

# Another 20 ships transit Strait of Hormuz under IRGC surveillance



A cargo boat navigates the sea on April 28, 2026 on Qeshm Island, Iran in the Strait of Hormuz. **ASGHAR BESHARATI/GETTI IMAGES**

**Economy Desk**  
Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said on Saturday that 20 commercial vessels travelled through

the Strait of Hormuz over the past 24 hours after obtaining permission. The IRGC said in a statement that the vessels passed through the stra-

tegic waterway following "authorization and coordination" with its naval forces, Tasnim News Agency reported. "Control and smart moni-

toring of the Strait of Hormuz is being carried out with authority, and any aggression will be met with crushing blows," the statement added.

under a US naval blockade, which President Donald Trump imposed in mid-April, aiming to pressure Tehran into a peace agreement after the 40-day conflict.

The ships were among dozens of supertankers and vessels that exited the Persian Gulf this month through a route in the strait designated by Iran. Iran has defined a supervisory management zone over the Strait of Hormuz, requiring coordination and permits for passage. The zone was described as "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 conduit to its enemies and their allies following US-Israeli aggression against the country on February 28. Iranian ports also remain

In a post on Truth Social on Friday, Trump said Iran would be required to remove any remaining mines in the Strait of Hormuz, while the United States would lift its naval blockade on ships entering or leaving Iranian ports. However, Iranian maritime sources cited by Tasnim rejected interpretations that the blockade had been lifted, saying naval restrictions remained in place and that vessels continue to receive warnings from US Central Command (CENTCOM). According to Tasnim, Iranian sailors said the naval blockade of Iranian ships was still in effect and that US forces had issued warnings to stop vessels trying to break through the restricted zone, ordering them to turn back or face potential fire.

**Tehran stocks log first all-green trading session as benchmark jumps**

## Economy Desk

Iranian stocks recorded an unprecedented all-green trading session on Saturday, with no listed shares trading in the red during part of the day and more than 700 ticker symbols locked in buy queues on the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE). According to Tasnim News Agency, the TSE experienced one of its most unusual trading days, with all sectors and both large- and small-cap stocks trading in positive territory. Market data showed green dominated the trading board throughout the session in what Tasnim described as a first for Iran's stock market. Tehran's main stock index gained 79,723 points at the close of trading to hit 4.153 million points. Major index-heavy stocks, including National Iranian Copper Industries Co., Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Co., Social Security Investment Co., Mobarakeh Steel Co., and Iran Khodro Co., along with dozens of other shares, all traded in the green, helping drive a broad-based market rally. FMLI alone contributed 16,000 points to the benchmark index's rise. Other stocks that significantly supported the index included Esfahan Oil Refining Co., Bank Mellat, and Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Co. Among the most actively traded stocks, Bank Mellat recorded transactions of 10 billion shares worth 1.1 trillion rials, while Sepico traded 19 million shares valued at 7.6 billion rials and Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Co. traded 1.1 billion shares worth 295 billion rials. The gains came after months during which the TSE faced heavy pressure from wartime conditions, uncertainty and a prolonged trading halt, prompting many market participants to adopt a cautious outlook. Trading on the TSE resumed after an 80-day suspension on May 19, with Iranian equities ending the session stronger than expected and showing early signs of stability following the prolonged halt caused by the war. The stock market had been closed since Feb. 28 following US and Israeli attacks on Iran and the outbreak of war.

## US-Iran trade rises 47% in Q1 2026 despite import decline



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195th among sources of US imports in the first quarter of 2026. Iranian news agency Tasnim, citing the Census Bureau figures, noted that trade dynamics shifted in March 2026, a month marked by US-Israeli war on Iran that broke out in late February. During that month, US exports to Iran totaled \$1.2 million, down 64% from \$3.4 million in March 2025, while imports from Iran rose to \$300,000 from \$100,000 a year earlier. Eqtesad-e Moaser, another Iranian outlet, similarly reported the monthly decline in US exports against the backdrop of the conflict, while highlighting the threefold increase in imports from Iran during the same period.

