



Workers build a wall at the site of a damaged residential building that, according to Iranian authorities, was hit by a strike on March 4 during the U.S.-Israeli military campaign, on April 14, 2026 in Tehran, Iran. On April 8 President Donald Trump announced a two-week ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran. Peace talks facilitated by Pakistan have since stalled, reportedly over Iran’s nuclear capabilities and control of the Strait of Hormuz. MAJID SAEEDI/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. and Iran weigh further truce talks, with Trump blockade underway

BEN BARTENSTEIN
AND ARSALAN SHAHLA

The U.S. and Iran are weighing a second round of peace negotiations, with Tehran considering a pause in shipments through the Strait of Hormuz to help ease the path toward further talks.

The objective is to hold more discussions before a truce announced April 7 expires next week, according to people familiar with the matter. One idea is to return to Pakistan, where an initial round took place last weekend, they said, though other venues have been discussed.

U.S. President Donald Trump is pressing ahead with a naval blockade of Hormuz to curb the Islamic Republic’s oil exports, as the battle for control of the strategic waterway intensifies. Iran may hold off testing the strength of the move in the short term, other people familiar with the matter said Tuesday, a move that could serve to ease tensions.

“We’ve been called this morning

by the right people, the appropriate people, and they want to work a deal,” Trump said at the White House on Monday, hours after the U.S. Navy began implementing the blockade of Hormuz to prevent vessels transiting to and from Iranian ports and coastal areas.

Oil prices fell and stocks rose as expectations rose for an accord that could end the more than six-week war.

The latest push shows the two sides haven’t given up on diplomacy after their first round of direct talks in Pakistan failed to produce an agreement. Negotiating teams could return to Islamabad later this week, Reuters reported, citing sources it didn’t identify, while adding that no firm date has been set.

Switzerland said it’s ready to provide diplomatic support to efforts to end the conflict amid speculation discussions could take place in Geneva. The traditionally neutral country hosted talks about Iran’s nuclear program before the U.S.

and Israel started bombing the Islamic Republic on Feb. 28.

The war has left thousands dead, damaged infrastructure and disrupted energy flows beyond the Persian Gulf, rattling markets and triggering fears of a global inflation crisis.

Surging prices of products such as jet fuel and gasoline are already squeezing consumers, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday, pointing toward the first annual decline in global oil demand since 2020.

Fighting has largely paused since shortly after the April 7 truce was agreed. The exception is in Lebanon, where Israel is continuing its military campaign against Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Talks between Israel and Lebanon were due to take place in Washington on Tuesday in an effort to resolve the conflict, which has killed more than 2,000 people and displaced a million more, according to the Lebanese government.

Trump’s blockade of Hormuz

represents a further test of the ceasefire’s durability. About a fifth of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas was shipped through the strait before the start of the war on Feb. 28.

“We can’t let a country blackmail or extort the world,” Trump said, warning Iran against charging fees for vessels to transit the strait.

A ship under U.S. sanctions and linked to China is making its way through Hormuz, testing the blockade. Rich Starry appeared to transit Hormuz in the early hours of Tuesday morning, according to vessel-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Later in the day, after completing the crossing, it turned around in the Gulf of Oman, the data show. The vessel was blacklisted by Washington in 2023 for helping Tehran evade energy sanctions.

Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. partner, is pushing Washington to halt the blockade, fearing it could prompt Tehran to escalate tensions and disrupt other regional shipping routes, the Wall Street Journal re-

ported, citing Arab officials it didn’t name.

Blocking shipments through the strait poses risks for China, which remains Iran’s largest oil customer and a key trade partner. Beijing has called for an immediate ceasefire, warning that a blockade threatens global trade.

Trump repeated claims that negotiations had failed due to Iran’s insistence on maintaining a nuclear program and stressed that any deal would require Tehran to abandon its atomic ambitions.

Vice-President JD Vance, who led the U.S. delegation in the first round of talks, left the next step to Tehran.

The New York Times, citing people familiar with the talks, reported that the U.S. proposed a 20-year suspension of nuclear activity, while Iran countered with a plan to halt it for as many as five years – similar to an offer made in February.

Iran blamed the collapse of talks over the weekend on the U.S., but left the door open for more negotiations. President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran was prepared to continue discussions within a framework of international law, according to a statement on a government news portal.

