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Russia 'gambling  
with war' with  
airspace breach

AFP | Kyiv

The European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said yesterday that Russia was "gambling with war", after a spate of Russian drones and military jets crossing into the bloc's airspace.

NATO has boosted its defences along its eastern borders as it accused Moscow of testing the alliance's air defences with drone incursions into several members and by flying military jets in Estonian airspace.

"Every time a Russian drone or plane violates our airspace, there is a risk of escalation, unintended or not. Russia is gambling with war," Kallas said during a visit to Kyiv.

"To keep war at bay, we must translate the economic power of Europe into military deterrence," she added.

64 left dead in  
Mexico floods

AFP | Mexico

Rescuers scrambled yesterday to reach people cut off by devastating floods that have claimed 64 lives in central and eastern Mexico, with another 65 reported missing.

Torrential rains battered several Mexican states over several days last week, turning village streets into rivers, triggering landslides and sweeping away roads and bridges.

President Claudia Sheinbaum said Monday around 10,000 troops have been deployed with boats, planes and helicopters as part of rescue efforts and to deliver critical food and water for those trapped.

Shelters have been opened for those displaced from their homes, and helicopters were flying to and fro to bring essentials to people cut off from the rest of the world.

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## HM King joins world leaders for Gaza peace deal-signing ceremony

TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa took part in the Sharm El Sheikh Summit for Peace, held in Egypt, where world leaders gathered to witness the signing of a landmark agreement to end the war in Gaza. The summit, co-chaired by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and US President Donald Trump, marked a pivotal moment in the pursuit of lasting regional stability.

The Gaza Peace Agreement was signed by President Trump, President El Sisi, Qatar Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Tur-

kiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Upon arrival, HM the King was warmly received by President El Sisi, who expressed gratitude for Bahrain's participation in the historic event. On the sidelines, HM King Hamad met with President Trump to discuss the deep-rooted Bahrain-US relations and explore new areas of cooperation.

His Majesty commended President Trump's role in achieving the peace accord and ending the hostilities in Gaza, while President Trump praised HM the King's efforts in fostering dialogue and strengthening the longstanding friendship between Bahrain and the United States.



HM the King witnesses the signing of the peace agreement

## Trump and regional leaders sign historic Gaza ceasefire agreement to end war

AFP | Sharm el Sheikh

US President Donald Trump hailed a "tremendous day for the Middle East" as he and regional leaders signed a declaration yesterday meant to cement a ceasefire in Gaza, hours after Israel and Hamas exchanged hostages and prisoners.

Trump made a lightning visit to Israel, where he lauded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an address to parliament, before flying to Egypt for a Gaza summit where he and the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkey signed the declaration as guar-

antors to the Gaza deal.

"This is a tremendous day for the world, it's a tremendous day for the Middle East," Trump said as more than two dozen world leaders sat down to talk in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"The document is going to spell out rules and regulations and lots of other things," Trump said before signing, repeating twice that "it's going to hold up."

As part of Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, Hamas yesterday freed the last 20 surviving hostages it held after two years of captivity in Gaza.

In exchange, Israel released

1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails, its prison service said.

"From October 7 until this week, Israel has been a nation at war, enduring burdens that only a proud and faithful people could withstand," Trump told lawmakers during an address to Israel's parliament, where he received a lengthy standing ovation upon his arrival.

"For so many families across this land, it has been years since you've known a single day of true peace," he continued.

"Not only for Israelis, but also for Palestinians and for many others, the long and painful

nightmare is finally over."

In Tel Aviv, a huge crowd that had gathered to support hostage families erupted in joy, tears and song as news broke of the first releases, though the pain at the loss of those who had not survived was palpable.

In the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, huge crowds gathered to welcome home the first buses carrying prisoners, with some chanting "Allahu akbar", or God is the greatest, in celebration.

And at a similar gathering in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis, residents climbed the sides of slow-moving Red Cross

buses carrying the prisoners to welcome home their loved ones with a hug or kiss.

"Welcome home," Israel's foreign ministry said in a series of posts on X, hailing the return of the hostages.

On Tel Aviv's Hostages Square, Noga shared her pain and joy.

"I'm torn between emotion and sadness for those who won't be coming back," she said.

Under the ceasefire agreement, Hamas is also due to return the bodies of 27 hostages who died or were killed in captivity, as well as the remains of a soldier killed in 2014 during a previous Gaza conflict.