

TRUMP SAYS HAMAS FACES ‘COMPLETE OBLITERATION’ IF IT INSISTS ON STAYING IN POWER



WASHINGTON AGENCIES

UNITED States President Donald Trump declared on Sunday that Hamas faces “complete obliteration” if the group refuses to cede power and control of Gaza, amid ongoing efforts to push forward his proposed ceasefire plan. “Complete Obliteration!” Trump told CNN’s Jake Tapper when asked via text message what would happen if Hamas insists on staying in power. Tapper pressed the president on Hamas’ response to his 20-point ceasefire proposal, citing Sen. Lindsey Graham’s interpretation that Hamas had effectively rejected the plan by insisting on “no disarmament, keeping Gaza under Palestinian control and tying hostage release to negotiations.” “Is he wrong?” Tapper asked. “We will find out. Only time will tell!!!” Trump responded. The president said he expects clarity

“soon” on whether Hamas is genuinely committed to peace. “Yes on Bibi,” Trump said, when asked if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is fully on board with ending the bombing campaign in Gaza and supporting the president’s broader vision. Trump added that he is hopeful his ceasefire proposal will become a reality and emphasized that he’s working hard to achieve it. Earlier on Saturday, the president said that Israel agreed to the initial withdrawal line outlined in his proposed ceasefire plan for Israel and Hamas. In a post on social media, he said the administration is now waiting for confirmation from Hamas. If Hamas agrees, Trump said, a ceasefire would be “immediately effective” and a hostage and prisoner exchange would begin. “After negotiations, Israel has agreed to the initial withdrawal line, which we have shown to, and shared with, Hamas. When Hamas confirms, the Ceasefire

Pentagon’s Hegseth says he has every authorisation needed for Caribbean strikes

WASHINGTON AGENCIES

United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said he has every authorisation needed for military strikes on vessels just off the coast of Venezuela, allegedly carrying illegal drugs. Hegseth was speaking in a Fox News interview broadcast on Sunday. The United States killed four people in a strike in the Caribbean Sea on Friday, at least the fourth such attack in recent weeks. “We have every authorisation needed. These are designated as foreign terrorist organisations,” Hegseth said in an interview on Fox News’ “The Sunday Briefing”. He did not provide more details about the authorisation. Washington has cited the US Constitution, war powers, designation of drug cartels as foreign terrorist organisations, the right to self-defence and international law on unlawful combatants as the legal basis for the strikes. Legal experts and some lawmakers argue that using military force in inter-

national waters against alleged criminals bypasses due process, violates law enforcement norms, lacks a clear legal foundation under US and international law and is not justified by the cartels’ terrorist designation. Hegseth and US President Donald Trump have not provided evidence for claims that the targeted boats were carrying drugs. Trump told Congress last week that he had determined the US to be in “a non-international armed conflict” with drug cartels, without providing any new legal rationale. Critics say the boat strikes are a further effort by Trump to test the scope of his presidential powers. Legal experts have questioned why the military is carrying out these attacks rather than the US Coast Guard, the country’s maritime law agency. “If you’re in our hemisphere, if you’re in the Caribbean, if you’re north of Venezuela and you want to traffic drugs to the United States, you are a legitimate target of the United States military,” Hegseth said.

will be IMMEDIATELY effective, the Hostages and Prisoner Exchange will begin, and we will create the conditions for the next phase of withdrawal, which will bring us close to the end of this 3,000 YEAR CATASTROPHE. Thank you for your attention to this matter and, STAY TUNED!” Trump wrote on Truth Social. Trump also said Saturday that Israel had temporarily halted its airstrikes on Gaza, calling it a critical step toward finalizing a ceasefire agreement, securing

the release of hostages, and warned Hamas to act swiftly. Earlier on the same day, however, CNN reported that at least 67 people in Gaza died due to Israeli strikes, according to hospital officials in the enclave. The president revealed Friday that Hamas had responded positively to his 20-point proposal aimed at ending the conflict. Speaking in a video posted to Truth Social, Trump called it “a big day,” and described the developments as “unprecedented.”

