



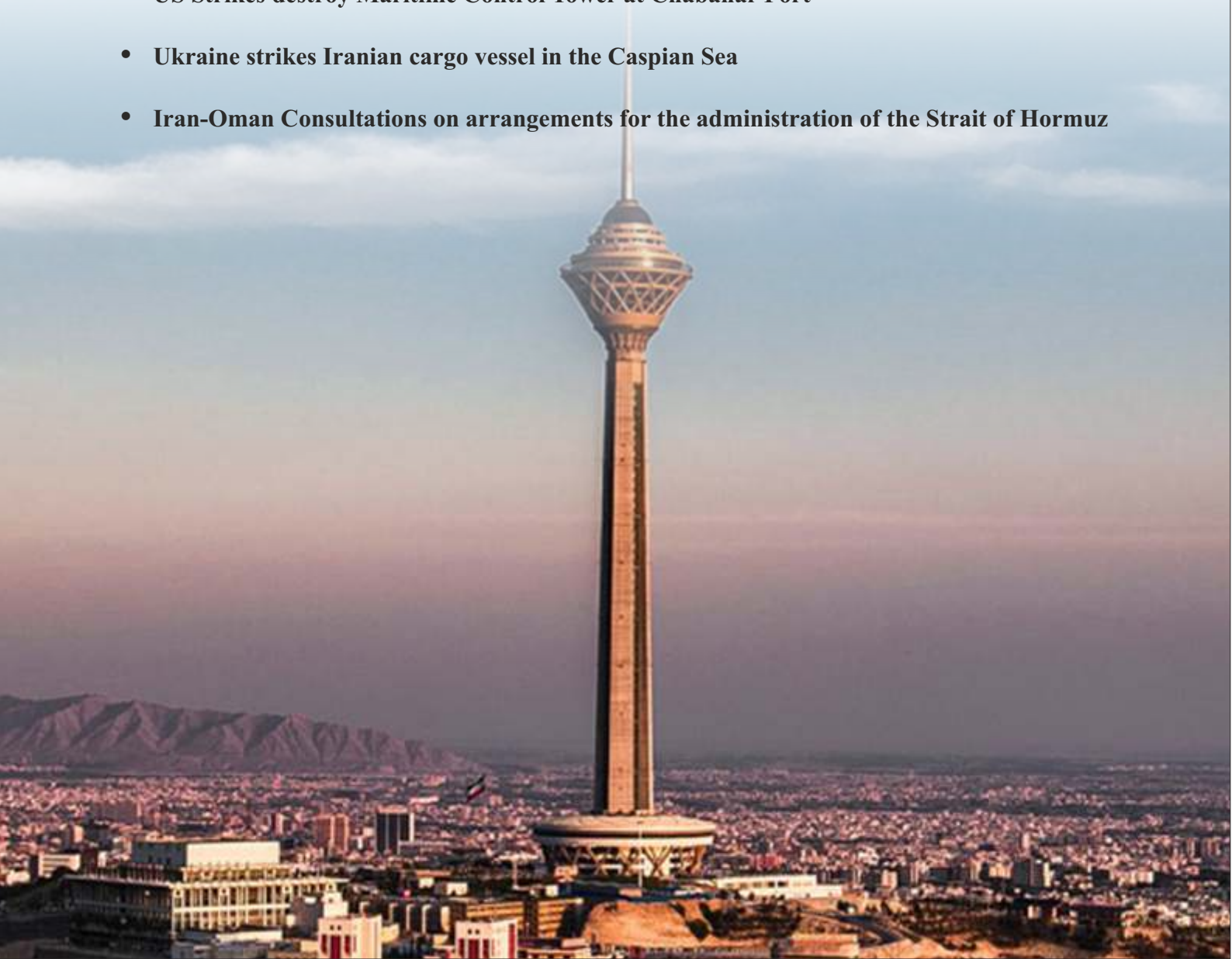
MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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Iran

Digest

July 2026

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United States resumes naval blockade of Iran

