

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

TRUMP IN NO HURRY FOR DEAL WITH IRAN



MAJID-ASGARIPOUR, WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz are visible from the beach in Bandar Abbas, Iran, on Friday.

Blockade to continue until agreement is signed, president says

HUMEYRA PAMUK AND ASIF SHAHZAD
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Sunday he told his representatives not to rush into any deal with Iran, as his administration played down hopes of an imminent breakthrough in the 3-month-old war that had been raised a day earlier.

The U.S. blockade on Iranian ships in the Strait of Hormuz would “remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed,” Trump wrote on Truth Social. “Both sides must take their time and get it right,” he added.

There was no immediate response from Iran’s government. But Tasnim news agency, which is linked to Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, said the U.S. was still obstructing parts of a potential deal, including Tehran’s demand for the release of frozen funds.

A day earlier, Trump said Washington and Iran had “largely negotiated” a memorandum of understanding on a peace deal that would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which before the conflict carried one-fifth

of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments.

The two sides remain at odds on several difficult issues, such as Iran’s nuclear ambitions, Israel’s war in Lebanon with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia and Tehran’s demands for the lifting of sanctions and the release of tens of billions of dollars of Iranian oil revenues frozen in foreign banks.

A senior Trump administration official told reporters an agreement would not be signed Sunday, saying that the Iranian system did not move fast enough. But he outlined what he said were the latest contours of what was being negotiated.

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Iran agreed “in principle” to open the Strait of Hormuz, in exchange for the United States lifting its naval blockade, and to dispose of Tehran’s highly enriched uranium.

He said the U.S. understood Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei had endorsed the broad template of the deal.

There was no immediate confirmation from Iran or elaboration on what an “in principle” agreement meant.

The U.S. official said Washington envisioned first reopening the strait and lifting the U.S. naval blockade. Negotiating the details of the nuclear measures would take more time, he said.

He pushed back on suggestions that Iran has not accepted disposing of its stockpiled enriched uranium. “It’s a question about how,” the official said.

Iranian sources told Reuters that in future stages, “feasible formulas” could be found to resolve the dispute over its highly enriched uranium stockpile, including diluting the material under the supervision of the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

Iran has long denied U.S. and Israeli accusations that it is pursuing nuclear weapons and says it has a right to enrich uranium for civilian purposes, although the purity it has achieved far exceeds that needed for power generation.

Please see **IRAN**, Page A2

Feds to fine immigrants \$18K to recoup expenses

Fee intended to encourage self-deportation, officials say

TREVOR HUGHES
 USA Today

The Trump administration is preparing to fine tens of thousands of migrants for the cost of arresting, detaining and deporting them, under a new policy that will also make it harder for them to return legally to the United States.

Department of Homeland Security officials acknowledge they will likely never collect most of the new \$18,000 fines to be levied on each of more than 23,000 people annually. Among the reasons: The annual per capita household income in

Mexico is only \$5,000, according to the London-based analysis and data firm ISI Markets.

But White House officials previously said such fines are intended to encourage people to voluntarily self-deport.

“Our message is clear: Illegal aliens in the country illegally should leave now or face consequences,” Homeland Security officials told USA Today.

DHS published the proposed fee increase in the Federal Register on May 20. The agency is soliciting public comments about the change until June 22.

Congress ordered DHS to begin charging the fines last year.

Please see **FINE**, Page A2



KYLIE COOPER, REUTERS

Jennifer Vasquez Sura, whose husband Kilmar Abrego Garcia was wrongfully deported to El Salvador, and Mildred Danis-Taylor, whose husband Rodney Taylor, a green-card applicant and double amputee, is being held at ICE’s Stewart Detention Center, attend a rally May 1 in Washington.