

INTERNATIONAL

IRANIAN MINES

Nightmare at sea for the West

AFP, Paris

Tehran is seeking to choke the vital Strait of Hormuz to oil traffic following US and Israeli strikes against Iran, with fears it could be using sea mines to do so. Any Iranian mining of the key shipping lane, as its forces did in the 1980s, would be a nightmare for Western demining teams. Here's an explainer:

WHAT ARE SEA MINES?

"Mines are the weapon of the poor," a former senior officer with the French navy and specialist on the subject told AFP on condition of anonymity. Yet "they pose a fundamental threat to maritime trade and to the freedom of action of naval forces," he said.

HOW MANY DOES IRAN HAVE?

Elie Tenenbaum, a researcher at the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), said Iran was estimated to have some 5,000-6,000 naval mines, including "drifting mines that are extremely difficult to intercept".

Contact mines can drift around on the surface with the current or can be moored to an anchor on the sea floor. They explode when they come into contact with a ship's hull.

The Iranians also had influence mines adapted to the Gulf's shallow waters, which are sown on the seabed and explode when a large ship is detected overhead, he said. The Iranians could also use speedboats to attach limpet mines to the hulls of ships, which would be set to explode at a certain time, he added.

The Iranians can rapidly deploy all these mines "in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz using high-speed small boats equipped as minelayers", the US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) said in a 2019 report.

HAVE THEY BEEN USED BEFORE?

Tehran used deployed sea mines during its conflict with Iraq in the 1980s during the so-called "tanker war", forcing the United States to escort commercial ships.

During the Gulf war in 1991, Iraqi forces deployed 1,300 mines, badly damaging two US navy ships, including the USS Princeton, which it cost about \$100 million to bring back on line, according to US researcher Scott Truver, who has taught at the Naval War College.

WHAT OF DEMINING?

Western nations have the means to demine the Strait of Hormuz should it be necessary, but such an operation would be long and complicated.

"Strategically placed sea mines could become the Achilles heel of US naval operations," the Center for Maritime Strategy said last year, warning Iran but also China and Russia had acquired the cheap munition.



Trump's missteps may fuel Putin's power

Analysts warn as Russian negotiator meets Trump envoys in Florida amid US-Israeli war on Iran

CNN ONLINE

If Vladimir Putin's quarter-century of expansionist rule has taught the West anything, it's that the Russian president shouldn't be taken at his word.

That hasn't stopped top US officials from perpetually buying the Russian strongman's lines. President Donald Trump's biggest misconception is that Putin wants peace in Ukraine, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Now, Trump's team risks falling victim to its own credulity again. Just as Moscow is helping to target drones threatening US troops in the Iran war, according to a CNN report, the administration may ease more of the sanctions that power Putin's Ukraine killing machine. The hope would be to lessen Trump's political jam over oil prices.

It would be an extraordinary twist if Putin emerged as the first winner of the deepening Middle East crisis because Trump rocked global energy markets by launching his own war.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL IN FLORIDA

In the latest US-Russia melodrama of the Trump era, a top Russian official huddled with Trump's team in Florida on Wednesday. Special envoy Kirill Dmitriev met special envoy Steve Witkoff; the president's son-in-law Jared Kushner; and White House senior adviser Josh Groenbaum. "The teams discussed a variety of topics and agreed to stay in touch," Witkoff said in a readout that touched on none of the suddenly burning US-Russia issues.

But before the meeting, Witkoff downplayed reports that the Russians were providing Iran with intelligence about the movements of US troops, ships and aircraft.

But the plot thickened Wednesday when CNN's Nick Paton Walsh exclusively reported that Russia was helping Iran with drone tactics learned in Ukraine to hit US and Gulf targets. This is the most overt and concerning such cooperation yet between the anti-US axis allies, a Western intelligence official said.

PUTIN'S STRATEGIC GAME

An unexpected oil bonanza is only

Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in January.

PUTIN'S BALANCING ACT

Still, Putin has a fine line to walk. His core interest is winning the war in Ukraine. Kansas Sen. Roger Marshall told CNN's Kaitlan Collins on Wednesday that the global energy situation amid the Iran war was "very delicate." He added: "I think the lifting (of) the oil



one of the ways Putin can benefit from the war in Iran. The United States and its European allies may divert resources and arms away from supporting Kyiv's war effort. And while Trump's team met Putin's envoy, European allies are still reeling from the president's fury over their reluctance to join the assault on Iran. This is all grist for Putin's long-term strategy of fracturing cohesion among Nato states.

These benefits may partly offset blows to Russian foreign policy if the Iranian regime is weakened or eventually topples. Russia lost another ally this year with the US special forces raid that toppled

sanctions on India, buying Russian oil, I think that's doing something good for America right now."

But he went on: "Of course, I have no use for Russia either ... I think just as quickly as we took those sanctions away, we can put them back on." That may take a while. Stunning imagery on Wednesday of two tankers burning raises the possibility of a deepening crisis. Unless Trump manages to extricate US soon, he may share something else with Putin: having started a war that miscalculated an adversary's capacity to fight back and that drags on longer than he expected.



IRAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

Democrats want answers on strikes

REUTERS, Washington

Nearly every US Senate Democrat signed a letter sent to US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday requesting a "swift investigation" of airstrikes on a girls' school in Iran that killed scores of children and any other potential US military actions causing civilian harm.

Reuters reported on March 5 that US military investigators believe it is likely that US forces were responsible for the strike on the school on February 28, as US and Israeli forces launched attacks on Iran.

Iran govt not at risk of collapse

REUTERS, New York

US intelligence indicates that Iran's leadership is still largely intact and is not at risk of collapse any time soon after nearly two weeks of relentless US and Israeli bombardment, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

A "multitude" of intelligence reports provide "consistent analysis that the regime is not in danger" of collapse and "retains control of the Iranian public," said one of the sources, all of whom were granted anonymity to discuss the findings.

The latest report was completed within the last few days, the source said. With political pressure building over soaring oil costs, President Donald Trump has suggested he will end the military operation "soon." But finding an acceptable end to the war could be difficult if Iran's hardline leaders remain firmly entrenched.

JS mourns Khaleda Zia, July martyrs

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Taher to speak on the matter.

Taher, taking the floor, said the condolence motion had been prepared in a "one-sided manner" and that greater caution was needed in future to make parliament "neutral and vibrant". He then mentioned Nizami, Sayedee, Mojaheed, Abdus Sobhan, Sheikh Ansar Ali, Riasat Ali, Abdul Khalek Mondol, Hafeza Asma Khatun, Rokeya Ansar, Sultana Razia, Rasheda Khatun, AKM Yusuf, Nazir Ahmed, Kamaruzzaman, Abdul Quader Molla, and Mir Quasem Ali for inclusion.

The Speaker then said several more names would be added to the motion: Saleha Khanam, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu.

Chief Whip Nurul Islam then came up with more names, including Gautam Chakraborty, MA Matin, Mujibur Rahman Manju, Anwarul Hossain Khan and former air-vice marshal AK Khandker.

He then requested that the parliament secretariat be informed of names of others, including former MPs or distinguished individuals, who have been left out.

Opposition chief whip Nahid Islam later proposed inclusion of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi, Abrar Fahad and Felani Khatun.

The Speaker then said the names would be included.

The Speaker proposed including

those killed in the 2013 Shapla Chattar crackdown and the 2009 Palkhanna massacre.

The motion paid tribute to victims of the Milestone School tragedy, and a number of distinguished personalities from home and abroad.

About Khaleda, the motion noted that Bangladesh lost its "three-time former prime minister and two-time former leader of the opposition in parliament, the second female prime minister in the Muslim world and an uncompromising leader of democracy, and former chairperson of the BNP" on December 30, 2025.

The motion, after highlighting Khaleda's contributions to the nation and its politics, described her as "a memorable, beloved, exemplary and most popular politician of Bangladesh".

The condolence motion remembered those killed between 2007 and August 2024 in the struggles for democracy, rule of law, justice, and human rights. It stated that many had fallen victim to enforced disappearance, crimes against humanity, killings in the name of crossfire, torture, and mass arrests.

The motion also paid tribute to those killed during the July uprising, including Abu Sayed and Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Muddho.

It remembered former BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali, who became a victim of enforced disappearance.

Taking part in the discussion on Khaleda, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said that in her 43-year-long political career, Khaleda never compromised on democracy and independence.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said the happiest person would have been Khaleda had she been present in parliament.

Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam said, "Those of us who were in prison cannot deny July. During my time in Jamaat's leadership, I joined many movements and struggles with Khaleda Zia. She was always uncompromising for the country and steadfast on every issue."

Other participants in the discussion included Andaleev Rahman Partho and State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Anindya Islam.

On the July fighters, Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam said, "The July uprising is more than an uprising. It represents the aspiration for a new Bangladesh."

BNP MP Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and Water Resources Minister Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie also spoke.

The motion was adopted and one minute of silence was observed in memory of the deceased, followed by prayers led by Religious Affairs Minister Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain (Kaykobad).

Wedding joy turns to mourning

FROM PAGE 1

groom along with family members

were heading to the groom's house in Shelabunia village of Mongla," he said.

"But the accident happened near Rampal. Thirteen people, including the bride and groom, died."

Rampal Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Sukanta Kumar Paul said four other bodies were kept at the upazila health complex.

The identities of all victims could not be confirmed until the filing of this report around 9:30pm last night.

Three of the four bodies brought to Rampal Upazila Health Complex have been identified, while the full identity of one victim is still unknown, said Dr Rajesh, medical officer of the health complex.

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Razzak, 70, and Arfa, 10, both from Shelabunia village in Mongla, and Rashida, 70, from Naksha Boyra area of Khulna.

Regarding the fourth victim, Dr Rajesh said only the name "Lamia" could be known so far, and her detailed identity has yet to be confirmed.

