

## US-ISRAELI STRIKES ON IRAN

# How high can oil prices go after fresh surge?

AFP, London

Having once more soared beyond \$110 per barrel on Thursday, could oil prices reach new records beyond \$150 as some analysts believe? President Trump's latest belligerent tone over the Middle East war has reignited concerns about persistently high crude costs and the limited measures available to tackle the fallout.

### \$200 OIL?

Since the start of the US-Israeli conflict with Iran, benchmark oil prices have soared more than 50 percent largely owing to the Strait of Hormuz -- through which normally one-fifth of the world's crude passes -- shutting to most tankers.

French bank Societe Generale said \$150 is a "credible" outcome on a prolonged war, while most analysts estimate crude hitting \$130-\$140. Australian bank Macquarie forecast \$200 crude should the war still occur in June.

At around \$110, consumers are already facing heavy financial pain, as prices of gasoline and diesel soar around the world.

### 'INSUFFICIENT' OIL RESERVES

In an unprecedented decision in response to the Mideast war, the 32 nations belonging to the International Energy Agency (IEA) pledged to unlock 426 million barrels, equivalent to more than one-third of their combined reserves.

The United States, itself a major oil producer, is to release 172 million barrels, or 40 percent of its strategic reserves. These emergency releases "are not sufficient", UBS commodities analyst Giovanni Staunovo told AFP, noting that the maximum pace of release is around three million barrels per day compared with 15 mpd failing to reach the market because of the war.

### SOLUTIONS?

For countries dependent on oil and gas transiting through the Strait of Hormuz -- in particular those spread across Asia and Europe -- the situation appeared bleak.

In the short term, calls for energy-use moderation are multiplying, such as the European Commission's request to member states to reduce their oil demand, or Bangladesh's call for its civil servants to turn off lights and lower air conditioning.

Several countries, including Malaysia and Sri Lanka, are encouraging people to work from home if they are able to do so. "The reality is, the economic shocks caused by this war will be with us for months," Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese warned on Wednesday.



Damage at a factory struck by a missile in Petah Tikva, east of Tel Aviv, Israel, yesterday. Israel's military reported a new missile salvo from Iran, with its air defences activated to down them.

PHOTO: AFP

## Iran still has major missile launch capacity: US intel

CNN ONLINE

Roughly half of Iran's missile launchers are still intact and thousands of one-way attack drones remain in Iran's arsenal despite the daily pounding by US and Israeli strikes against military targets over the past five weeks, according to recent US intelligence assessments, three sources familiar with the intel told CNN.

"They are still very much poised to wreak absolute havoc throughout the entire region," one of the sources said in Iran.

The US intelligence assessment total may include launchers that are currently inaccessible, such as those buried underground by strikes but not destroyed.

Thousands of Iranian drones still exist -- roughly 50 percent of the country's drone capabilities -- two of the sources said the intelligence indicated.

The intelligence, compiled in recent days, also showed a large percentage of Iran's coastal defense cruise missiles were intact, the sources said, consistent with the US not focusing its air campaign on coastal military assets though they have been hitting ships. Those missiles serve as a key capability allowing Iran to threaten shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz.

The intelligence offers a more nuanced picture of Iran's continuing capabilities compared to sweeping assessments of military victory offered publicly by President Donald

Trump and administration officials.

In remarks to the nation on Wednesday evening, Trump said Iran's "ability to launch missiles and drones is dramatically curtailed, and their weapons factories and rocket launchers are being blown to pieces, very few of them left."

As of Wednesday, the US has struck more than 12,300 targets inside Iran, according to US Central Command. The sources said intelligence showed US military has degraded Iran's military capabilities, and key senior leaders have been killed in the strikes, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and Ali Larjani. In addition to the country's missile launchers, Iran maintains a large number of missiles, according to the intelligence.

## TIT-FOR-TAT RETALIATION

# Iran publishes 'hit-list' of Gulf bridges

MIDDLE EAST MONITOR ONLINE

Iranian media published a "hit-list" of major bridges across the region on Thursday, hinting at a "tit-for-tat" retaliation following a US-Israeli attack on a key bridge in the northern city of Karaj, Anadolu reports.

The semi-official Fars News Agency said that several prominent bridges in regional countries could be possible targets after two strikes hit the BI bridge early Thursday.

The list includes Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Sea Bridge in Kuwait, King Fahd Causeway linking Saudi Arabia to Bahrain, Sheikh Zayed Bridge and Sheikh Khalifa Bridge in the United Arab Emirates, as well as King Hussein Bridge, Damia Bridge, and Abdoun Bridge in Jordan.

The US and Israel carried out two strikes early Thursday on the BI bridge, a vital transport link in Karaj in Alborz province, killing two people and causing its destruction.

According to media reports, the BI bridge is one of Iran's notable modern engineering projects, stretching about 1,000 metres and designed to ease traffic congestion between Tehran and Karaj.

## US strikes on Iran may amount to war crimes

### Dozens of law experts say

REUTERS, Washington

Dozens of international law experts in the US have signed an open letter saying that American strikes on Iran may amount to war crimes, after President Donald Trump reiterated his threats this week to strike Iran's power and desalination plants.

Trump said in a televised speech on Wednesday that the war could escalate if Iran did not give in to Washington's terms.

Over 100 international law experts in the US, including from schools like Harvard, Yale, Stanford and the University of California, said in the letter released on Thursday that the conduct of US forces and statements by senior US officials "raise serious concerns about violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including potential war crimes."