**Economy Desk**  
Total trade in goods between the United States and Iran surged by 47% in the first quarter of 2026 from a year earlier to \$16.2 million, according to US Census Bureau data cited by Iranian media. US exports to Iran climbed 53% to \$15.8 million in

the January-March period, while imports from Iran fell 42% to \$400,000, the data showed. Despite the quarterly increase, bilateral trade remains minimal in the context of both countries' global commerce. Iran ranked 164th among destinations for US exports and

## Iran to import 300 MW from northern neighbors for summer peak

### Economy Desk

Iran will import 300 megawatts of electricity from Turkmenistan and Armenia during this summer's peak load, a senior energy official said, adding that an exchange of up to 1,000 MW with Russia remains part of future agreements. "300 MW of electricity will be imported from Turkmenistan and Armenia during this summer's peak load," Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, deputy minister of energy, told the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA). "Exchange of 1,000 MW of electricity with Russia is part of future agreements." Rajabi Mashhadi said Iran is importing the 300 MW from these two neighbors while also maintaining electricity exports to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Asked whether the 40-day US-Israeli war that began in late February had disrupted Iran's electricity exchanges, he said the conflict had not caused damage because the facilities were not targeted. "In general, both Turkmenistan and Armenia have good cooperation with Iran on electricity supply," he said. On grid synchronization with Russia, Rajabi Mashhadi said the interconnection remains part of future agreements, with



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productive understandings reached on developing a link via Armenia's network. "After the necessary lines and facilities for connecting the grid between Iran and Russia are built, technically it is possible to exchange up to 1,000 MW between the two countries," he said. Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi recently said the country is in a significantly better position regarding energy supply for this summer. "Currently we have no deficit in electricity production, but this year we must reach a capacity that allows us to manage maximum consumption, and the entire system must align with this goal," Aliabadi said. The ministry's spokesperson earlier said 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.

## Oman likely to ...

Even regarding the proposal raised by Iran that Tehran and Muscat jointly collect transit fees, Oman sought to preserve its neutrality. That is why the threats issued by US officials were largely meaningless, since Oman was not actively pursuing such a course of action. The two countries were still engaged in negotiations, and no agreement had been reached. At the same time, Oman has every legitimate right to reach agreements and understandings with its northern neighbor. Furthermore, the entire Persian Gulf sits on a continental shelf. From the perspective of international law, these waters are not considered international waters but rather part of the continental shelf shared by Iran and Oman.

The fact that Iran and Oman have not collected transit fees in previous years, or have not restricted the passage of foreign vessels, does not mean they lack legal rights. International law grants both countries the right to reach an agreement on a specific legal regime governing this strait, which is shared exclusively by Iran and Oman. The statements made by US officials are inconsistent with international law. Unfortunately, however, it increasingly appears that international law itself has little practical standing today. It should be emphasized that Oman had neither endorsed nor rejected the issue of collecting transit fees. Iran merely raised the proposal, and Oman listened to it. If the United States believes such threats can alter

Oman's position or force it to change its relationship with Iran, that seems unlikely. Oman has adopted a policy of friendship and neutrality and remains deeply committed to it. It is expected to continue pursuing this approach of maintaining friendly relations with all parties while preserving its neutral stance.

### In the long term, how could such an approach affect Oman's level of trust in the United States?

Well, much of the world today has become distrustful of Washington, including Oman. Even America's European allies have become increasingly skeptical. During the illegal war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran, Trump appealed to European countries to partici-

pate. However, hostility toward Trump in the international arena had become so widespread that they declined to do so. The remarks directed at Oman—a country widely viewed as neutral and peace-oriented—will only intensify resentment toward both the United States and Trump. Even if regional countries do not openly support Oman, they are likely to sympathize with it privately in this matter.

**What message do these threats send to other Arab states along the Persian Gulf that maintain close ties with the United States? Could this approach raise doubts about Washington's respect for the decision-making independence of its regional partners and encourage them to diver-**

### sify their security and political relationships?

The first question is whether these countries genuinely possess independent sovereignty. In practice, they appear to have little autonomy or independent political will. If they did possess such will, they would be expected to respond appropriately. Instead, they remain silent, hearing these threats and insults without reacting. If these countries have the necessary determination, they should move toward diversifying their foreign relations and reducing their dependence on the United States. The real question, however, is whether such a determination exists. Whether they are prepared to act in the interests of their countries and their peoples remains open to doubt.