

IRGC Navy ensures safe passage of 35 more vessels through Hormuz

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has announced that it coordinated the transit of another 35 ships through the Strait of Hormuz in the past 24 hours.

"Over the past 24 hours, 35 ships, including oil tankers, container ships, and other commercial vessels, passed through the Strait of Hormuz, after obtaining permission, [and] with the coordination and security protection of the IRGC Navy," the IRGC's Navy said in a statement on Friday, Press TV reported. The passage came on top of 31 vessels — including oil tankers, container ships, and other commercial ships — that passed through the strait in the previous 24 hours, the IRGC Navy announced on Thursday.

The Iranian authority controlling the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf has defined the supervisory management zone of the waterway, announcing on Wednesday that movement through the strategic corridor requires coordination and a permit.

The zone is "the line connecting Mount Mubarak in Iran and southern Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, on the eastern side of the strait, extending to the line connecting the end of

Qeshm Island in Iran and Umm Al Quwain in the United Arab Emirates, on the western side of the strait."

Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz to its enemies and their allies following the US-Israeli aggression against the country on February 28.

According to a new Reuters report, the IRGC plays a central role in a new multi-layered transit system that gives preference to ships linked to allies such as China and Russia, while other vessels may require government-to-government arrangements or payments to pass.

The IRGC reviews an affiliation document supplied by a ship owner or operator and during the process they may want to physically inspect the ship, the news agency said.

"The affiliation check is to identify if the vessel has any connection to the US or Israel," a European shipping source told Reuters.

The IRGC requires ship owners to disclose details including the value of the ship's cargo, the flag, its origin and destination, the registered owner and manager, and nationalities of the crew, according to documents sent to shipping industry sources



A ship anchored in the Strait of Hormuz near Larak Island, Iran, May 16.
● MAJID SAEEDI/GETTY IMAGES

es by Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority.

The vetting is carried out by Iranian state institutions including the Ports and Maritime Organization, the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, the national shipping organization, and the security overseer of the Supreme National Security Council, according to the report. Ship owners' willingness to deal directly with Iran shows the degree to which the strait is under the Islamic Republic's control, Danny Citrinowicz, a former Israeli intelligence officer who specializes in Iran research and analysis, told Reuters.

"The straits will be blocked or opened up only by the approval of the Iranian government," said Citrinowicz. "Some will get through because of political alliances, others will have to pay, others will be turned back. This is the new norm."

Bilateral arrangements for passage include an additional step; countries contact Iran's foreign minister to request permission. The minister forwards these to



the Supreme National Security Council.

A decision is then made and communicated to the relevant bodies, including the IRGC which then provides the coordinates and instructions needed for safe passage.

Other countries have worked out different arrangements.

Among them is India, which imports about 90% of its oil needs and about 50% of its gas, much of which passes through Hormuz.

New Delhi uses its embassy in Tehran to liaise with Iranian authorities, including the IRGC and the Iranian Navy, which vets ships India wants to sail

out of the Persian Gulf, according to an Indian shipping ministry official cited by Reuters.

"The Indian navy also told us that if the Iranians ask you to stop, then you should stop. If they ask you to move, you should move," the report said, "And we've been following those instructions."

First phase of Iran's largest solar plant goes online



Energy Minister Ali Abbas Aliabadi addresses the inauguration ceremony of the 130-megawatt phase of the Kaveh Methanol solar facility in Markazi Province, on May 22, 2026.
● moe.gov.ir

consumption and expanding renewable capacity.

The Kaveh Methanol solar plant, executed by the private sector, was built in a high-potential area of Markazi Province in center of Iran and utilizes modern solar power technology to enable clean electricity generation on most days of the year.

Officials said that with completion of future phases, the facility could become Iran's largest solar power plant and play a significant role in diversifying the country's clean energy portfolio. The project has also created direct and indirect employment opportunities for local and specialized workers in the region, they added.

Markazi Province, with its favorable climate and high number of sunny days annually, is among Iran's most suitable regions for solar power development, and implementation of such projects could represent an important step toward sustainable energy development in the country.

According to SATBA officials overseeing private-sector execution of solar projects, joint efforts by the private sector and government will raise Iran's solar power capacity from 4,500 megawatts to more than 11,000 megawatts by autumn this year, accelerating clean energy production, ISNA reported.

