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TRUMP: HISTORIC DAWN FOR MIDEAST

■ US PRESIDENT DECLARES END OF A 'PAINFUL NIGHTMARE'

■ A DOCUMENT ENDING THE GAZA WAR FORMALISED

■ A PEACE DEAL WITH IRAN ALSO SOUGHT BY US LEADER

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N. R.
Senior Associate Editor

US President Donald Trump yesterday attended a high-stakes global summit in Egypt aimed at shaping Gaza's future, after celebrating a US-brokered ceasefire with Hamas during his visit to Israel — a moment he hailed as a "historic dawn" for the Middle East.

The whirlwind trip — which included a speech at the Knesset in Jerusalem earlier in the day — came at a fragile yet hopeful moment for ending two years of war between Israel and Hamas.

"Everybody said it's not possible to do. And it's going to happen. And it is happening before your very eyes," Trump said alongside Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al Sissi, praising Cairo's mediation efforts.

Shaikh Mansour attends

Leaders and officials from 27 nations joined the summit. On behalf of President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Presidential Court, led the UAE delegation to the summit.

As he savoured the cheers of Israeli lawmakers earlier in the day, Trump basked in what he called one of the greatest moments of his presidency. "I've been involved in a lot of success. I have never seen anything like what's going on today," he told the Knesset to a long standing ovation, as some lawmakers



AFP

■ Donald Trump, Abdul Fattah Al Sissi, Shaikh Mansour and other world leaders pose for a group photograph at the Sharm Al Shaikh Peace Summit in the Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Sharm Al Shaikh yesterday.

waved red hats emblazoned with Trump the Peace President.

The 79-year-old declared the end of a "painful nightmare" with the Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal he helped broker, saying people were "dancing in the streets." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called him "the greatest friend of Israel."

In typical fashion, Trump mixed celebration with political bravado. He boasted that the United States was "the hottest country in the world," took swipes at rivals including former president Joe Biden, and even urged Israel's president to par-

don Netanyahu over corruption charges.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry described the Sharm Al Shaikh gathering as a "historic" event and said a document formally ending the Gaza war was expected to be signed during the summit.

Guarantee document

According to diplomatic sources, the US, Egypt, Qatar and possibly Turkey are set to sign a guarantee document committing to the ceasefire's implementation. Hamas was not invited, though Palestinian President

Mahmoud Abbas — whose Fatah movement rivals Hamas — was present.

Trump said he wanted a peace deal with Iran, after the United States joined Israel in striking the Islamic republic's nuclear sites during a brief war earlier this year.

"They got it from one side, from the other, and you know it would be great if we could make a peace deal with them," Trump said of Iran, a key backer of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, during a speech to Israel's parliament.

"Would you be happy with

that? Wouldn't it be nice, I think. Because I think they want to."

Trump said the ball was in Tehran's court for any agreement to come to pass.

"We're ready when you are," the Republican said.

Also attending the summit are UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Jordan's King Abdullah II, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, along with representatives from the EU, Arab League, the UAE, India, Indonesia and Germany.

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