

Will the Iran-US deal move forward, or will it face another delay as uncertainty hangs over the timing of the long-anticipated agreement? | P6-7



Khalifa Bin Salman Port Ranks 19th Globally

Cargo volumes jump 78%

The latest statistics on general cargo throughput at Khalifa Bin Salman Port show a significant surge in May 2026, with handling volumes reaching around 105,500 tonnes. The sharp increase is seen as a positive indicator of a rapid recovery in maritime and trade activity following exceptional disruptions in regional shipping routes earlier this year.

- Cargo rose from 59,400 tonnes in April to 105,500 tonnes in May.
- March 2026 recorded zero general cargo due to full suspension of operations.
- May 2026 exceeds May 2025 (44,200 tonnes), May 2024 (32,100 tonnes), and May 2023 (36,100 tonnes)

● Improved efficiency reduces waiting time and logistics costs

● Boosts trade flow, reliability, and supply chain speed

● Strengthens Bahrain's trade competitiveness and



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Khalifa Bin Salman Port has been ranked 19th globally in the latest Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), placing it among the world's top-performing ports. The port has also been recognised as one of the top five global improvers for efficiency over the reporting period.

Published annually by the

World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence, the CPPI is an independent benchmark that measures how efficiently ports handle container traffic. It assesses the total time vessels spend in port – from arrival to departure – adjusted for vessel size and call complexity. Faster and more predictable vessel handling directly contributes to a higher ranking.

This latest result reflects sus-

tained, multi-year improvement in operational performance, with steady gains recorded across the past five years. The upward trajectory highlights the port's growing role as a reliable and efficient gateway for global trade.

Efficient port operations create tangible value across the supply chain. Shipping lines benefit from improved schedule reliability and reduced waiting

entire port community, supported by the leadership and strategic direction of the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and its Ports and Maritime Affairs. As terminal operator, APM Terminals works alongside partners in marine services, customs and logistics to maintain safe, predictable and efficient cargo flows that connect Bahrain to global markets.

times, while importers and exporters gain from faster cargo movement and lower logistics costs. At a national level, efficient port performance supports trade competitiveness, attracts investment and contributes to job creation.

Strong performance in the CPPI reflects coordinated efforts across the

Civilian Deaths Reach a High

A new report by the Explosive Weapons Monitor found that more than half of all civilian deaths caused by explosive weapons in 2025 were linked to Israeli military attacks.

According to the report, 22,600 civilian deaths were recorded globally from explosive weapons this year, with 56 per cent attributed to Israeli military operations.

The monitor also reported a 52 per cent increase in explosive weapon attacks affecting humanitarian aid efforts, with nearly 90 per cent of such incidents recorded in the Palestinian territories.

The report identified Iran, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Myanmar, Ukraine and Sudan among the hardest-hit regions. It added that state armed forces were responsible for 85 per cent of incidents that caused civilian harm or damage.

The findings also highlighted a growing threat to civilian infrastructure and essential services in conflict zones.

Bahrain Backs Disability Rights



The Kingdom of Bahrain has taken part in the 19th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City from June 9 to 11, 2026.

During the session, Bahrain's Permanent Mission to the United Nations delivered the Kingdom's statement, reaffirming its strong commitment to the Convention's principles and objectives. The statement highlighted Bahrain's continued efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their full and effective participation in all areas of life.

Trump to Meet World Leaders



US President Donald Trump will participate in a G7 working session alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during next week's summit in France, a senior US administration official confirmed.

The session is scheduled for Tuesday morning during the G7 Summit in Evian, which runs from June 15 to 17. While both leaders will be present at the meeting, officials said no formal bilateral talks between Trump and Zelensky are currently planned.

The official noted that an informal discussion between the two leaders could still occur on the sidelines of the summit.

Trump is expected to hold separate meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron and the leaders of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and India during the summit.

No Cash, No Nukes

"Wall" Against Nuclear Weapons

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Saturday that the United States is on the verge of signing a sweeping new agreement with Iran, which he described as a definitive barrier against Tehran ever acquiring a nuclear weapon – through any means.

In a statement posted to Truth Social, Trump sharply criticised the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear accord negotiated under President Barack Obama, calling it a straightforward path toward Iranian nuclear capability. Trump has previously described the JCPOA as tantamount to handing Iran a nuclear weapon, calling it

"a horrible deal."

By contrast, Trump framed his forthcoming agreement as fundamentally different. Under the new deal, he claimed, Iran has renounced any ambition to develop or acquire a nuclear weapon through purchase, domestic development, or any other method.

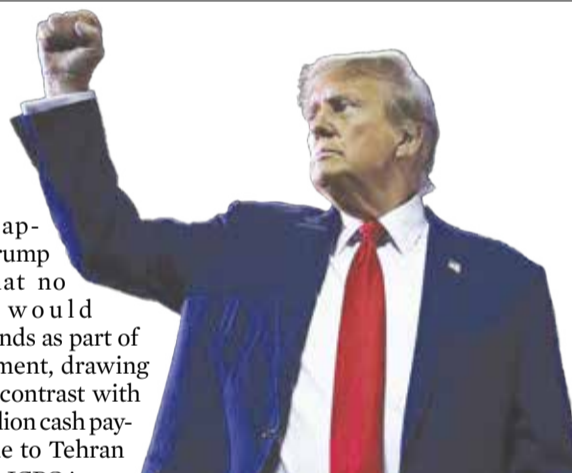
Trump also confirmed that the Strait of Hormuz – a critical artery for global oil exports – would be reopened to all vessels immediately upon signing. A U.S. official indicated that shipping through the Strait would be "unrestricted," with no tolls, no harassment, and a requirement for Iran to remove mines from the waterway.

Unlike the Obama adminis-

tration's approach, Trump stated that no money would change hands as part of the agreement, drawing a pointed contrast with the \$1.7 billion cash payment made to Tehran during the JCPOA era.

The President also referenced plans to eventually remove enriched nuclear material buried deep within Iranian territory, describing the mission as achievable with American B-2 bombers, before the material would be downblended and destroyed.

U.S. and Iranian negotiators



Joint Security Challenges

Strategic Security Dialogue Brings GCC, Jordan and US Together

As part of the Kingdom of Bahrain's presidency of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States, Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa, hosted the third roundtable meeting in Washington. The meeting brought together ambassadors of GCC states, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and military attachés, along with a US



delegation.

The US side was led by Elbridge A. Colby, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and included representatives from the US Department of State.

Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening strategic partnerships and enhancing joint coordination to support regional security and stability. They also highlighted the need to address current challenges, safeguard maritime routes, and ensure freedom of navigation in international waters—factors seen as vital for both economic stability and collective regional security.

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