The expansion comes as President Masoud Pezeshkian's government aims to install 30,000 MW of renewable energy capacity over the next three years amid an expected power shortfall next year.

and crack down on unauthorized cryptocurrency mining to manage grid stability. Around 7 million smart meters have been installed nationwide so far, with a target of exceeding 10 million by the end of the Iranian year (March 21, 2027), he said.

"These devices enable active management of electricity consumption by high-demand users and allow us to prevent excessive power use by these consumers to maintain grid stability," the ministry's website, moe.gov.ir, quoted Aliabadi as saying.

Last week, Aliabadi said that the country currently had no deficit in electricity generation capacity but needed to reach a level this year that would allow it to manage peak demand, adding that the entire power system should be aligned with that objective.

"The most important policy of the new period at the Energy Ministry is to control consumption growth and move toward reducing energy use," he said on Monday.

According to the ministry, electricity demand was expected to rise "by more than 5% this year," after Iran's peak electricity consumption hovered around 79,000 megawatts last summer, as authorities focus on curbing rising

Economy Desk

Energy Minister Ali Abbas Aliabadi announced on Friday the inauguration of the first phase of the country's largest solar power plant in Markazi Province, as the total national electricity generation capacity surpassed 100,000 megawatts

The 130-megawatt phase of the Kaveh Methanol solar facility is now ready for connection to the national grid following completion of panel installation, power transmission infrastructure and technical testing, according to project officials cited by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), ILNA reported. The project aims to expand renewable energy sources, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and strengthen the stability of Iran's power grid.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Aliabadi said Iran operates a diverse mix of power generation facilities, with hydropower plants forming a significant portion of capacity. Conditions at hydropower facilities have improved this year compared to last year, he added, without providing further details. Aliabadi also outlined plans to expand smart meter deployment

US blockade fails to halt Iranian 1.4m bpd crude exports in April: IEA

Tehran ranked 2nd in OPEC oil output despite disruptions

Economy Desk

The US naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz has failed to halt Iranian oil flows, with the Islamic Republic continuing to export around 1.4 million barrels of crude per day in April despite mounting pressure on shipping routes, according to data cited in the International Energy Agency (IEA)'s monthly oil market report.

The IEA said in its latest report that, despite a partial decline in exports, Iranian oil production continued in April, with crude accumulation ongoing in both onshore and offshore storage facilities, eghtesademoaser.ir reported.

Iran's crude exports in April totaled 1.4 million barrels per day, down 410,000 barrels per day from the previous month, the report said. In terms of production, Iran became the second-largest producer in OPEC during the month. Despite US claims of a naval blockade, Iran produced 3.51 million barrels of oil per day in April, a decline of just 120,000 barrels per day from March. US officials had previously asserted that the maritime restrictions would paralyze Iran's oil industry within days and force the country to shut down its oil wells.

US President Donald Trump imposed the sea-based embargo on Iran's ports in mid-April, aiming to pressure Tehran into a peace agreement after a 40-day conflict that began in late February. The US pressure campaign is part of "Operation Economic Fury," targeting Iran's oil ex-



ports, financial networks and shipping routes to strain its economy.

Trump said at the time that Iran would only be able to sustain oil production and storage for another three days. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent also warned that Iran could be forced to shut down oil wells within a week as storage nears capacity under intensified sanctions and maritime restrictions.

However, the latest shipping data complicates that narrative. While the naval blockade of Iranian ports since mid-April has reduced oil exports and led to a rapid buildup of crude both onshore and offshore, Iran is still moving oil even under the blockade, undercutting Washington's effort to choke off its energy lifeline and easing fears of an immediate global supply shock.

The IEA also said OPEC oil production in April, described in the report as the second month of the US-Israeli war against Iran, fell by 620,000 barrels per day to 20.18 million barrels per day. In March, the first month

of the conflict, OPEC production had already declined by 8.95 million barrels per day due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and regional hostilities.

Overall, during the two-month period of the US-Iran conflict, total OPEC production fell by 9.57 million barrels per day. The 32% drop in OPEC output indicated that producers outside the Persian Gulf region were unable to offset the decline from the area, the report said.

According to the report, Kuwait recorded the largest production decline among OPEC members in April, falling by 620,000 barrels per day to 570,000 barrels per day. Saudi oil production declined by 270,000 barrels per day, while Iraq's output fell by 220,000 barrels per day. In contrast, UAE production rose by 340,000 barrels per day.

Iran was ranked the second-largest OPEC producer in April, with Saudi Arabia in first place at 6.98 million barrels per day and the UAE in third place at 2.45 million barrels per day.