Bloomberg

Trump post appearing to depict him as Jesus removed amid backlash

NATALIE ALLISON

U.S. President Donald Trump’s posting of an image that appeared to depict him as Jesus drew rare criticism from the religious right, prompting allegations of blasphemy and calls for him to take down the post before it was deleted.

Shortly after posting a screed against Pope Leo XIV on Sunday night as he returned to Washington from Florida, Trump shared an image that appeared to be AI-generated in the style of a painting, depicting him in a long white robe with a red cloak draped around his shoulders.

In one hand was an orb glowing with light; Trump’s other hand rested on the forehead of a man in what resembled a hospital bed – light beaming from the man’s head as Trump appeared to pray for his healing. Patriotic symbols including an eagle, fireworks and the Statue of Liberty filled the frame.

Unlike the post criticizing Leo, whom Trump later said he didn’t like and is too “liberal,” the image evoking Jesus drew swift criticism from some evangelical Christians and conservative Catholics who have otherwise expressed near constant support for Trump’s decisions.

“I don’t know if the President thought he was being funny or if he is under the influence of some substance or what possible explanation he could have for this OUTRAGEOUS blasphemy,” wrote Megan Basham, a prominent conservative Protestant Christian writer and commentator.

I don't know if the President thought he was being funny or if he is under the influence of some substance or what possible explanation he could have for this OUTRAGEOUS blasphemy. But he needs to take this down immediately and ask for forgiveness from the American people and then from God.

MEGAN BASHAM

“But he needs to take this down immediately and ask for forgiveness from the American people and then from God.”

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Trump’s intent in posting the image. Following the backlash and after appearing on the president’s Truth Social account for more than 12 hours, the image was deleted.

Asked about the post Monday afternoon, Trump said he posted it.

“I thought it was me as a doctor, and had to do with Red Cross, as a Red Cross worker, which we support,” Trump said. In the photo, Trump’s clothing is reminiscent of clothing worn in Jesus’ time and does not appear to be an outfit a modern doctor would wear. There is no reference in the photo to the Red Cross.

“It’s supposed to be me as a doctor, making people better,” Trump

continued. “And I do make people better. I make people a lot better.”

Trump said “only the fake news” could suggest he was depicting himself as Jesus, ignoring the criticism he received from his own religious supporters.

The president last posted an image of him as pope that appeared to be AI-generated.

One administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to criticize the president’s post, predicted that conservative Christian outrage would dissipate in a matter of days as it often has. But the official said it was going too far for Trump to post such an image of himself, even though some of his most loyal MAGA supporters have cast him in quasi-messianic terms.

“Other people at these Trump rallies do it for him, but when you do it yourself, ... it’s sacrilegious at best,” the official said.

The Washington Post

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Public Notices



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SPRING GARDEN PREP

Expert gardeners offer their top tips

DESIREE ANSTEY

It's a personal work of art for Shellilee Ballum, whose floral-fragranced garden in Summerside, P.E.I., draws visitors every summer to its soft, dreamy kaleidoscope of colour, unfolding against a backdrop of fields stretching to the horizon.

The Little Dutch Flower Farm is well-known on the Island for its abundant variety, and bursts of strawflowers, Dara, Ammi, Persian cress, amaranth, cosmos, zinnia, Nigella, dahlias, sweet peas, and everything in between – all neatly boxed in rows.

“Having fresh cut flowers in your own yard is incredible. There are so many beginner-friendly flowers you can grow straight from seed right in your garden,” says Ballum.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Ballum recommends zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers as a good place to start, and to keep the area manageable.

“Choose just a few varieties rather than trying to grow everything at once. I start most of my seeds indoors four to six weeks before our last frost. By starting seeds inside, you're creating a controlled environment for better success – no seeds being eaten by animals, washed away, or struggling with unpredictable weather,” she explains.

“It also means you'll get blooms four to six weeks earlier, which is a big win for any cut flower garden.”

Use a basic seed tray and a humidity dome for easy indoor seed starting.

“Place them in a bright window with lots of sunlight or use a grow light for more consistent results.”

Ballum says it's exciting to watch seeds germinate and eventually grow into beautiful flowers. She branched her passion for growing, drying, and arranging local flowers into a successful business in 2020.

