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UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR

TRUMP CLAIMS SIDES AGREE TO 'ENERGY CEASEFIRE'

KHARKIV PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Surveillance footage shows vehicles parked on a street as debris falls during an explosion from a Russian strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Sunday. Ukraine said Russia struck a joint heating and power plant in Kharkiv, the nation's second-largest city, after U.S. President Donald Trump claimed in a social media post that the warring nations had agreed to an energy ceasefire.

Zelenskyy said he supports notion, but is awaiting details of deal

DANIEL FLYNN AND STEVE HOLLAND
Reuters

KYIV/WASHINGTON — U.S. President Donald Trump made a surprise announcement of an energy ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine on Sunday that he said was "effective immediately," but Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he was still waiting to see details of the deal.

There was no word from Moscow on the ceasefire announcement, which followed days of intense pressure from Trump for Ukraine to halt its attacks on Russian oil refineries. He blames those strikes for a rise in diesel prices that is hurting his Republican Party ahead of midterm elections next month.

In a dramatic deterioration in relations, Trump on Saturday warned Zelenskyy that he had "better damn well stop" attacking Russian refineries, and urged Ukrainians to replace their leader at new elections. Trump said Zelenskyy had missed several opportunities to strike a deal with Moscow.

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REUTERS

A woman stands Sunday inside her apartment in a residential building that was hit by a Russian drone strike in Dnipro, Ukraine.

AARON SCHWARTZ, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

President Donald Trump, center, alongside, from left, Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., speaks to the press after a meeting with Senate Republicans at the Capitol in Washington on June 24.

Pro forma sessions a way for Congress to get around Trump

Method allows for bills to become law without president's signature

VICTOR FELDMAN
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — With members largely in their districts to campaign in the final stretch before the midterm elections, the House and Senate have transitioned to "pro forma" mode. But the rhythm of chambers gaveling in briefly every few days can mask the political undercurrents in the constant push and pull of power between Congress and the executive branch.

That dynamic was on display in July, when a blockbuster housing overhaul and a lesser-known measure expanding disaster relief payments to farmers quietly became law without the pomp and circumstance sometimes seen in presidential bill signings.

The two laws were enacted through what's known as the "10-day rule." The Constitution says that bills become law after 10 days, excluding Sundays, without a presidential signature — as long as Congress has not adjourned. Pro formas, brief meetings of the House or Senate during which business is not usually conducted, allow the chambers to stay in session.

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