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BUSINESS, 9A

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Next round of Iran peace talks on hold



Smoke billows from southern Lebanon on June 19 after an Israeli strike, as seen from the city of Nabatieh. REUTERS

Trump, Obama deals differ in some ways

Strait of Hormuz wasn't an issue in 2015 pact

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

The deal President Donald Trump struck with Iran is the United States' second attempt this century to prevent the Middle Eastern country from developing a nuclear weapon.

Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the preliminary deal, known as a memorandum of understanding, to end fighting between the countries on June 17, almost four months after the United States and Israel first launched joint strikes on Iran to eliminate its nuclear capabilities.

The document says Iran commits to refrain from procuring or developing nuclear weapons in exchange for sanctions relief and a \$300 billion reconstruction plan. Both sides agree to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

In 2015, President Barack Obama's administration negotiated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, which was signed by Iran, the United States, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom.

The agreement imposed limits on Iran's nuclear program to prevent it

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Vice President JD Vance will not travel to Europe on June 19 as expected for negotiations to end the Iran war, a White House official confirmed. ERIC LEE/REUTERS

Israel, Hezbollah agree to ceasefire

Joey Garrison, Michael Loria and Phaedra Trethan
USA TODAY

Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a ceasefire that was set to begin at 4 p.m. local time June 19 after escalating violence between Israel and Lebanon complicated President Donald Trump's efforts to reach a final peace agreement with Iran.

Still, the next round of U.S. talks with Iran are on hold.

Vice President JD Vance will not

travel to Europe on June 19 as expected for negotiations to end the war, a White House official confirmed to USA TODAY late June 18.

A White House spokesperson cited logistical issues for Vance's schedule change and said "the plans for the upcoming technical talks have not been finalized." Iran's Foreign Ministry said the meeting was no longer urgent because the two sides had already signed the memorandum of

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Acting spy chief seeks to fire hundreds of staff

REUTERS

Acting U.S. spy chief Bill Pulte is seeking to cut hundreds of jobs at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, CNN reported on June 19, as he prepares to take over the sprawling U.S. intelligence community.

Citing two sources familiar with the



Pulte

matter, CNN reported that federal housing regulator and Trump loyalist Pulte showed up at his new job a day early on June 18 after asking for a list of every employee in the office so he could assess whether to fire them.

The ODNI did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on the report.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, said that if the report was true, it showed why Pulte "should never spend a minute as Director of National Intelligence, a role he is legally

not qualified to perform."

"Mr. Pulte should expect the Intelligence Committee to closely scrutinize any actions he takes in what should be a very short period in this role, to include any personnel decisions or declassifications," Himes added in a statement.

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