“I purchase seed-starting trays, grow lights and humidity domes at Kool Breeze Farms, and they are also available at most hardware stores,” she said.

“There are many Canadian seed companies I purchase from, such as West Coast Seeds, Circle Farm Seeds, AG Seed Co., Incredible Seeds, Hana Earth Seeds and Olive Seed Co.”

For the best start, plant in loose, well-draining soil.

“If you're starting a new bed, it's a great idea to mix in some compost before planting. We're lucky on P.E.I. to have such nutrient-rich soil, ideal for growing,” she said.

HOW TO KEEP THINGS BLOOMING

When it comes to keeping the flowers blooming all season, Ballum says it takes work to prevent the weeds from competing for nutrients and space.

“I also make sure to water regularly, especially during hot, dry stretches like we had last summer. Other than that, we're lucky here on P.E.I. – it's an ideal place for growing cut flowers. I typically have blooms from July right through to October, as long as we don't get hit with a hurricane or an early frost.”

BUILDING AN HONOUR GARDEN

Another aspiring gardener, Trudy Ball, has big dreams of opening a public garden.

After moving around the country, Ball finally found her roots operating an Airbnb in Grand Falls-Windsor, N.L., where many guests came for cancer treatments.

Ball recounts that some guests did not make it, leading her to plant memory trees throughout the farm in their honour. She watched her father battle and die from cancer at age 57 and began by planting a combination cherry tree in his memory.

Her passion for gardening deepened over the past eight years as she fine-tuned her skills and launched seed-starting workshops.

“I have always had a passion for gardening, so now I have decided to take my love of gardening to the next level. They say if you are going to dream, dream big,” she says.

Ball purchased four acres of land two years ago and is currently building a vibrant flower garden featuring themed areas, called the Ball Family Gardens, to promote agritourism and education, located at Jumpers Brook, N.L.

“I'm hoping to open the farm up to the public for the first time this spring on selective days. Even though the farm is only about 30 to 40 per cent built, I created my YouTube channel so people can watch me build it and learn from me,” she says.

The Ball Family Gardens will be a legacy for her son, Daniel, who shares the same passion for gardening and currently lives in Alberta.

Ball says that today and moving forward, the focus will be on building the dream to develop Ball Family Gardens.

The farm will be divided into many gardens.

There will be an area to purchase plants, a cottage garden (now built), a fairy garden (work in progress), a kitchen garden (work in progress), a cut-flower garden, two shade gardens, a Hosta Garden, and a food forest.

“I am very grateful for all the volunteer help from family and friends. I want it to be a garden where you can pack a picnic, spend



Shellilee Ballum tends to the Little Dutch Flower Farm, which is well-known on the Island for its abundant variety, and bursts of strawflowers, Dara, Ammi and everything in between. SUPPLIED

the afternoon with loved ones, enjoy the beauty of the surroundings, take a class, and purchase plants if you wish.”

It's a time-consuming project, but Ball says she is in no rush, because “Good things are worth the wait.”

START SMALL AT FIRST

She recommends that first-time growers start small with easy-to-grow plants such as marigolds, black-eyed Susans and berry bushes.

“The best seeds are what you save yourself. It's a great skill to have, and a bonus, it saves you loads of money.”

Growing inside, use a south-facing window or T8, T10, or T12 lights.

“Research when to start each type of seed, plus know if the seed needs to be covered or not.”

For soil, Ball advises, “Feed your soil every year by amending it with natural ingredients such as compost, blood meal, bone meal, etc. To keep plants blooming all season long and have a large variety of flowers.”

HEALTH BENEFITS, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tracy Milsom is another enthusiastic East Coast gardener with big dreams for a community space that would reduce reliance on supply chains, provide year-round nutrition, foster resilience, and offer health benefits.

Milsom, along with Robyn Dearman, an Acadia University placement student studying sustainability and farming, and their vice-chairperson, Tracey Smyth, are in the process of starting a not-for-profit community market garden called Sea Spray Garden Initiative.

The idea is to promote home vegetable gardening, significantly enhance local food security, and bolster mental health and wellness across the full diversity of their community on the Eastern Shore in Nova Scotia.

“Community connection is vital when things get tough, and when people start talking about tomatoes and carrots, their differences melt away. We want this garden to be a true representation of old school community connection,” says Milsom.

