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SPORTS, 1B

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Vice President JD Vance must persuade Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government to show restraint in responding to Hamas’ provocations and ensure that humanitarian aid makes it into Gaza, former U.S. officials say.

ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS FILE

Ceasefire hangs in the balance

Vance trip aims to keep Israel-Gaza deal from falling apart

Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s top messenger, Vice President JD Vance, will travel to Israel to try to rein in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while seeking to prevent the collapse of a week-old peace deal hailed as a coup for the United States in ending a brutal two-year war.

But the vice president will land in

fraught territory as the deal brokered by the White House hangs in the balance. The first part of the ceasefire was confined to the release of living hostages in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners and the delivery of aid into Gaza. Vance now faces the biggest sticking point in the rest of the plan: Hamas’ disarmament and Israel’s full withdrawal of troops from the enclave.

It’s a high-stakes gamble for a vice president with limited foreign policy experience. At minimum, Vance, with the help of other Trump envoys, must persuade Netanyahu’s government to show restraint in responding to Hamas’ provocations and ensure that humanitarian assistance makes it into Gaza, former U.S. officials say.

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Zelenskyy ‘ready’ for talks to end violence

Kathryn Palmer
USA TODAY

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signaled he’s open to joining President Donald Trump’s proposed summit in Budapest, Hungary, but said the American president needs to get tougher with Russia’s Vladimir Putin. Zelenskyy, in an interview with NBC News’ “Meet the Press,” said Trump needed to exert “more pressure” on Russia, making a comparison to the president’s recent involvement with the tenuous ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas. The Ukrainian leader said that “Pu-

tin is something similar – but more strong than Hamas,” arguing that global pressure is necessary to end the bloody war that started in February 2022 when Russia invaded its neighbor. Zelenskyy, in the interview taped after his Oct. 17 visit to the White House, said he told Trump he’s “ready” to attend talks on ending the violence. On the eve of Zelenskyy’s White House visit, Trump had said he plans to hold a summit with Putin in Budapest to work on an agreement to end the war in Ukraine, which he announced after his call with the Russian president. Zelenskyy on Oct. 19 also told “Meet the Press” host Kristen Welker that

Trump did not approve of Ukraine’s request for long-range Tomahawk missiles during their recent meeting, but suggested it was not an outright refusal. He explained that Trump “didn’t say ‘no,’ but for today, didn’t say ‘yes.’” The missiles, which can travel 1,500 miles, could give Ukraine a significant advantage in the ongoing war, opening up targets deep inside Russian territory including military bases, logistics hubs, airfields, and command centers. Russia has threatened a new round of dangerous escalation with the West if the United States were to sell

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Shippers struggle to adapt to tariffs

Companies destroy some packages amid issues with clearing customs

Mike Snider
USA TODAY

The business of delivering packages has gotten more complex amid the latest wave of tariffs, and in some cases, shipping companies such as UPS wind up simply trashing some packages. As the Trump administration increasingly wields tariffs as economic and foreign policy tools, international packages coming into the United States need more information to clear customs. Tariffs have been deployed or increased recently on certain products, such as steel and aluminum, and most recently lumber and wood products, including upholstered furniture and kitchen cabinets. And additional tariffs have been levied on products coming from certain nations, including Canada, China, Mexico and India, which recently had tariffs increased to 50%. Also complicating matters: the Aug. 29 scrapping of the de minimis exemption, which allowed shippers to avoid tariffs on packages shipped to the United States valued at \$800 or less.

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While shipping companies work through customs issues, consumers who are awaiting purchased goods have grown frustrated about delays or the likelihood of their package arriving. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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