

Trump Extends Iran Ceasefire but the Strait of Hormuz Remains Closed

- President Trump has extended the ceasefire with Iran indefinitely, keeping a fragile peace in place after a 40-day conflict earlier this year.
- Peace talks held in Pakistan broke down over the weekend, with Iran rejecting US proposals, leaving the path to a lasting deal unclear.
- The Strait of Hormuz, through which about one-fifth of the world's oil passes, remains largely blocked since late February, keeping energy markets on edge.
- US Navy forces intercepted an Iranian-linked oil tanker carrying 2 million barrels of crude in the Bay of Bengal on April 21, raising tensions further.

Global Stock Markets Pull Back as Geopolitical Tensions Weigh on Investors

- The S&P 500 is trading at 7,064, down 0.82% this morning, as investors step back from riskier assets.
- The Dow Jones fell 530 points to 49,149 (-1.08%), with industrial and financial stocks among the hardest hit.
- European markets also dipped, with Germany's DAX down 0.97% to 24,271 and the UK's FTSE 100 off 1.05% at 10,498.
- Earnings season is in full swing with Boeing, United Airlines, and AT&T reporting before the open, and Tesla reporting after the close today.

Gold Shines as Safe Havens Attract Cautious Investors

GOLD

\$4,770.89/oz

Up 0.51% today as investors seek safety amid Middle East tensions

SILVER

\$77.94/oz

Up 1.20% — mirroring gold's strength and benefiting from safe-haven demand

BITCOIN

\$77,460

Up 2.13% today, outperforming equities as a digital store of value

ETHEREUM

\$2,362

Up 2.00%, tracking Bitcoin's gains in a volatile session

Oil Prices Stay Elevated as the Hormuz Crisis Reshapes Global Energy

1

BRENT CRUDE

Trading at \$98.48 per barrel, down slightly on the day but still near 18-month highs driven by supply fears

2

WTI CRUDE

At \$89.49 per barrel, easing 0.58% as early safe-haven buying fades into profit-taking

3

NATURAL GAS

Up 0.85% to \$2.716 per MMBtu as energy markets stay broadly supported

4

COPPER

At \$6.04 per pound, up a modest 0.30%, suggesting industrial demand is holding steady despite the uncertainty

Where Markets Stand Right Now

MARKET	SENTIMENT	KEY DRIVER	DIRECTION
Gold and Precious Metals	BULLISH	Safe-haven demand driven by Iran-US tensions	▲
US Equities	BEARISH	Risk aversion and geopolitical uncertainty weighing on sentiment	▼
European Equities	BEARISH	Global risk-off mood and energy import concerns	▼
Oil and Energy	VOLATILE	Supply disruption fears from Hormuz vs. profit-taking pullback	↕
Forex (USD)	NEUTRAL	Safe-haven dollar demand balanced against broader global uncertainty	↔
Crypto (BTC/ETH)	VOLATILE	Acting as digital safe haven, outperforming traditional risk assets	▲