Sea Spray Garden Initiative is a volunteer network. Expert gardeners will share their knowledge and enthusiasm through workshops on topics such as seed starting, home greenhouse growing, pest management, food security, and even bee-keeping.

“Right now, we're in not-for-profit mode, but we would like to work towards charity status. It's going to take time, and you must follow the right steps, but the end stage for us would be not just growing food all year round,” explains Milsom.

The group hopes to develop specialized community programs. These programs will include therapeutic horticulture for those with dementia, engaging youth initiatives, and gardening opportunities for the neurodivergent community.

Milsom says people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome in the garden, with a common goal.

“It began as a brain nugget of a

dream, and it's turning into a reality,” adds Milsom, who notes they have already had a Beaver Scout group with children aged five to seven attend a workshop.

Milsom hopes to add greenhouses to the garden to extend the growing season and to add a deer fence to protect the plot. She hopes to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000

to get the garden securely up and running this year.

“It's a commitment, and you must be willing to work. It's not something that's going to come easy, but I think that the rewards, if done properly, will be astronomical. You know, we're determined or stubborn. We're very driven and passionate about it.”



Tracy Milsom, left, their student placement Robyn Dearman, and vice-chairperson Tracey Smyth.

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Events

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1-800-611-6345
melissa.ray@asns.ca
dementiawellness.com/delight

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single male , generous,honest,good sense of humour,wishing to meet female between age 40-65, resides in Halifax.Call #902-455-8795

Legals, Tenders and Notices

Surrender of Certificate of Incorporation

Take notice that 20/20 Experience Design Incorporated intends to file an application for leave to surrender its Certificate of Incorporation under the Companies Act. Dated at Halifax, April 14, 2026. James Gerrard, Sole Shareholder and Director.

CALL US FIRST TO SELL IT FAST

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An airstrike is seen on April 16, in Nabatieh, Lebanon. Israel and Lebanon’s ambassadors have held historic talks in Washington, the first direct diplomatic meeting between the two sides in decades. During the two-week ceasefire period between the U.S. and Iran, Israel and the Iran-backed militant group, Hezbollah, have continued fighting. On April 8 Israel intensified strikes on what it says were Hezbollah targets, killing more than 350 people, according to health officials in Lebanon. ADRI SALIDO/GETTY IMAGES

U.S., Iran weigh longer truce as Pakistan steps up mediation

PATRICK SYKES AND
ARSALAN SHAHLA

Pakistan stepped up efforts to ensure the U.S. and Iran prolong a ceasefire beyond its official expiry date next week, to allow more time to negotiate a lasting peace deal.

The U.S. and Iran are considering a two-week ceasefire extension, according to a person familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing sensitive matters. Neither side wants to resume fighting, said another person familiar with the discussions, with the war having devastated Iran’s infrastructure and sent fuel prices soaring, including in the U.S.

Still, there are many contentious issues for the countries to resolve. Those include the reopening of Hormuz – a key waterway for energy supplies – Iran’s nuclear and missile programs, sanctions relief for the Islamic Republic, and the ongoing war in Lebanon between Israel and Tehran-backed Hezbollah.

For now, Washington and Tehran are saying they haven’t agreed to any ceasefire that lasts beyond late Tuesday U.S. time.

There is a possibility the conflict turns into a “frozen war,” according

to Sorana Parvulescu, a partner for Europe, Middle East and Africa at Control Risks.

“That is becoming more feasible because there is no good military option on the table right now for the U.S. and because the deal is probably going to prove itself more elusive than meets the eye,” she said Thursday.

Pakistan’s army chief, Asim Munir, travelled to Iran on Wednesday as part of the nation’s role as mediator, which included hosting high-level talks between U.S. and Iranian officials last weekend. He was greeted in Tehran by Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Munir, who has positioned himself as the most powerful person in Pakistan, has a good relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump.

A key priority is reopening Hormuz, where tensions remain high as the U.S. continues a four-day blockade of vessels bound for and from Iran. Trump announced the move after the talks in Pakistan’s capital of Islamabad ended without a deal. The waterway has effectively been closed since the war erupted with U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran in late February.

