

WORLD REACTION

'NEW DIRECTION' IN IRAN TIES: OBAMA

US President Barack Obama lauded the deal as a vindication of diplomacy, and a step that offered a chance at a "new direction" in vexed relations with Tehran. Obama said the deal cut off "every pathway" to an Iranian atomic weapon. Describing a "difficult history" between Iran and the United States that "cannot be ignored," Obama said the diplomatic victory also showed "it is possible to change." "This deal offers an opportunity to move in a new direction. We should seize it," he said.

DEAL MEETS 'ALL OBJECTIVES': ROUHANI

President Hassan Rouhani told Iranians in a live televised address that "all our objectives" have been met by the deal. In doing so he said "God has accepted the nation's prayers", and the accord would lift "inhumane and tyrannical sanctions" that have caused years of economic distress. Iran has always denied Western suspicions that it has been trying to acquire the know-how to make nuclear weapons and Rouhani reiterated that stance yesterday. "Iran will never seek a nuclear weapon, with or without the implementation" of the Vienna deal, he said.

DEAL MAY MAKE REGION MORE DANGEROUS: SAUDI ARABIA

Iran's nuclear deal with world powers will mean "a happy day" if it stops the country gaining a nuclear arsenal, but the agreement would prove bad if it allowed Tehran to "wreak havoc in the region", a Saudi official said yesterday. The official told Reuters Iran had destabilised the whole Middle East through its activities in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen and added that if the deal allowed it concessions, the region would become more dangerous.

WORLD BREATHES 'HUGE SIGH OF RELIEF': PUTIN

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed a deal reached on Iran's nuclear drive as a "firm choice for stability and cooperation". "We are certain that today the world has breathed a huge sigh of relief," Putin said in a statement published on the Kremlin's website. Putin said Moscow would "do everything in its power" to ensure the agreement worked and called on all sides to fulfill their part of the bargain.

NEGOTIATION CAN SOLVE GLOBAL ISSUES: CHINA

The Iran nuclear deal will safeguard the global nuclear non-proliferation system and proves the world can solve pressing issues through negotiation, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday. His comments were broadcast on Chinese state television after the deal that could transform the Middle East.

DEAL COULD BRING PEACE TO MIDEAST: BAN

UN chief Ban Ki-moon welcomed the "historic" agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program, saying it could help bring peace to the Middle East. "I hope -- and indeed believe -- that this agreement will lead to greater mutual understanding and cooperation on the many serious security challenges in the Middle East," Ban said in a statement. "As such, it could serve as a vital contribution to peace and stability both in the region and beyond."



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, German Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and US Secretary of State John Kerry pose for a picture during the final press conference of Iran nuclear talks in Vienna, Austria, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Israel not bound by deal' Obama secures his diplomatic legacy

AFP, Jerusalem

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday said after world powers reached a historic nuclear deal with Iran that Israel was not bound by it and signalled he remained ready to order military



destruction," Netanyahu told reporters before a meeting of his security cabinet.

"We will always defend ourselves."

Netanyahu called the nuclear deal a "historic mistake", and the accord drew strong criticism from across the Israeli political spectrum.

"We did commit to preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, and this commitment still stands," Netanyahu said earlier on Tuesday, even before the agreement was officially announced.

He has taken his campaign to the US Congress and the UN General Assembly, but ultimately failed to block the agreement.

"Iran will get hundreds of billions of dollars with which it will be able to fuel its terror machine," he said, referring to the

AFP, Washington

When US President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize early in his first term, he acknowledged the controversy surrounding his win by saying he was only at the beginning of his "labor on the world stage."



Nearly six years later, having secured a landmark nuclear deal with Iran, he has achieved a major diplomatic victory that staves off the threat of a military conflict with unforeseeable consequences in an unstable region.

Even if the US Congress approves the deal, it will be several years -- long after Obama has left office in 18 months -- before its real worth can be measured.

But the 44th president can certainly see in it the tangible results of one of the main tenets of his foreign policy: dialogue, even with America's enemies, must be given a chance.

"For 40 years, our policy was to contain Iran not to work and cooperate with it on any issue. That's a fundamental departure in our policy," said Aaron David Miller, a former State Department official who is now at the Wilson Center think tank.