Khorshed Alam, a Mongla Municipal BNP Senior Joint Convener, said Razzak was Sabbir's father and president of ward-8 BNP.

"The wedding of Razzak's youngest son Sabbir was held today. They were returning home when the accident happened. Thirteen people, including family members and the microbus driver, were killed," he said.

[Our correspondents in Khulna and Bagerhat contributed to the report]

Nahid seeks justice

FROM PAGE 2

Paying tribute to those who "stood before bullets with courage", Nahid expressed gratitude to people who were killed, injured, or permanently disabled during the movement, calling them "heroes whose sacrifice shaped the country's democratic future."

He said the uprising was not led by any single group but emerged from people across different sections of society.

"The participation of activists from different political organisations, including Shibir, Islamist and leftist

student groups, helped turn the protests

into a nationwide uprising," he said.

During his speech, Nahid also mentioned the story of Anas, a tenth-grade student who wrote a letter to his mother before joining the protests. In it, Anas said that if even a child or a disabled person could join the struggle for justice, he too could not remain at home.

Referring to Bangladesh's history of political struggle, Nahid said the events of 2024 were part of a broader tradition of democratic movements.

"From the independence movement

of 1947 to the Liberation War of 1971 and subsequent democratic struggles, Bangladesh has repeatedly witnessed sacrifices in the pursuit of justice and freedom," he said.

He also recalled earlier movements, including the quota reform protests and the road safety movement.

Citing the national referendum, he said the results clearly demonstrated public support for democratic reforms. "In a democracy, the people's verdict is sovereign and must be respected," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Loco)
Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka

e-Tender Notice No. 54.01.0000.205.04.032.25-26 Date: 10.03.2026

e-Tender is invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

S.L.No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1.	1241044	54.01.0000.205.04.027.25-26	25-Mar-2026 12:00	25-Mar-2026 14:00
2.	1243105	54.01.0000.205.04.012.25-26	25-Mar-2026 12:00	25-Mar-2026 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to one hour before tender last selling time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

এস (২৬) (২১৩)

Md. Sajib Al Hassan
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GD-580

নিয়োগ শাখা

নম্বর: ৩০.৩৪.০০০০.০৭৩.৩৫.০০০.২৬-১৩৮ তারিখ: ১০-০৩-২০২৬ খ্রি.

লিখিত পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স লিমিটেড এর সিকিউরিটি গার্ড (ক্যাজুয়াল), পেট্রিম্যান (ক্যাজুয়াল), ডিসওয়াসার (ক্যাজুয়াল) এবং স্টোর হেল্পার (ক্যাজুয়াল) (শুধু পুরুষ) পদে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের মধ্য হতে উচ্চতা ও বিএমআই টেস্টে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ১৪-০৩-২০২৬ খ্রি. শনিবার বেলা ০২.০০ টায় আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, মিরপুর-১০, কাফরুল, ঢাকা এবং কুমিল্লা হাই স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ, ফিলক্ষেত, ঢাকা কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

ক্রম	পদের নাম	রোল নম্বর	কেন্দ্রের নাম	পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়
০১	সিকিউরিটি গার্ড (ক্যাজুয়াল)	২২০০০০০৪--২২০০৮৩১৫ ২২০০৮৩১৬--২২০০৯৯৭৪	আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, মিরপুর-১০, কাফরুল, ঢাকা	১৪-০৩-২০২৬ খ্রি. শনিবার বেলা ০২.০০ টা
০২	পেট্রিম্যান (ক্যাজুয়াল)	১১০০০০১২--১১০১২৪৭৬	কুমিল্লা হাই স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ ফিলক্ষেত, ঢাকা	
০৩	ডিসওয়াসার (ক্যাজুয়াল)	১২০০০০০১-- ১২০০০১৮৭		
০৪	স্টোর হেল্পার (ক্যাজুয়াল) (শুধু পুরুষ)	১৭০০০০০৯-- ১৭০০০৭৮৭		

উল্লিখিত পদে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীগণ <https://bba1.teletalk.com.bd/bba19/admitcard/> লিংকে সরাসরি ক্লিক করে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করতে পারবেন। ডাউনলোডকৃত প্রবেশপত্রের রসিদ প্রিন্টসহ বর্ণিত প্রার্থীগণকে ১৪-০৩-২০২৬ খ্রি. শনিবার বেলা ০১.৩০ টায় মধ্যে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

উল্লেখ্য, মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, ঘড়ি অথবা যে কোনো ধরনের ইলেকট্রনিক ডিভাইসসহ পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ সম্পূর্ণরূপে নিষিদ্ধ। কোনোভাবেই এর ব্যত্যয় ঘটানো যাবে না।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য: ১৪-০৩-২০২৬ খ্রি. শনিবার পরীক্ষা শুরু হওয়ার (বেলা ০২.০০ টায়) পর কোনো প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশক্রমে-
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ব্যবস্থাপক প্রশাসন

বিমান
বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স
আকাশে শান্তি বিাত

GD-577