

# Iran says nuclear deal subject to Tehran's red lines, E3 says agreement 'close'

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VIENNA: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Friday the West's "haste" to reach a nuclear deal "cannot prevent the observance of Iran's red lines," including economic guarantees.

Negotiations on reviving a 2015 Iran nuclear accord appear near a climax, amid talk of an imminent ministerial meeting. Such a meeting, said Amirabdollahian, "requires full compliance with the red lines."

Jalina Porter, a US State Department spokesperson, said a possible deal was close, but cautioned that unsolved issues remained.

Indirect talks were close to reaching an agreement, the chief British envoy said on Friday as she and her French and German colleagues flew home to brief ministers.

"We are close. E3 negotiators leaving Vienna briefly to update Ministers on state of play. Ready to return soon," Stephanie Al-Qaq said on Twitter.

"Our delegation will continue to work hard to reach a final and good agreement," Iranian media quoted Amirabdollahian as telling the EU's top diplomat Joseph Borrell by telephone.

"We are ready to finalize a good and immediate agreement," he said, adding: "Most of Iran's requests have been considered in the upcoming agreement."

Among remaining issues is an effort by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to resolve questions about nuclear material that the Vienna-based agency suspects Iran failed to declare.

The IAEA has found particles of processed uranium at three apparently old sites that Iran never declared and has repeatedly said Tehran has not provided satisfactory answers.

Iran wants the IAEA investigation ended as part of an accord, but Western powers have argued that the issue is beyond the scope of the 2015 deal, to which the IAEA is not a party.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi is to travel to Tehran on Saturday hoping to agree on a process that would lead to the end of the investigation, potentially clearing a way for the wider agreement, diplomats said.

The 2015 agreement between Iran and world powers was designed to make it harder for Iran to accumulate the fissile material for a nuclear weapons, an ambition it has long denied.

Then-President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the deal in 2018, reimposing tough economic sanctions on Tehran. Iran responded by breaching many of the deal's restrictions.



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UN nuclear watchdog chief to travel to Iran on SaturdayIran deal 'cannot be postponed any longer': German chancellor

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**[NHC expert delegation exchanges views with representatives of Department of](#)**

## Health and Hospital Authority (with photo)

The Mainland expert delegation led by the Head of the National Health Commission's COVID-19 leading task force, Professor Liang Wannian, continued its visit in Hong Kong today (March 2). They visited the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) to exchange views with representatives of the DH and the Hospital Authority (HA) and offer advice.

The Director of Health, Dr Ronald Lam; the Controller of the CHP of the DH, Dr Edwin Tsui; and relevant DH colleagues and representatives from the HA held a meeting at the CHP this morning with Professor Liang and the Mainland experts led by him as well as Mainland experts from the task force of epidemiologists. They had an in-depth discussion on the epidemic situation in Hong Kong and analysed relevant statistics. The challenges posed by the fifth wave of the epidemic and the Mainland experience in tackling the epidemic were also elaborated.

Dr Lam expressed gratitude to the Central People's Government for their extensive and swift support to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He also thanked the NHC expert delegation for their visit and advice offered on the anti-epidemic work. Representative of the CHP explained about the statistical analysis under the fifth wave of epidemic in Hong Kong and illustrated the key measures in risk prevention and control. The experts provided valuable opinions during the meeting and the CHP will continue its exchange with the expert delegation in exploring and intensifying the strategies and measures to control the fifth wave of the epidemic.

Led by Professor Liang, the delegation came to Hong Kong on February 28. They were joined by the four epidemiological experts who arrived in Hong Kong earlier to conduct visits in Hong Kong.



# Land Registry releases statistics for February

The Land Registry today (March 2) released its statistics for February 2022.

## Land registration

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\* The number of sale and purchase agreements for all building units received for registration in February was 3,998 (-32.4 per cent compared with January 2022 and -47.1 per cent compared with February 2021)

\* The 12-month moving average for February was 7,689 (3.7 per cent below the 12-month moving average for January 2022 but 16.9 per cent above that for February 2021)

\* The total consideration for sale and purchase agreements in February was \$36.1 billion (-33.7 per cent compared with January 2022 and -43.9 per cent compared with February 2021)

\* Among the sale and purchase agreements, 2,912 were for residential units (-31.9 per cent compared with January 2022 and -52.5 per cent compared with February 2021)

\* The total consideration for sale and purchase agreements in respect of residential units was \$29.5 billion (-32.1 per cent compared with January 2022 and -48.2 per cent compared with February 2021)

Statistics on sales of residential units do not include sale and purchase agreements relating to sales of units under the Home Ownership Scheme, the Private Sector Participation Scheme, the Tenants Purchase Scheme, etc, unless the premium of the unit concerned has been paid after the sale restriction period.

Figures on sale and purchase agreements received for the past 12 months, the year-on-year rate of change and breakdown figures on residential sales have also been released.

As deeds may not be lodged with the Land Registry until up to 30 days after the transaction, these statistics generally relate to land transactions in the previous month.

## Land search

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\* The number of searches of land registers made by the public in February was 291,830 (-32.0 per cent compared with January 2022 and -20.3 per cent compared with February 2021)

The statistics cover searches made at the counter, through the self-service terminals and via the Integrated Registration Information System Online Services.

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## **UK introduces new sanctions against Russia including ban on ships and fresh financial measures**

The UK has introduced new sanctions against Russia, including a ban on ships and fresh financial measures.

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## **ICAC Regional Offices' latest service arrangements**

The following press release is issued on behalf of the Independent Commission Against Corruption:

â€œIn view of the latest epidemic situation of COVID-19, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) today (February 28) announced that starting from tomorrow (March 1), ICAC Regional Offices will open from 9am to 1pm; and from 2pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday, to receive corruption complaints and enquiries from the public. The temporary adjustment is to allow a flexible deployment of staff to support the anti-epidemic work.

The ICAC's Report Centre and the report corruption hotline (2526 6366) will continue to operate round-the-clock to receive corruption complaints and enquiries. Other enquiry hotlines, including the Corruption Prevention Advisory Service hotline (2526 6363) and the Business Ethics Development Centre hotline (2826 3288) will also maintain their normal operation.

Since the fifth wave of the epidemic, the ICAC has mobilised an average of more than 150 staff each day to support the anti-epidemic work, including assisting in issuing quarantine orders and supporting the Government's relevant enquiry hotlines. The ICAC will closely monitor the development of the epidemic and the Commission stands ready to deploy more manpower to assist when necessary.