"Whether you are a fan or not a fan of this agreement, that is significant."

Thirty-five years after ties with the Islamic republic were broken in the aftermath of the revolution and the hostage crisis at the US embassy in Tehran, the two countries -- along with several other world powers -- sat down and hammered out a deal.

Aware that his outreach to Iran is not universally popular, Obama has put all of his weight -- and his legacy -- on the line.

"This deal will have my name on it," he said in late May.

"Nobody has a bigger personal stake in making sure it delivers on its promise."

For Trita Parsi, at the National Iranian American Council, the agreement reached in Vienna to curb Tehran's suspect nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief "will undoubtedly be Obama's biggest foreign policy achievement."

"Cuba may have been closer to home for most Americans, but Iran and preventing the path for a bomb there and changing the nature of that relationship is far more consequential geopolitically," Parsi said.

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

MAIN POINTS

Following are the main points in the nuclear deal sealed in Vienna yesterday:

NUCLEAR DOWNSIZING

Iran will cut the number of uranium centrifuges -- which can enrich uranium for nuclear fuel but also for a nuclear weapon -- from 19,000 to 5,060, and maintain this level for 10 years.

→ All enrichment will take place at the Natanz facility. Fordo, built into a mountain to protect it from attack, will retain an additional 1,044 centrifuges but not for uranium enrichment.

→ Iran's current stockpile of several tonnes of low-enriched uranium will be reduced to 300 kilograms (660 pounds) and not rise for 15 years. Only enrichment to low purities is allowed, and for 15 years.

→ There will be limitations on specific research and development (R&D) activities. These activities cannot lead to the accumulation of enriched uranium.

→ Iran's Arak reactor will be redesigned so that it does not produce weapons-grade plutonium, the alternative to highly-enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon.

→ Iran will apply the Additional Protocol, allowing for closer inspections, including potentially of military bases.

→ The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will also employ high-tech surveillance equipment and have access to facilities such as uranium mines and centrifuge workshops for periods of up to 25 years.

→ Iran will also comply with a "roadmap" agreed with the IAEA on Tuesday to probe allegations of past efforts to develop nuclear weapons, which the watchdog aims to complete by mid-December.

SANCTIONS

A UN Security Council resolution endorsing the deal will terminate all provisions of previous resolutions on the Iranian nuclear issue simultaneous with the IAEA verifying Iran has implemented the above.

→ The same applies to US and EU nuclear-related sanctions imposed on oil exports, Iran's financial system and other areas.

→ Restrictions on arms sales can be lifted after five years or once the IAEA gives a "broad conclusion" that all Iranian nuclear activities are peaceful. For ballistic missiles the period is eight years.

→ Some deliveries would be possible with special permission of the UN Security Council, according to Russia.

→ A Joint Commission will be created comprising the six powers, the European Union and Iran to handle any problems, with a majority vote needed to decide whether there has been a violation.

NEWS IN brief

Loyalists retake airport in Yemen's Aden

AFP, Aden

Forces loyal to Yemen's exiled president, backed by Saudi-led air and naval support, recaptured the airport in second city Aden yesterday after a four-month battle with Iran-backed rebels, military sources said. Fighting in the port city escalated as UN chief Ban Ki-Moon expressed disappointment that a UN-declared ceasefire failed to take hold over the weekend.

Pakistan air strikes kills 14 militants

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan air strikes killed 14 suspected militants near the Afghan border yesterday, the military said, part of a major ongoing operation against Taliban and other insurgents. The attack took place in Alwara area of North Waziristan tribal region, where the army has been waging a major offensive to clear militant hideouts since June last year.

Dozens killed in Boko Haram raids

AFP, Kano

Boko Haram gunmen killed dozens of people in four villages in northeast Nigeria, slitting some residents' throats and opening fire on others, one resident and the police said yesterday.

The atrocities near Monguno in the northeast state of Borno took the death toll since Muhammar Buhari became president in late May to more than 625, according to an AFP count.

India stampede kills 27

AFP, Godavari

A stampede on the banks of a holy river yesterday killed at least 27 pilgrims in southern India in a tragic beginning to a religious festival season.