APHC warns India’s war rhetoric poses grave threat to South Asia’s peace

SRINAGAR AGENCIES

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has strongly denounced the belligerent rhetoric emanating from Indian defence and military leadership, warning that such provocative statements are pushing the entire South Asian region toward instability. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar said the war-mongering remarks by India’s defense minister and service chiefs clearly expose New Delhi’s dangerous military mindset and its obsession with the Hindutva-driven ideology of dominance and aggression. Instead of promoting dialogue and cooperation, the spokesman said, India’s generals are parroting the extremist narrative of the Modi regime, fanning the flames of hostility and undermining every effort aimed at regional peace. The APHC spokesman said these provocations are part of the Modi government’s diversionary tactics to deflect attention from its internal failures and uprising in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesman urged the international community to take serious notice of India’s reckless conduct, stressing that durable peace in South Asia hinges on the just settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He said New Delhi must be held accountable for its defiance of international law and its repeated attempts to endanger regional and global peace. The APHC expressed serious concern over the continued arrest and harassment of Kashmiris of all ages and genders by Indian forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The APHC spokesman said the BJP regime and its forces have intensified their campaign of harassment, arbitrary arrests, torture, property confiscations, and dismissal of government employees since August 5, 2019. Even academics, journalists, and human rights and social activists have not been spared. The APHC lamented that Indian forces and dreaded agencies such as the SIA and NIA have turned Kashmir into a living hell for its residents under the guise of so-called cordon-and-search operations and raids. The statement urged India to abandon its intransigence on Kashmir, end its iron-fist approach, and open a new chapter by initiating a sincere and result-oriented dialogue with the Kashmiris and Pakistan to resolve the long-pending dispute once and for all.

Syrian electors cast ballots in indirect vote for first post-Assad parliament

DAMASCUS AGENCIES

A drone view shows the Syrian parliament, as the Syrian government announces that it will hold the first parliamentary elections since the fall of Bashar al-Assad’s regime, in Damascus, Syria, September 21, 2025 Photo: Reuters Members of Syria’s electoral colleges will gather on Sunday to vote for new lawmakers, a milestone in the country’s shift away from the ousted regime of Bashar al-Assad and a major test of inclusivity under its current Islamist-led authorities. President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who came to power after his rebel offensive toppled Assad in December, is trying to consolidate his hold over a nation fractured by a 14-year war and bouts of sectarian violence that fuelled distrust of him among minorities. The indirect vote will see a combined 6,000 electors cast ballots at regional electoral colleges starting around 9:00am local time,



with polls closing around 5:00pm. A committee appointed by Sharaa approved 1,570 candidates who showcased their platforms in seminars and debates this week. But public electioneering was muted, with no posters or billboards visible in major cities, Reuters reporters said. Sunday’s vote will determine two-thirds of the 210-seat parliament, and results are expected the same night. But the legislature will not be formally established until Sharaa, a former al-Qaida

fighter, selects the remaining third. The authorities say they resorted to this system rather than universal suffrage due to a lack of reliable population data and following the displacement of millions of Syrians by the war. Citing security and political reasons, they postponed the vote in three provinces held by minority groups – leaving 19 seats in parliament empty. Critics have slammed these moves, saying a partial and indirect vote is unrepresentative and too centrally managed.

At least 47 dead in Nepal, as heavy rain triggers flash floods

NEPAL AGENCIES

Heavy rains triggered landslides and flash floods blocking roads, washing away bridges and killing at least 47 people since Friday in Nepal, officials said on Sunday. Thirty-five people were killed in separate landslides in the Ilam district in the east bordering India, said Kalidas Dhauboji, a spokesperson for the Armed Po-

lice Force. Nine people were missing after being washed away by floods and three others were killed in lightning strikes elsewhere in Nepal, he added. “Rescue efforts for the missing persons are going on,” said Shanti Mahat, a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority spokesperson in Nepal. Across the border in the eastern Indian hill region of Darjee-

ling in West Bengal, at least seven people were killed due to landslides following heavy rainfall, according to local media reports. “Seven dead bodies have already been recovered from the debris. We have information about two more people. Work is being done to recover their bodies too,” Abhishek Roy, a Darjeeling district police official said on Sunday, according to a post from Indian news agency ANI on social media platform X.