On 15 July, following orders from U.S. President Donald Trump, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) reinstated a naval blockade targeting Iranian ports, under which it began “redirecting” and “disabling” vessels trying to cross the boundary of the restricted area. The US also began an extended [bombing campaign](#) targeting Iran's coastal defenses and missile sites aimed at degrading Iran's ability to target vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. An Indian crew member was killed, and eight others were wounded when two Emirati oil tankers were struck by Iranian cruise missiles in the Strait of Hormuz. The tankers were attacked in the southern lane of the strait while in Omani territorial waters. UAE state oil giant [ADNOC](#) has been among the most active participants in a U.S. military-led operation to move Gulf crude out to international buyers through ship-to-ship (STS) transfers beyond the Strait of Hormuz. Iran targeted commercial vessels that did not coordinate their transit with Iranian authorities and used the 'southern route' in Omani territorial waters, claiming that bypassing Iranian oversight and using corridors not authorised by Iran amounted to a violation of the memorandum of understanding. On 11 July, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Navy announced that the Strait of Hormuz has been [closed “until further notice”](#), after accusing foreign powers of trying to impose an “illegal route” for shipping through the waterway. On 13 July, the IRGC responded to escalating US strikes in southern Iran by targeting US military facilities in Bahrain, claiming it had destroyed [radar systems in Oman](#) and hit Jordan and Kuwait in its latest round of overnight retaliatory strikes against the United States. Iranian strikes

targeted US military installations as well as civilian infrastructure such as power plants and water desalination plants. The US strikes on Iranian civilian infrastructure were halted after the IRGC warned that its response would go beyond retaliation, explicitly stating that the UAE would be targeted. Subsequently, the UAE Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling for an immediate halt to the attacks by the involved parties. On 22 July, Trump threatened to bomb Iranian bridges and power plants in response to Iran's strikes on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. Subsequently, Iran's FM Araghchi posted on X that Iran's defence doctrine is clear: an eye for an eye and that "Any aggression against Iran, including our infrastructure, will compel a powerful and decisive response. Those who contribute to such aggression, whatever the kind of support, will also be considered as legitimate targets."

US Strikes destroy Maritime Control Tower at Chabahar Port

On 16 July, U.S. military strikes destroyed the maritime control and surveillance tower at Shahid Kalantari terminal of Iran's Chabahar Port. Announcing the complete destruction of the multi-story tower on X, CENTCOM stated that the tower was part of a maritime surveillance network along Iran's Gulf of Oman coastline that the IRGC used the tower to track and target commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The maritime control tower, or Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), similar to air traffic control, provides real-time traffic information, manages the entry and exit of vessels and is therefore crucial for port management. Iran's state-run [IRNA news agency](#) confirmed that the tower was destroyed. It also noted that cargo loading

and unloading operations at Shahid Kalantari Port are expected to resume shortly and that port services will continue.

Ukraine strikes Iranian cargo vessel in the Caspian Sea

On 25 July, Ukraine targeted an Iranian cargo vessel in the Caspian Sea, causing an explosion that killed one sailor and injured another. Subsequently, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that Ukrainian forces had achieved "very good results" in long-range strikes in the Caspian Sea, including against vessels used to transport military cargo linked to Iran. Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Ukraine's chargé d'affaires in Tehran to protest what it described as a "hostile and criminal" attack. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also discussed the matter in a phone call with the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas, calling for a firm response from the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the international community, and for the perpetrators and supporters of this criminal act to be held accountable." Zelensky also noted that Ukrainian intelligence will share information with its Western partners regarding Russia's [satellite surveillance](#) of the Gulf States and a correlation between Russia's satellite imagery of these sites and Iranian strikes. On 26 July, Iranian foreign minister Araghchi initiated a [telephone conversation](#) with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, who presented his condolences on the death of the Iranian sailor and was also briefed on the ongoing diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East.

Iran-Oman Consultations on arrangements for the administration of the Strait of Hormuz

On 11 July, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Oman at the head of a diplomatic delegation for talks with Omani officials on arrangements for the administration of the Strait of Hormuz, regional developments, and bilateral relations. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said that the visit follows a series of consultations launched over the past two months with Oman regarding the Strait of Hormuz, stressing that under the US-Iran memorandum of understanding on ending the war, Iran assumed a clear responsibility for helping to establish normal operational arrangements in the Strait, including the provision of maritime services for commercial shipping. In line with the MoU, Iran and Oman agreed to coordinate closely on the implementation of these arrangements. Further rounds of talks were held in Tehran on 24-25 July at the deputy Foreign minister level. The discussions focused on "common principles and operational mechanisms" for ensuring the safe passage of shipping through the strait while respecting the sovereign rights of the two states, said Baghaei. He described the talks as "useful" and said progress had been made, adding that "technical and political consultations between the two sides were continuing".