The stampede in Rajahmundry, on the border of the twin states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, erupted about two hours after the dawn start of the Maha Pushkaralu festival which sees thousands of people bathe in the Godavari river.

District official H Arun Kumar put the number of injured at 40.

World on way to 'generation free of AIDS', says UN chief

AFP, Addis Ababa

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday said the world was headed for a "generation free of AIDS", after UNAIDS reported a 35-percent drop in new HIV infections from 15 years ago.

The positive news was also coupled with calls for more funding, with the objective of eliminating the virus by 2030. The United Nations also warned that continuing stigmatization of sex workers, drug users and homosexuals were barriers to progress.

"The world has delivered. We have achieved and exceeded the goals regarding AIDS. We have 15 million people on HIV treatment," Ban said in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, where he is attending a global development summit.

"We are on the way to a generation free of AIDS," Ban said. "The world has delivered on

US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, warned on Sunday that the accord will be a "hard sell". Many in the US share Israel's concerns that the deal is too weak.

Congress does not have to approve the deal, but it has the option of passing a resolution preventing President Barack Obama from waiving most US sanctions.

Obama can veto this, but this could be overridden if opponents can muster a two-thirds majority.

In Iran, approval is easier, with the deal set to be put to the Supreme National Security Council -- a body composed of appointees by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei -- and then to parliament.

Perhaps the most difficult part will be ensuring both sides stick to their side of the bargain longer term, even though a special commission will be

created to handle any violations.

The accord has a long time to run. Iran's nuclear programme, curbed under the deal, cannot expand for a decade or more. Spent reactor fuel must be exported, only enrichment to low levels is allowed.

Iran must allow the IAEA to probe allegations of past weaponisation work, which may include visits to military bases -- something some powerful factions in Iran may seek to block.

Another question is this: What will happen if figures who may be more hostile to the agreement come to power in Iran and the United States?

Even though Obama can waive sanctions, the laws underpinning them remain on the books, meaning his successor could decide to bring back the sanctions by executive order.

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The terms imposed by international lenders led by Germany in all-night talks at an emergency summit obliged Tsipras to abandon promises of ending austerity.

Instead he must pass legislation to cut pensions, increase value added tax, clamp down on collective bargaining agreements

and put in place quasi-automatic spending constraints. In addition, he must set 50 billion euros of public sector assets aside to be sold off under the supervision of foreign lenders and get the whole package through parliament by Wednesday.

Tsipras himself, elected five months ago to end five years of suffocating austerity, said he had "fought a tough battle" and "averted the plan for financial strangulation".

But to get the accord through parliament by today's deadline, he will have to rely on votes from pro-European opposition parties, raising big questions over the future of his government and opening the prospect of snap elections.

Leftwing rebels in the ruling Syriza party, and his junior coalition partner, the right-wing Independent Greeks party, indicated they would not tear up election pledges that brought them to power in January.

Greek PM faces party revolt over bailout deal

REUTERS, Brussels

Greece's leftwing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras faces a showdown with rebels in his own party yesterday furious at his capitulation to German demands for one of the most sweeping austerity packages ever demanded of a euro zone government.

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The flyby happened at 7:49am, with the spacecraft running on autopilot. It was to pass by Pluto at a distance of 7,767 miles.

Nasa expects to receive a signal from the spacecraft later this evening to find out whether or not it survived the encounter.

New Horizons, launched in 2006, is the first spacecraft to fly past Pluto, and its seven scientific instruments aim to reveal details of the surface, geology and atmosphere of Pluto and its five moons.

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"We are on the way to a generation free of AIDS," Ban said. "The world has delivered on

halting and reversing the AIDS epidemic. Now we must commit to ending the AIDS epidemic."

According to the UNAIDS report released on Tuesday in Geneva, there have been remarkable strides since the advent in 1996 of anti-retroviral drugs, which suppress the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Though not a cure, the therapy creates a virtuous circle. The less the virus is in circulation, the less likely it is that people become infected.

Although new HIV infections declined to two million in 2014 against 3.1 million 14 years ago and the number of