Trump authorises troops to Chicago as judge blocks Portland deployment

CHICAGO AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump authorised the deployment of troops to Chicago after a federal agent shot an allegedly armed motorist there on Saturday. At the same time, a judge blocked the Republican leader’s attempt to send the military into Portland, another Democratic-run city. The escalating crisis across the country pits Trump’s increasingly militarised anti-crime and migration crackdown against opposition Democrats who accuse him of an authoritarian power grab. White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said in a statement that “President Trump has authorised 300 national guardsmen to protect federal officers and assets” in Chicago. This comes after weeks of Republican threats to send troops to the Midwestern city over the wishes of local leaders. “President Trump will not turn a blind eye to the lawlessness plaguing American cities.” Illinois Senator Dick Durbin called the move a “shameful chapter in our nation’s history”, adding that the “president is not intent on fighting crime. He is intent on spreading fear.” Chicago and Portland are the latest flashpoints in the Trump administration’s rollout of raids, following the deployment of troops to Los Angeles and Washington. The raids have seen groups of masked, armed men in unmarked cars and armoured vehicles target residential neighbourhoods and businesses, sparking protests. Trump has repeatedly called Portland “war-ravaged” and riddled with violent crime, but in Saturday’s court order, US District Judge Karin Immergut wrote “the President’s determination was simply untethered to the facts.” Although the city has seen scattered attacks on federal officers and property, the Trump administration failed to demonstrate “that those episodes of violence were part of an organised attempt to overthrow the government as a whole,” Immergut wrote in granting a temporary restraining order. Protests in Portland did not pose a “danger of rebellion,” and “regular law enforcement forces” could handle such incidents, Immergut said. Oregon Senator Ron Wyden applauded the order, saying the “victory supports what Oregonians already know: we don’t need or want Donald Trump to provoke violence by deploying federal troops in our state.” White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller wrote on social media that the judge’s order was “legal insurrection” and accused local leaders in Oregon of conducting an “organised terrorist attack on the federal government.” ‘Operation Midway Blitz’ Earlier on Saturday, a federal officer in Chicago shot a motorist after law enforcement agents were “boxed in by 10 cars,” the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said. “Agents were unable to move their vehicles and exited the car. One of the drivers who rammed the law enforcement vehicle was armed with a semi-automatic weapon,” DHS assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

Toxic cough syrup kills another 14 children in India’s Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI AGENCIES

At least fourteen children have died in India’s Madhya Pradesh state after consuming a contaminated cough syrup, exposing once again the alarming negligence in India’s pharmaceutical monitoring system. According to Kashmir Media Service, the deaths were reported from Chhindwara district, where several children suffering from fever and cough allegedly developed renal failure after taking the syrup Coldrif, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals in Tamil Nadu, Indian media reported. Laboratory tests confirmed that the syrup contained 48.6 percent diethylene glycol, a highly toxic industrial chemical known to cause kidney failure and death. The permissible limit for the substance is only 0.10 percent, meaning the contamination was nearly 480 times above safe levels. Following the revelation, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) ordered risk-based inspections of 19 pharmaceutical units across six Indian states. The Madhya Pradesh Food and Drug Administration has also banned the sale and distribution of Coldrif and directed immediate seizure of all stocks. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav termed the incident “extremely tragic” and announced monetary relief for the victims’ families, but public outrage continues to grow over recurring deaths caused by unsafe Indian-manufactured drugs.

UK police investigating suspected arson at England mosque as hate crime

LONDON AGENCIES

Police said on Sunday they were investigating a suspected arson at a mosque in southern England as a “hate crime”, days after a fatal attack on a synagogue. Officers were called to the incident at the mosque in the south coast town of Peacehaven late on Saturday. No one was injured, but the blaze caused damage to the mosque’s front entrance and a vehicle parked outside. According to a statement from Sussex Police, emergency services were called to the fire at the building in Phyllis Avenue at about 9.50pm UK time on Saturday (1:50am PKT, Sunday). “This is a fast-moving investigation, and we are urging anyone with relevant information to report it to us. This includes anyone with CCTV, Ring Doorbell, dashcam, and mobile phone footage in the area at the time,” Sussex Police

Detective Superintendent Karrie Bohanna said in the statement. “We understand the concerns this has caused within the community, and the impact that will be felt by the Muslim community as a result. “There is already an increased police presence at the scene,

and there are also additional patrols taking place to provide reassurance at other places of worship across the county.” Bohanna added that the Sussex Police had a “zero-tolerance approach to hate crime”, adding there was no place for hate across the county.



A volunteer working at the mosque, who chose not to be named, told the BBC that “two people tried to enter through the front door, only to find it locked.” “They then poured a liquid at the entrance and near a car parked outside, which was set alight. It could have been murder,” the man said. He added that two people inside the mosque managed to escape, per the report. Member of the Scottish Parliament and ex-first minister Humza Yousaf said in a post on X that such incidents were taking place because all Muslims were blamed for the actions of a few extremists. “We warned you. Many politicians & media outlets have put a target on every Muslim’s back by blaming all of us, and Islam, for the horrific Synagogue attack,” he said. “Thursday’s attack was the actions of one deranged extremist. This is what happens when you blame an entire community.”

CRESCENT COTTON MILLS LIMITED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 67th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Company will be held on Tuesday the 28th October, 2025 at 10.00 a.m. at Registered Office of the Company New Lahore Road, Nishatabad, Faisalabad to transact the following business:

1. To receive, consider and adopt the Chairman’s Review Report, the Reports of Directors and Auditors together with Audited Annual Separate and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

2. To appoint Company’s external auditors and to fix their remuneration.

3. To transact any other business with the permission of the chair.

On Behalf Of The Board

Company Secretary

PAKISTAN TODAY LAHORE,
06-Oct-2025

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