

## 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.

# At least 38 children dead in measles outbreak

FROM PAGE 1

the long interval between special measles vaccination campaigns, as well as the cyclical pattern of outbreaks after a few years, among other factors.

Measles patients often develop pneumonia, diarrhoea, ear and brain infection; they often lose their immunity, and those with comorbidities are at higher risk of death.

Children aged nine months and 15 months receive measles vaccination twice under the regular immunisation programme, said Shahriar Sajjad, director of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

The vaccination rate is 90 to 92 percent, so special vaccination campaigns are usually carried out every four years, with the latest one held in 2020. The planned special campaign in 2024 could not be conducted due to unrest in the country, he said.

Besides, the regular vaccination programme was disrupted at least three times last year due to strikes by health assistants who administer vaccinations in rural areas.

Additionally, a funding crisis following the suspension of the sector programme, which provides funds for vaccination, also disrupted services.

The regular Vitamin A and deworming campaigns were not held last year. These campaigns are related to children's nutrition, and malnourished children are more prone to measles, he added.

Since around 10 percent of the children remain unvaccinated each year, a cyclical pattern of measles outbreaks occurs every few years, said Halimur Rashid, director (disease control) of

the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The central stock of measles vaccine has already been exhausted and only a month's supply remains at the field level, according to DGHS officials.

EPI's Sajjad, however, said they have already received the vaccines in time for the planned special vaccination campaign in mid-April.

But several preparations are needed to ensure its success, he said, adding that a meeting of the National Technical Committee on Immunisation (NTCI) will be held today to finalise many parts of the related issues.

However, DGHS officials said the funds for carrying out the special campaign would come from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the public-private global health partnership that helps vaccinate children in the world's poorest countries, and negotiations for funding are still ongoing.

If everything goes according to plan, the special campaign is expected to start before Eid-ul-Azha. Otherwise, it would be held after Eid, he said.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain said the cabinet committee on government purchase approved a Tk 604 crore proposal for procuring vaccines last week.

All major hospitals have been instructed to open special wards for measles patients, he told reporters after a programme in Purbachal yesterday.

As of yesterday, the 100-bed IDH in Mohakhali has received 560 suspected measles patients so far this year compared with 69 cases last year. Of them, 448 were admitted in the 29 days of this month.

A total of 22 patients died at the hospital this year, including 21 this month and one in February, said hospital superintendent Tanzina Jahan.

As of yesterday, 45 suspected measles patients remained admitted to the hospital.

The number of measles patients at the hospital has come down a little as many patients are being admitted to Shishu Hospital, DNCC hospitals and some other facilities, she said.

During a visit to the hospital on March 17, the correspondent found many patients in the corridors and near staircases, but no such patients were seen yesterday.

At wards 3 and 4, this correspondent found seven measles patients, with eight-month-old Samir Ahmed Sarfaraz being one of them.

His parents brought him to IDH with measles and high fever from a Tangail hospital on Saturday, said his mother, Lima Akhter.

Almost all the measles patients admitted were unvaccinated, said ARM Sakhawat Hossain Khan, a consultant at the hospital.

Besides, many patients under six months old also got admitted, which is not very common, he added.

Reaz Mubarak, acting director of Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, also found many patients aged less than six months coming to the hospital. "This is unusual," he said.

A total of 42 measles patients remained admitted to the hospital yesterday, and six have died this year, with the most recent death taking place on March 23, he added.

A total of 105 measles patients were admitted to MMCH this month, said the

hospital's director Brig Gen Md Zakir Hossain.

Of them, five children died, including two on Saturday, he said, adding that 66 patients remained admitted to the hospital as of yesterday.

A total of 250 suspected measles patients got admitted to the Sadar Hospital as of yesterday, said Chapinawabganj Civil Surgeon AKM Shahab Uddin. Four patients died, but they died at the RMCH outside the district, he said.

Several media reported that a total of 12 measles patients died at RMCH this month, but according to the hospital's spokesperson, Shankar K Biswas, so far there has been a single death of a patient suspected to have measles.

At RMCH, 230 suspected cases have been reported. As cases spiked, RMCH set up an isolation centre for measles patients.

Over in Sylhet, 20 were admitted to hospitals with measles-like symptoms, with four later confirmed positive, said Mohammad Nure Alam Shamim, assistant director (disease control) at the divisional health office.

In Noakhali, more than 300 children have been infected in the last 15 days, according to Civil Surgeon Maryam Simi. As of yesterday, 15 remained hospitalised at the 250 bed General Hospital, Noakhali.

[Our correspondents from Rajshahi, Pabna, Sylhet, Noakhali and Mymensingh contributed to the report.]

# Govt, opposition clash

FROM PAGE 12

changes, while others would require amendments. Salahuddin noted that time constraints would prevent parliament from addressing every ordinance in the current session.

"For some ordinances, we may not get enough time for discussion, bringing them as bills, or amending them. Because only 11 to 12 days are left," he said.

"The ordinances we want to pass will be placed in parliament in the form of bills in the next session."

He added that the committee's report would reflect dissenting views where disagreements remained.

Once the ordinances are brought as bills, relevant ministers will place them before the House, and lawmakers will have the opportunity to speak during the first, second, and third readings before the legislation is passed or rejected.

Asked how many ordinances would eventually be turned into bills, Salahuddin said he could not specify.

"I cannot say the number," he said, urging patience until April 2.

On the referendum ordinance, he explained, "The fate of ordinances is decided within 30 days [from forming the government]. But this ordinance's fate has already been decided. Under this ordinance, the referendum has already taken place. Now it has no further obligation."

He added that ordinances not placed within the 30 day deadline would automatically lapse, though some could later be reintroduced as bills in future sessions if the government wished to retain them as law.

## 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
7. EoI Ref. No.	27-02.0000.000.023.14.0008.26.17
8. Date	30 March 2026
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9. Procurement sub-method	Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
10. Budget and source of funds	Development Budget
11. Development partner	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
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)
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
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: <a href="http://www.sreda.gov.bd">www.sreda.gov.bd</a>
18. Other details	Details is in the SREDA website, (Notice Section & respective Project Box). SREDA website: <a href="http://www.sreda.gov.bd">www.sreda.gov.bd</a>
19. Association with foreign firms is	Not applicable
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
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, <a href="mailto:lcud2024@gmail.com">lcud2024@gmail.com</a>

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

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