U.S. and Iran agree to halt war

The United States and Iran have reached a preliminary agreement to bring their nearly four-month conflict to an end and reopen the blockaded Strait of Hormuz



Vessels anchored in Strait of Hormuz

END TO HOSTILITIES

- Immediate, permanent cessation of military operations across all fronts
- Pact includes Lebanon, where Israel has been fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

- Iran's closure of strait – crucial shipping lane for oil and natural gas – to be lifted
- Termination of U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports

FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS

- Current ceasefire extended for 60 days, during which two sides will attempt to reach final deal
- Would likely cover key issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and sanctions relief
- Timeline could be extended if resolution is not reached

OFFICIAL AGREEMENT

- Memorandum of understanding set to be signed in Swiss city of Geneva on Jun 19

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

- Eventual dismantling or dilution of Iran's stockpile of near-weapons-grade uranium
- Easing of international sanctions on Iran and unfreezing of billions of dollars in Iranian funds
- Tehran's ballistic missile programme and support for regional resistance groups



Stait of Hormuz: Effectively closed by Iran since war began on Feb 28, driving up fuel prices worldwide

Source: Reuters

Picture: Getty Images

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