

## Ending war not enough Gulf states tell US Iran's capabilities must be degraded

REUTERS, Dubai

Gulf Arab states are telling the US that any deal with Tehran should do more than end the war, and must permanently curb Iran's missile and drone capabilities and ensure global energy supplies are never again "weaponised", four Gulf sources said.

### TRUCE 'ISN'T ENOUGH'

Gulf officials, whose countries have been repeatedly fired on by Tehran during the US-Israeli war on Iran, have told Washington in private meetings that the Islamic Republic has left them no diplomatic "off-ramp", the sources said.

The officials want any deal to lock in enforceable restraints on missile and drone attacks on energy and civilian assets, threats to oil and shipping routes,



Mourners carry the body of one of the journalists killed a day earlier in an Israeli strike in south Lebanon, during a funeral in the Choueifat area on the outskirts of Beirut yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Iran has a new demand to end Middle East war

Analysts say recognition of Tehran's sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz could bring in billions in annual revenue

CNN ONLINE

When an Iranian official this week laid out a list of demands to end the war started by the United States and Israel, he added an item that hadn't been on Tehran's list before: recognition of Iran's sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz.

The narrow waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) ordinarily passes has emerged as the Islamic Republic's most potent weapon. And it is now seeking to turn into both a source of potentially billions of dollars in annual revenue and a pressure point on the global economy.

Iran has long threatened to close the strait in case of an attack, but few expected it to follow through – or for it to prove so effective in disrupting global trade flows.

"Iran has been a little taken aback by how successful its (Hormuz) strategy has been – by how cheap and how comparatively easy it is to hold the global economy hostage," said Dina Efsandiary, Middle East lead at Bloomberg



Economics.

Washington is acutely aware of that risk. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned Friday that one of the immediate challenges following the war would be Tehran's attempts to establish a tolling system at Hormuz.

In a nod to the growing strategic weight of the Strait of Hormuz, Mojtaba Khamenei used his first purported address as Iran's new supreme leader to say that the leverage of blocking the waterway "must continue to be

used."

In previous rounds of talks with the US, Iran pushed for sanctions relief and recognition of its right to peaceful nuclear technology but not control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran is now signaling that this leverage could be formalized. Iranian lawmakers are considering a bill that would require countries using the strait for shipping fuel and goods to pay tolls, while an adviser to the supreme leader has spoken of a "new regime for the Strait of Hormuz" after the war.

This new system would allow Tehran to impose maritime restrictions on adversaries and effectively tie access to one of the world's most critical shipping lanes to its geopolitical disputes.

"Imposing transit fees is a violation of the rules of transit passage," said James Kraska, a professor of international maritime law at the US Naval War College. There is no legal basis under international law for a coastal state to charge fees in an international strait like Hormuz, he added.

## GAZA CHECKPOINTS

### Six Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

REUTERS, Cairo

Two Israeli air strikes on two checkpoints of the Hamas-led police force killed at least six Palestinians including a child, local health officials said, in the latest round of violence despite a US brokered ceasefire that is now more than five months old.

Medics said Israeli planes attacked two police checkpoints in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, killing three policemen and three civilians, including a girl, and wounding four others.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the recent strikes. The military has killed over 680 Palestinians in Gaza since a ceasefire with Hamas came into effect in November, local health officials say.

More than 72,000 have been killed since the war started in October 2023. Israel is now also waging a war, alongside the US, against Iran, and is carrying out a new campaign against Hezbollah in which Israel forces have invaded southern Lebanon.

Violence in Gaza has persisted despite the ceasefire and amid Israel's war with Iran. Health officials in the territory say at least 50 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the Iran conflict began a month ago.

An international media association on Saturday condemned what it described as a "violent assault" by Israeli soldiers who detained a CNN crew in the occupied West Bank this week.

## PARIS HEADQUARTERS

### 2 new arrests over bomb bid outside Bank of America

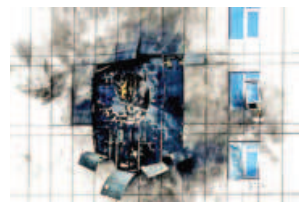
AFP, Paris

French police have arrested two more people over an apparent bid to set off a homemade device outside the Paris headquarters of Bank of America, prosecutors said yesterday.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said Saturday that the war in the Middle East might have motivated the foiled attack.

Police detained the first suspect, a minor, in the early hours of Saturday just after he placed a device containing five litres of a liquid believed to be fuel and an ignition system outside the bank, a source close to the investigation said.

The suspect was accompanied by a second person, who appeared to be taking photos and videos with a mobile phone but who fled when police arrived. Two further arrests were made on Saturday night. According to a police source, the first suspect said he had been recruited through the Snapchat app to carry out a bombing in exchange for 600 euros (\$692).



and proxy warfare, the sources added. Any agreement must rewrite the rules of engagement by providing guarantees that the Strait of Hormuz is never again used as a tool of war and Gulf states must be written into the architecture of what comes next, they say.

