

## Trump threatens to strip Harvard of tax-exempt status

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to strip Harvard of its tax-exempt status after the elite US university refused to accept far-reaching policy changes ordered by the White House.

Trump had already moved to freeze \$2.2 billion of federal funds on Monday in retaliation for the top university's defiance of the administration's push to bring campuses to heel.

Trump said Harvard "should lose its Tax Exempt Status and be Taxed as a Political Entity" if it does not submit to his demands for the college to change the way it runs itself, including selection of students and authority for professors.

Tax-exempt status is "totally contingent on acting in the PUBLIC INTEREST," he added in the post on his Truth Social network.



People gather to protest against the conflict in Sudan, on the day of the two-year anniversary of the conflict, as the London Sudan conference takes place, in London, Britain yesterday. Sudan's civil war has displaced 13 million people, the United Nations said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Israel makes new Gaza truce proposal

Hamas likely to respond within 48 hrs; Maldives ban Israelis to protest offensive

AGENCIES

Mediators Egypt and Qatar have presented a new Israeli proposal for a Gaza ceasefire to Hamas, Egyptian state-affiliated Al Qahira News TV said.

A senior Hamas official told AFP yesterday that the Palestinian movement will "most likely" respond to the ceasefire proposal it received through mediators within 48 hours.

The group reiterated its core demand that a ceasefire deal must end the offensive in Gaza and achieve a full Israeli pull-out from the strip.

Earlier, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters that the proposal did not meet the Palestinian group's demand that Israel commit to a complete halt of hostilities.

In the proposal, Israel also for the first time called for the disarmament of Hamas in the next phase of negotiations, which the group will not agree to, Abu Zuhri said.

### UN chief 'deeply alarmed' by Israeli strike on Gaza hospital

"Handing over the resistance's weapons is a million red lines and is not subject to consideration, let alone discussion", Abu Zuhri said.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is "deeply alarmed" at Sunday's strike by Israeli forces on the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, his spokesperson said yesterday.

"Under international humanitarian law, wounded and sick, medical personnel and medical facilities, including hospitals, must be respected and protected," the UN chief's spokesperson said.

In a separate development, The Maldives announced yesterday it was banning the entry of Israelis from the luxury tourist archipelago in "resolute solidarity" with the Palestinian people.

President Mohamed Muizzu ratified the legislation shortly after it was approved by parliament yesterday.

The ban will be implemented with immediate effect, a spokesman for Muizzu's office told AFP.

Bomb blast kills 3 cops in Pakistan

16 others hurt

AFP, Quetta

An explosion targeting a police bus in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province killed at least three officers and wounded 16 others yesterday.

The bus was carrying around 40 police officers when it was hit by the blast in Mastung district, around 40 kilometres south of the provincial capital Quetta, local administration official Raja Muhammad Akram told AFP.

"It was a roadside IED (improvised explosive device) blast that resulted in the deaths of three policemen while wounding 16 others," Akram said.

Pakistan has been battling a separatist insurgency in Balochistan for decades, where militants target state forces, foreign nationals, and non-nationals in the mineral-rich southwestern province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

## Ukraine pounds Kursk with dozens of drones

Says Russia; Kremlin claims no clear outline for US-Russia deal on Ukraine

REUTERS

an 85-year-old woman died."

Kyiv forces hit Russia's Kursk region that borders Ukraine with dozens of drones, killing an elderly woman, injuring nine people and sparking fires in several buildings in the region's administrative centre, Russian authorities said yesterday.

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