Oil prices remain elevated, with Brent crude climbing to around

US\$96 a barrel, albeit well below last month’s peak of nearly US\$120.

Fighting between the U.S. and Iran has been on hold since April 7.

The White House hasn’t “formally requested an extension of the ceasefire,” Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters Wednesday. But she acknowledged “we remain very much engaged in these negotiations,” adding that Pakistan is the sole mediator.

The U.S. is sending thousands of additional troops to the Middle East in the coming days to pressure Tehran into making a deal, the Washington Post reported, citing officials it didn’t name. The forces include about 6,000 troops on the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush and in its strike force.

Iran sees a prolonging of the U.S. blockade as “a prelude to a breach of the ceasefire,” said Ali Abdollahi, the commander of Iran’s joint military headquarters, according to state TV. Iran’s armed forces “will not permit any exports or imports to continue in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman or the Red Sea” if the blockade continues, he said.

While Israel joined the U.S. in halting attacks on Iran last week, its military has kept up the campaign against Tehran-backed Hezbollah

in Lebanon, complicating the broader push for peace.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he told the Israeli military, which invaded Lebanon last month, to expand the buffer zone it’s seeking to establish inside the country. Negotiations are taking place about a potential ceasefire, Israel’s state-owned Kan News reported Wednesday, citing an unnamed official, who added no decision has been made.

The leaders of Israel and Lebanon

will hold talks this week, Trump said in a post on social media. Beirut is seeking a ceasefire as an entry point for direct negotiations between the two countries, Lebanon President Joseph Aoun said on X, with the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the south of the country “an essential step.”

Talks between Israel and the government in Beirut, which has little sway over Hezbollah, took place on Tuesday in Washington.

Those negotiations aren’t linked to the U.S.-Iran talks, according to a senior American official. The U.S. wants a durable peace in Lebanon but did not demand an immediate ceasefire, the official said.

Even so, any end to the war in Lebanon could ease tensions between the U.S. and Iran, which sees Hezbollah as a crucial ally.

Bloomberg

Pope Leo decries world ravaged by ‘tyrants’ following Trump’s insults

RACHEL CHASON

Pope Leo XIV delivered a forceful appeal for peace and condemned what he described as “a handful of tyrants” who are ravaging the world, in a speech on Thursday during a tour of Africa.

Leo’s speech, delivered in northwestern Cameroon, came days after U.S. President Donald Trump sharply criticized the first U.S.-born pontiff in an online screed and posted an apparently AI-generated image that appeared to depict himself as Jesus.

Leo did not specifically name Trump during his comments in Cameroon, which he was visiting as part of a 10-day tour.

During the speech, he sharply condemned those “who manipulate religion in the very name of God for their own military, economic or

political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth.”

Leo was speaking in Bamenda, a city in the northwestern part of the country that is considered the centre of the country’s long-running separatist movement.

“The masters of war pretend not to know that it takes only a moment to destroy,” Leo said, adding that they do not acknowledge that it often takes more than “a lifetime” to rebuild. “They turn a blind eye to the fact that billions of dollars are spent on killing, on devastation, yet the resources needed for healing, education and restoration are nowhere to be found.”

Echoing comments made by his predecessor Pope Francis, who had sharply condemned the legacy of colonialism in Africa, Leo told Cameroonians that many of the same people who rob “your land of

its resources generally invest much of the profit in weapons,” creating a cycle of violence.

He celebrated the efforts of religious leaders in Bamenda to bring peace to the region. In northwest Cameroon, English-speaking separatists have declared a breakaway state called Ambazonia after what they say is decades of repression by the francophone-dominated Cameroonian government. In what is seen as a breakthrough, the rebel leadership has declared a halt in fighting for the papal trip, if not a formal ceasefire.

Leo said that those who want to bring peace in Cameroon should be a model for the world.

“The world is being ravaged by a handful of tyrants,” he said, “yet it is held together by a multitude of supportive brothers and sisters.”