### SECURITY GUARANTEE

Abdulaziz Sager, chairman of the Saudi-based Gulf Research Center, said the Gulf states' message to Washington was no longer implicit but explicit – that any agreement with Iran must directly address and guarantee the security of the Gulf states."

That message was reinforced by the Gulf Cooperation Council, a group including Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the UAE, which has signalled a unified front against any settlement that sidelines Gulf security.



Supporters protest the arrest of Nepal's former prime minister KP Sharma Oli in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday. Nepal's former energy minister Deepak Khadka was also arrested as part of an investigation into money laundering, police said.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ukrainian drones hit major port in Russia's Leningrad

AFP, Moscow

A drone strike triggered a fire at Russia's Baltic port of Ust-Luga, the regional governor said yesterday, reporting new damage at the major exporting hub hit for a second time in days.

Ukraine has intensified retaliatory attacks on Russian infrastructure – including refineries, oil depots and ports – saying they are fair targets in Ukraine's bid to cut energy proceeds that fund Russia's offensive.

"There is damage to the port of Ust-Luga. There were no casualties,"

regional governor Alexander Drozdenko said on social media.

He said that "rescuers are working to extinguish a fire" at the port – a major hub for Russian fertilisers, oil and coal exports. Thirty-six drones were destroyed overnight in the region, Drozdenko added.

The northwestern port suffered damage this week when it was targeted by drones in an attack claimed by Ukraine's military.

There has been no immediate comment from Ukraine on the latest hit.

Ukraine also this week struck

another major Russian Baltic port, Primorsk. The black smoke from the fire could be seen on satellite images. A Ukrainian drone also killed a man in Russia's Belgorod region, its governor said yesterday.

The civilian was killed after two drone strikes hit the border city of Grayvoron, Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram, blaming the Ukrainian military.

Belgorod, which borders Ukraine's Kharkiv region, has regularly been hit with drone attacks.

## IRAN THREATS American Univ of Beirut shifts online

AFP, Beirut

The American University of Beirut (AUB) said yesterday that it would operate remotely over the next two days, following the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' threat to target American universities in the region.

"At this time, we have no evidence of direct threats against our university, its campuses or medical centres. At the same time, out of an abundance of caution, we will operate fully online on Monday and Tuesday, with the exception of essential personnel," AUB President Fadlo Khouri said in a statement.

Earlier yesterday, Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened to target American universities in the Middle East after saying US-Israeli strikes had destroyed two Iranian universities.

Crisis-hit Lebanon was pulled into the Middle East war on March 2 when Hezbollah fired rockets towards Israel to avenge the US-Israeli killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Israel has responded with large-scale strikes on Lebanon and a ground offensive in the country's south, killing more than 1,100 people – including 122 children – and displacing more than one million people, according to authorities.

### Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development in Bangladesh Project (LCUD)

Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)  
Level 9 & 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka

#### Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Services

##### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Ministry/Division                       | Power Division  |
| 2. Agency                                  | International Organization  |
| 3. Name of procuring entity                | Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh |
| 4. Title of service                        | Individual Consultant-Project Manager-Time Based                        |
| 5. Procuring entity district               | Dhaka   |
| 6. Expression of Interest for Selection of | Individual Consultant   Time - Based                                    |
| 7. EoI Ref. No.                            | 27.02.0000.000.023.14.0008.26.17  |
| 8. Date                                    | 30 March 2026   |

#### KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement sub-method | Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)

#### FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and source of funds | Development Budget  
11. Development partner | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF

#### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/programme code | 224417700  
13. Project/programme name | Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh

14. EoI closing date and time | 20 April 2026, Time: 15:00 (BST)

#### INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

16. Brief description of the assignment | Overall management and coordination of all activities for Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh  
17. Qualification and experienced required | Details is in the ToR, which is in SREDA website, (Notice Section & Project Box). SREDA website: [www.sreda.gov.bd](http://www.sreda.gov.bd)  
18. Other details | Details is in the SREDA website, (Notice Section & respective Project Box). SREDA website: [www.sreda.gov.bd](http://www.sreda.gov.bd)  
19. Association with foreign firms is | Not applicable

#### PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

20. Name of the official inviting EoI | Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman  
21. Designation of the official inviting EoI | Project Director, LCUD Bangladesh  
22. Address of the official inviting EoI | Level 9 & 10, IEB, Ramna, Dhaka  
23. Contact details of the official inviting EoI | 02-55110343, [lcud2024@gmail.com](mailto:lcud2024@gmail.com)

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any all EoI(s).

GD-663

Sd/-  
Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman  
Project Director, LCUD