

HOUSING

# Council overruled

Markham mayor vetoes decision to allow fourplexes across city BI

DEFENCE

# Northern danger

Carney sets out security strategy for Arctic en route to Norway A4



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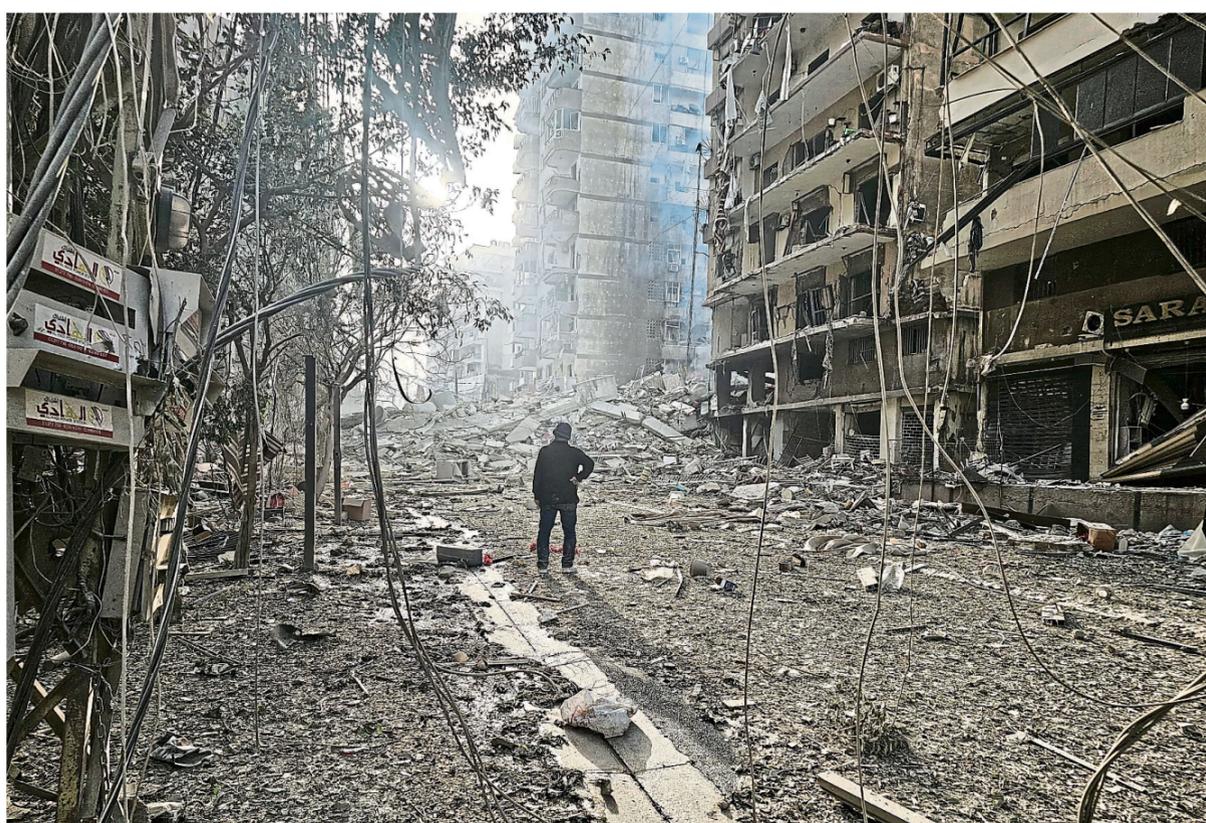
# TORONTO STAR

WEATHER HIGH 3 C | MIXED PRECIPITATION | MAP A14

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

# New Iranian leader vows to keep fighting

In first public message, Khamenei threatens to open 'other fronts' in war



JON GAMBRELL, GHAYA BEN MBAREK, SARAH EL DEEB AND JULIE WATSON

DUBAI, U.A.E. Iran's secretive new leader issued his first public statements Thursday, resolving to keep fighting, promising more pain for Gulf Arab states and threatening to open "other fronts" in a war that has already disrupted world

energy supplies, the global economy and international travel. The hardline stance revealed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country's attacks were creating conditions for the Iranian population to topple the government. "It is in your hands," Netanyahu said at a news conference, addressing the Iranian people. "We are cre-

ating the optimal conditions for the fall of the regime." Since the start of the war, U.S. and Israeli strikes have targeted security checkpoints in Iran to undermine the government's ability to suppress dissent, according to Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, the U.S.-based independent monitoring group known as ACLED. SEE IRAN, A6

Damage from Israeli airstrikes is seen in Beirut on Thursday. Some 800,000 people have been displaced in Lebanon amid the war.

AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

STAR EXCLUSIVE

# GO train nearly derailed following missed signal

Oakville incident could have been 'high-fatality' crash, rail expert says

ANDY TAKAGI TRANSPORTATION REPORTER

A GO train carrying 120 passengers was within seconds of derailing near Oakville earlier this year, according to an internal Metrolinx report obtained by the Star, a close call that one expert said could have resulted in a "high-fatality" crash.

The incident — which the report says was the fourth time a GO train had sped past a stop signal over the previous 12 months — has railway experts raising questions about the safety and transparency of the province's commuter railway, which carries an average 244,000 passengers daily. On Jan. 5, a westbound GO train just outside of the Oakville GO station blew through a stop signal and crossed over to a different track at about 112 kilometres per hour when it should have been travelling at about 24 km/h, despite the driver hitting the brakes, according to the confidential, preliminary Metrolinx report on the incident.

While no one was injured, the report found a "very narrow margin between the actual outcome and a credible worst-case scenario, including derailment or collision."

Passing stop signals is "recognized across the rail industry as one of the most serious operating violations," the report added.

SEE TRAIN, A9

# March break travel on the rise

More passengers expected at Pearson despite global safety risks

ESTELLA REN AND MANUELA VEGA BUSINESS REPORTERS

Canadians are facing more global unrest this March break, but it hasn't curbed our collective desire to escape after the long, cold winter.

Toronto's Pearson airport says passenger volume is up over last year, with some 1.7 million people expected to pass through the air-

port during the break. Even after advisories from the Canadian government warned travellers to exercise a high degree of caution when visiting Mexico, due to "high levels of criminal activity and kidnapping," Cancun remains one of the most popular sun destinations. "March break travel is showing a lot of strength, with double-digit year-over-year growth for leisure destinations, especially in the Ca-

ribbean and Mexico," said Air Canada's spokesperson Peter Fitzpatrick. "Issues in Mexico seem to have decreased, and we have not heard any major concerns or booking pattern changes." In fact, Fitzpatrick said Air Canada boosted its March capacity to Cancun by over 40,000 seats year over year, while its capacity to Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic, grew by 20,000. SEE TRAVEL, A8

FULL INDEX A2 ONO



INSIDE

# A World Cup in Trump's world

Iran war is latest crisis to cast shadow over event Arthur A7

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