The Washington Post

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French President Emmanuel Macron, second from left, is accompanied by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, from right, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German chancellor Friedrich Merz, arrive at the Elysée Palace for a conference on the initiative for maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, on April 17, in Paris, France. French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are co-hosting a multinational virtual summit to discuss securing the Strait of Hormuz as a vital shipping corridor. The meeting comes as the two-week ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran is due to expire on April 22. *JEANNE ACCORSINI/SIPA - WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES*

IRAN SAYS HORMUZ IS OPEN DURING LEBANON TRUCE IN BOOST FOR PEACE

TUHIN KAR, PATRICK SYKES AND DANA KHRAICHE

Iran said it has opened the Strait of Hormuz for the duration of a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, increasing the prospect of an agreement to end the wider war in the Middle East.

The critical waterway for global energy supplies, which has been effectively shut since the U.S. and Israel starting bombing Iran at the end of February, is now “completely open” for commercial shipping, Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X on Friday, citing the Lebanon truce as the reason.

Oil prices plunged on the surprise announcement, with global benchmark Brent crude declining more than 10 per cent to US\$89 a barrel, as expectations rose of an ease to global supply shortages.

Araghchi’s comments came after Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah looked on Friday to be observing a truce announced by U.S. President Donald Trump the previous evening. Their ongoing conflict had been complicating efforts by Washington and Tehran to agree to an extension to their own ceasefire beyond its official expiry date next week.

Hormuz is “open and ready for business,” Trump said on Truth Social on Friday, after the Iranian announcement.

However, a U.S. naval blockade on the strait — designed to stop Iran from shipping oil to global markets — would remain in

place until a broader agreement is reached, he said.

“Most of the points are already negotiated,” he added.

Trump on Thursday said Iran had made key concessions in a negotiation to end the war, saying it may not be necessary to renew the two-week truce that started April 7.

Iran has yet to comment on Trump’s claims that Tehran has ceded ground — including over the key issue of its nuclear program — though the Hormuz announcement is an indication of improved relations between the sides.

Trump reiterated that the Islamic Republic “will not have nuclear weapons,” and pushed back against suggestions that a fixed-term moratorium on uranium enrichment is up for negotiation.

The two sides are negotiating a three-page plan to end the war, Axios reported, with one aspect being that the U.S. would release US\$20 billion in frozen Iranian funds in return for Tehran giving up its stockpile of enriched uranium. Axios cited to two U.S. officials and two additional sources briefed on the talks that it didn’t identify.

Trump said the U.S. is pursuing Iran’s uranium but “no money will exchange hands in any way, shape, or form.”

Trump’s predictions of a quick end to the war have been a regular fixture of the conflict, which has killed thousands and triggered a surge in energy prices, but Friday’s more substantial developments are reinforcing optimism in global markets.

Israel and Lebanon’s ceasefire was agreed after the issue frustrated an initial round of talks in Pakistan last weekend. While the initial deal announcement didn’t mention Hezbollah, the Iran-backed group stopped launching rockets into Israel overnight and supporters celebrated by firing guns in Beirut.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the agreement, calling it a step toward a broader peace, and Trump said U.S. officials would work with both sides to secure a lasting deal.

Israel had been fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon since just after the start of the U.S.-Israeli bombing of Iran on Feb. 28.

Trump said he spoke with his Lebanese counterpart, Joseph Aoun, and Netanyahu before declaring the ceasefire. In a subsequent social media post, Trump said he would invite both leaders to the White House for talks.

Any U.S.-Iran ceasefire would have to include a longer term solution for Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas flowed before the conflict. The block on the waterway has elevated prices and stoked fears of a global slowdown and inflation crisis.

The U.S. imposed its own blockade on Monday, while Iran has repeatedly said it wants to maintain control of the strait in the longer term and is working on legislation to charge tolls.

The U.K. and France will host a summit with about 40 nations to discuss a multinational naval

force to secure Hormuz, though deployment remains unlikely until a broader agreement is reached.

Pakistan’s army chief, Asim Munir, travelled to Iran this week as his nation mediates between Washington and Tehran.

Trump said Thursday that he “might” travel to Pakistan if a deal with Iran is clinched.

“They’ve agreed to almost everything,” Trump said. “They got to get to the table with a pen.”

Bloomberg

Singer D4vd arrested in connection with death of missing teen

VICTORIA CRAW AND SAMANTHA CHERY

David Burke, a musician known as D4vd, has been arrested in the death of a missing teen, the Los Angeles Police Department said Thursday, months after police said her remains were found in his car.

His lawyers have said he is innocent.

