

U.S., Iran reach deal to halt war, open strait

Israel silent as details of agreement remain unclear, including future of Tehran's nuclear program, with signing set for Friday

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The United States and Iran have reached an initial agreement to end their war and open the Strait of Hormuz, offering relief to the Gulf region and global economy more than three months since fighting began.

Details of the deal were not immediately released and Iran

signalled implementation would not start until the signing, which key mediator Pakistan said would occur Friday in Switzerland. It was expected to extend the tenuous ceasefire reached in April so that negotiators can try to resolve thorny issues such as Iran's nuclear program and related sanctions.

There was no immediate word from Israel, which together with the U.S. started the war on Feb. 28 but has expressed skepticism about the negotiations.

But even as it became clear the

parties still have days to influence what lies ahead, the announcements had an air of relief.

"Congratulations to all!" U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on social media, adding: "I hereby fully authorize the toll free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and, simultaneously herewith, authorize the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade," imposed in retaliation for Iran's grip on the crucial waterway.

He soon hedged, however, saying the strait wouldn't open until

Friday's signing. The U.S. previously said it would ease its blockade of Iranian ports as the strait reopens, and would agree to relax sanctions to allow Iran to sell more of its oil and strengthen its battered economy.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, confirmed the agreement on state television but said Iran would not start implementing it until it was signed on Friday. He said the deal followed talks with Qatar, another mediator.

Qatari mediators later left Teh-

ran after 17 hours of negotiations, said an official briefed on the developments who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks. Separate preparatory meetings with each side will take place in Doha this week, the official said.

"This represents a critical step toward the peaceful settlement of the conflict," the spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General said of the deal and framework for further negotiations.

■ IRAN, A6

[FOLIO]



Snowbirds 1, 8 and 10 make a pass over Air Force Beach beside CFB Comox during their spring training in Comox, B.C., in April. JAMES MacDONALD/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

SOARING SNOWBIRDS

Canada's famous aerobatic demonstration team is off and flying for one more season before it enters a multiyear hiatus ■ A8

Joly to meet with Chinese EV makers eyeing Canada for investment

STEVEN CHASE
SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER

Industry Minister Mélanie Joly says she will be meeting with four Chinese companies that are considering building electric vehicles in Canada when she visits China this week in an effort to attract investment to this country's auto sector.

The four companies – BYD, Chery, Geely and Shanghai Launch Automotive Technology – have been examining possible investments in Canada, Ms. Joly said in an interview. Shanghai Launch's proposal includes a partnership with British automaker Austin Motor Co., she added.

Ms. Joly is due to arrive in China Monday for a four-day visit that will begin in Shanghai. She will visit BYD's manufacturing base in Changzhou, west of Shanghai, as well as Shanghai Launch's Wuxi location. After that, she will meet with Chery, and visit Geely's Shanghai research and development centre.

She said she wants to see Canadian companies engaged in contract manufacturing for Chinese EV makers in Canadian factories or plants. Ms. Joly noted that a subsidiary of Magna International is doing this for China's Xpeng in Austria.

This is the latest effort by the Carney government to save the Canadian auto industry as it faces an uncertain future because of protectionist United States trade policy. However, the move risks further irritating the U.S. during sensitive negotiations on the renewal of the trilateral United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which governs continental trade.

Ms. Joly said her mandate is to safeguard Canadian auto sector employment and adjacent jobs, which number roughly 500,000, including not only auto parts and auto assembly employees, but also workers in logistics, automation services and professional services, as well as automotive-centric tooling, and the specialized equipment, software and machinery engineered exclusively for designing, building, assembling and maintaining vehicles.

"What is important is how can we make sure that we offer great vehicles to Canadians that are actually affordable, and with the latest technology, while keeping and protecting our 500,000 auto workers," Ms. Joly said.

"My job is to square that circle, and the Prime Minister has given me the mandate to really be able to work with the sector and work with the Chinese automakers."

■ CHINA, A10

Majority of Ontario's emergency physicians say their departments are overcrowded, surveys find

KELLY GRANT
HEALTH REPORTER

Three-quarters of Ontario emergency physicians say their departments are critically or severely overcrowded, and that patients awaiting beds inside their hospitals are stuck in the ER on nearly every shift, according to a new poll.

The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) released the findings of two surveys about the state of ER care on Monday as hospitals across the province and the country prepare for summer – a time of year that often goes by a different name among ER staff.

"I call the summer season trauma sea-

son," said Dannica Switzer, a rural generalist based in Wawa who has worked in several ERs in Northern Ontario.

As the weather warms up, Dr. Switzer and her colleagues see more ATV, dirt bike and highway accidents, many of them involving alcohol. Those incidents take a bigger toll if ERs are understaffed or overcrowded, she added, although she emphasized that ER crowding tends to be worse in big-city hospitals.

Still, the OMA's survey of ER doctors suggests overcrowding is widespread. Seventy-four per cent of respondents described it as critical or severe; 75 per cent said ER beds or treatment spaces were occupied by patients awaiting admission on nearly ev-

ery shift; and 76 per cent reported that overcrowding affects their ability to deliver timely care on most or nearly every shift.

Approximately 15 per cent of the province's ER doctors – 288 individuals – responded to the OMA's online poll, which was conducted in late March and early April.

Also on Monday, the OMA released a survey of the public's views on ERs that found only 30 per cent were confident they would receive timely ER care if they needed it today. However, more than half of respondents – 56 per cent – felt certain they would receive good-quality care once they made it through the line.

■ SURVEY, A10



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