commitments and responsibilities to ensure full implementation of the agreement.

Further, His Royal Highness commended the efforts of the

mediators, whose contributions were instrumental in bringing the agreement to fruition.

The strength of Bahrain-US relations was highlighted, with both sides noting that the partnership continues to deepen through strategic cooperation and joint agreements, particularly the recent Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA).

His Royal Highness concluded by reaffirming the mutual commitment to further enhance the bilateral partnership in support of shared goals and aspirations.

India to upgrade Afghan mission to full embassy



New Delhi, India

India will upgrade its technical mission in Afghanistan to a full embassy, Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said yesterday, as he met his counterpart from Kabul in New Delhi.

India had a large embassy in the Afghan capital until the Taliban takeover, when they withdraw most diplomats and downgraded the facility to a technical mission.

"I am pleased to announce today the upgrading of India's Technical Mission in Kabul to the status of Embassy of India," Jaishankar told Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Qatar says success of Gaza truce's first phase a 'collective responsibility'

Doha, Qatar

Qatar's prime minister, a key mediator in the Hamas-Israel conflict, said Friday that the success of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement was a collective responsibility.

"The success of this phase is a collective responsibility to ensure that the agreement is implemented and to achieve peace and stability," said Qatari Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in a statement on X.

Gaza civil defence says 55 bodies recovered as Israeli forces pull back

Nuseirat, Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency said more than 50 bodies were recovered from the wreckage and brought to hospitals across the territory yesterday.

Mohammed al-Mughayyir, an official within the rescue force that operates under Hamas authority, said at least 55 bodies had been retrieved.

The director of Al-Shifa Hospital, Mohammed Abu Salmiya, told AFP that 33 of the bodies were brought to hospitals across Gaza City.

After two years of brutal war, Gazans

Return to ruins



Thousands of displaced Palestinians began to trek home as Israeli forces declared a ceasefire and withdrew from some positions in Gaza

Israel begins Gaza pullback as thousands head home

Israel completes first phase of Gaza withdrawal: US envoy, citing Pentagon

TDT | agencies

Israel declared a ceasefire and started pulling back troops in Gaza yesterday, as thousands of displaced Palestinians began to trek back to their wrecked homes.

After two years of brutal war, the families of Israel's remaining hostages in the territory were also hoping the truce -- pushed by US President Donald Trump -- would hold.

The Israeli army said its

troops had ceased fire at noon (0900 GMT) "in preparation for the ceasefire agreement and the return of hostages".

Three hours later, the US Pentagon confirmed Israel had completed the first phase of a pullback laid out in Trump's peace plan. Israeli forces still hold around 53 percent of the Palestinian territory.

The withdrawal set the clock running on a 72-hour deadline for Hamas to release the remaining hostages held in Gaza.

Israel, meanwhile, published the list of the 250 Palestinian prisoners it plans to release -- along with 1,700 Gazans detained since Hamas triggered the latest conflict on October 7, 2023, with a brutal cross-border assault. As the ceasefire began,

long columns of Palestinians, exhausted by two years of intense bombardment and what the UN has warned were famine conditions, began a trek back from the southern city of Khan Yunis towards their shattered homes further north.

The EU mission at the Rafah border point between Gaza and Egypt will be reopening a pedestrian crossing on October 14, Italy said.

Under the ceasefire deal, Hamas will hand over 47 hostages -- living and dead -- still held from the 251 abducted during the attack two years ago. The remains of one more hostage, held in Gaza since 2014, are also expected to be returned.

Gaza's civil defence agency confirmed that Israeli troops

and armoured vehicles were pulling back from forward positions in both Gaza City and Khan Yunis.

But Israel warned some areas were still off-limits and that Palestinians should steer clear of its forces while they are "in the midst of adjusting operational positions in the Gaza Strip".

Despite celebrations in Israel and Gaza and a flood of congratulatory messages from world leaders, many issues remain unresolved, including Hamas's disarmament and a proposed transitional authority for Gaza led by Trump.

Trump said the issue of Hamas surrendering its weapons would be addressed in the second phase of the peace plan.