LAPD said in a brief statement Thursday that detectives from the robbery-homicide division arrested the 21-year-old Los Angeles resident.

“Burke is being held without bail,” the statement said, adding that the case will be presented to Monday to the district attorney’s office for filing consideration.

In a separate post on social media, Los Angeles police shared images of armed police outside a home in relation to Burke’s arrest, without

elaborating on its location. Police did not offer further details of the investigation or what led to the arrest.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office said its major crimes division would review the case and determine whether there is enough evidence to file charges, in a statement to the Associated Press.

It comes after the body of Celeste Rivas Hernandez was found in the trunk of a Tesla belonging to Burke in September, LAPD previously said. She may have been dead for several weeks before her body was discovered, the statement added.

At the time, the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner had not determined the cause of her death, and it “remains unclear whether there is any criminal culpability beyond the concealment of her body,” police said.

Defence attorneys Blair Berk, Marilyn Bednarski and Regina Peter said in an emailed statement that they would “defend David’s innocence” and that he had been detained under suspicion.

“Let us be clear — the actual evidence in this case will show that David Burke did not murder Celeste Rivas Hernandez and he was not the cause of her death,” the statement said. “There has been no indictment returned by any grand jury in this case and no criminal complaint filed.”

Rivas Hernandez was recorded as a missing person from Lake Elsinore, a city about 95 kilometres southeast of Los Angeles in April 2024, the Riverside Sheriff’s Office said, adding that she had been found dead by LAPD in September.

On Sept. 17, detectives searched a home on Doheny Place in West Hollywood in connection with her death, and several items were recovered, LAPD said, without confirming the owner of the property.

In November, the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner’s office said records related to her death would not be made public, following a court order initiated by LAPD.

The Washington Post

Classifieds

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Public Notices

**NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On March 31, 2026, EfficiencyOne applied to the Board to approve the 2027-2031 Demand-Side Management Purchase Agreement between EfficiencyOne and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated, the establishment of a final agreement between the parties, and approval of a 2027-2031 Demand-Side Management (DSM) Resource Plan.

This matter will be considered in a public hearing as follows:

Hearing starts: **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**
9:00 a.m.
(Continuing to Friday, August 7, 2026, if necessary)

Evening Session: **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**
6:30 p.m.

Hearing Location: **Office of the Board**
Summit Place, 3rd Floor
1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Board Hearings are open to the public and you may participate as follows:

- You may listen to the live hearing by visiting the Board’s website at <https://nserbt.ca/nseb> and selecting the “Listen to Live Hearings” option. This will enable you to see the electronic document display as well as hear the audio of the proceeding.
- You may speak at the hearing. You must notify the Board by **Monday, July 6, 2026**.
- You may make written comments by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 1692, Unit “M”, Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or secure file transfer service by visiting <https://board.titanfile.com/NSEB/>, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Monday, July 6, 2026**.
- You may request formal standing as an Intervenor, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. Your request must be received by the Board by **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, and a copy of your written evidence by **Tuesday, June 23, 2026**.

Additional information about the application:

A copy of the Application and any timetable applying to this matter may be viewed on the Board’s website at <https://nserbt.ca/nseb>, by clicking on “Matters & Evidence”, and in the “Go Directly to Matter” search box, enter Matter No. **M12780**, and on EfficiencyOne’s website.

To assist the Board in using correct forms of address and pronouns in our hearings and decisions, we invite all parties, lawyers, and all other participants to share their pronouns and titles with the Board and each other if they are comfortable doing so. There is no requirement to provide this information.

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Legals, Tenders and Notices

Application for Leave to Surrender Certificate of Incorporation - Boostflow Media Ltd.

IN THE MATTER OF: The Companies Act, Chapter 81, R.S.N.S., 1989, as amended, and

IN THE MATTER OF: An application by BOOSTFLOW MEDIA LTD. for leave to surrender its Certificate of Incorporation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that BOOSTFLOW MEDIA LTD. intends to make an application to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies for leave to surrender its Certificate of Incorporation.

DATED this 17th day of April, 2026.
Sarah Shiels, Shiels Marine Legal Services Inc., 242 Main Street, Yarmouth, N.S. B5A 4B3, Solicitor for BOOSTFLOW MEDIA LTD.
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sarah@shielsmarine.ca