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MIDDLE EAST

US, IRAN REACH DEAL TO END WAR



AVI OHAYON, REUTERS

Smoke rises near destroyed structures in southern Lebanon, as seen from the Israeli side of the Israel-Lebanon border Sunday in northern Israel. Lebanon was a sticking point in peace negotiations between the United States and Iran.

Peace framework set to be officially signed Friday

PARISA HAFEZI AND PHIL STEWART
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Iranian officials said Sunday they agreed on a peace framework for a deal to end their war, halt the U.S. blockade of Iran and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, possibly leading to lower energy prices once oil shipments resume through the critical waterway.

“The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete,” President Donald Trump posted on social media on Sunday. His post came shortly after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country served as a mediator, announced a deal had been struck early Monday local time.

The pact will be officially signed Friday in Switzerland, Sharif wrote.

The precise terms were not immediately known. Sharif said in a post on X that the pact called for “the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon.”

Lebanon was a sticking point in negotiations, with Israel and Hezbollah ignoring calls from Trump and others to stop their attacks on each other in recent weeks.



REUTERS

Please see IRAN, Page A2 Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz are seen Sunday from Musandam, Oman.

Poll: Half of Americans fear AI could steal work

JASON LANGE AND COURTNEY ROZEN
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Half of Americans fear that the rise of AI could put them or someone in their household out of work, according to a new Reuters/Ipsos poll that also showed widespread angst at how widely the technology is being adopted.

The six-day survey, completed last week, found that 53% of Americans shared that worry, which was spread fairly evenly across respondents by age, gender and education level.

About 37% of respondents said they did not worry about this at all with the remaining 10% either unsure or opting not to answer the question.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll followed a wave

of AI-related job cuts by major companies including software firm Intuit, which told staff last month it would lay off 17% of its global workforce to streamline operations and sharpen focus on its key bets including its AI efforts. University of Arizona students booed Eric Schmidt last month when the former Google CEO discussed AI’s effect at a graduation ceremony.

Its potential use as a tool of political propaganda, in entertainment and even warfare prompted warnings by elected leaders and even Pope Leo XIV.

Many of the announced job cuts have come at tech firms and it remains to be seen if the overall U.S. job market will suffer.

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DADO RUVIC, REUTERS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Figurines with computers and smartphones are seen in front of the words “AI Artificial Intelligence” in this photo illustration taken Feb. 19, 2024.