## Opportunity for reforms slipping away

FROM PAGE 1

prevention of enforced disappearances, and strengthening anti-corruption and human rights institutions -- long-standing demands of citizens and rights groups.

Of the four to be repealed, three are related to judicial independence. These ordinances included the country's first legal framework for appointing judges to the apex courts, creating a Supreme Court Secretariat, and granting the judiciary administrative and financial autonomy -- steps meant to break free from executive dominance.

The constitution states that the president shall appoint judges in consultation with the chief justice. But Article 48(3) limits the president's powers, requiring the prime minister's advice

for all functions except appointing the prime minister and Chief Justice. In practice, this means Supreme Court appointments ultimately reflect the prime minister's preference. As things stand, that practice is likely to continue, until such time course, that the parliament enacts a law on Supreme Court judges' appointment.

Rights activists have long accused the Awami League of using enforced disappearances to silence opposition. The relevant ordinance criminalised enforced disappearance and set death penalty as the maximum punishment.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, expanded the ACC's powers, allowing direct case filings, covering financial crimes abroad, and increasing commission membership.

The Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance, 2025, separated revenue policy from collection, creating two divisions under the finance ministry.

The Human Rights Commission ordinances empowered this body to launch its own investigations and act as a real watchdog. The commission was empowered to inspect facilities controlled by security agencies, and summon documents. A search committee was introduced to free appointments from government control, and removal of the chairman was tied to the same process used for Supreme Court judges.

Together, these were encouraging attempts to increase accountability of the ruling government.

These would eventually foster strong democratic institutions of this republic. But dropping these ordinances means we are back to square one, as authority reverts to the executive.

This move risks stalling the key reform initiatives introduced by the interim government. For citizens who saw these measures as historic breakthroughs, the setback is a sobering reminder of how fragile reform remains when faced with entrenched political interests.

At the same time, ongoing debate over the formation of the Constitution Reform Council, coupled with opposition's dissent on nearly all ordinances set to expire, is likely to deepen divisions. As a result, reform itself may become a new fault line in Bangladesh's political arena.

The disappointment is sharper because these reform hopes emerged in a moment of renewed aspiration. The BNP came to power after two decades, following an acceptable national election held in the wake of a mass uprising.

The July Charter, forged through the National Consensus Commission, was a hard-won agreement that brought parties across the spectrum together. Unlike earlier documents, it was the product of extensive consultations, where political rivals agreed on contentious reform issues that had plagued Bangladesh for decades.

That spirit of consensus raised hopes that the cycle of missed opportunities might finally be broken. Yet history offers sobering reminders.

In November 1990, at the height of the anti-Ershad movement, three major alliances

declared the Tin Joter Ruprekha -- a tripartite roadmap pledging judicial independence, fundamental rights, and reforms to restore voter confidence. After Ershad's fall, most of those promises faded away.

In 1991, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed's interim government set up 29 task forces under Rehman Sobhan, engaging over 250 of the country's brightest minds. Their detailed recommendations were widely praised, yet largely ignored by the incoming government.

Fast forward to 2007, when the caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed established the Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) under Akbar Ali Khan. The commission submitted 153 recommendations to modernise governance and administration. By 2009, Khan resigned, citing non-cooperation. Only a fraction of the proposals was implemented, and the RRC's 131-page report remains only on paper.

Yet it remains a case of hoping against hope -- a ray of hope still persists, as the special committee recommended that the 16 ordinances can be reintroduced in parliament as stronger bills following scrutiny and further improvement. Shelving these ordinances would not only again weaken institutions but also betray the aspirations of citizens who had hoped for meaningful change. One can only hope that, after so many years, a democratically elected government will heed the people's call and allow good sense to prevail.

The greater interest of the nation demands that these aspirations not be abandoned but reintroduced with stronger political will and broader consensus.



### AHQ, E IN C'S BRANCH, WORKS DIRECTORATE, DHAKA CANTONMENT

#### INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Notice no. 300/Ad/68/E-3/32

Dated: 25 March 2026.

#### MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence																						
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services																						
3. Procuring Entity Name	E in C																						
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka																						
5. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)																						
6. Budget and source of Funds	GOB																						
7. Development Partners (if applicable)	None																						
8. Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Infrastructure Development for Mongla Commander Flotilla west (Comflot west).																						
9. Selling of tender will commence from	05 April 2026 (During Office hour).																						
10. Selling of tender will Close on	16 April 2026 (During Office hour).																						
11. Last date & time of submission of Tender	19 April 2026 at 1200 hours.																						
12. Date & time of opening of Tender	19 April 2026 at 1230 hours.																						
13. Name & Address of the Office(s)	- Selling Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. - Receiving Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka - Opening Tender Document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka																						
14. Eligibility of Tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractors Class 'C' & 'D' for lot no. 15(a). b. On receipt of DGF1 clearance with others Department (equivalent classes) contractors may also apply for tender. c. Contractors having experience in similar works with enlistment in other Govt., Semi, Government & Autonomous Organization may also apply. d. Having experience of similar work mentioned in Lot No 15(a) amounting Tk. 58,68,000.00 in a single tender during last 05 (Five) years.																						
15. Brief Description of Works	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Lot No</th> <th>Identification of Lot</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Price of Tender Document (Non Refundable)</th> <th>Tender Security in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay order in favour of AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. (Taka)</th> <th>Completion Time in weeks/ Months</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>a.</td> <td>Manufacture &amp; Supply of Furniture for 1 x 50 Bed Hospital 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at Mongla Commander Flotilla West (Comflot West) under AGE (Navy) Mongla.</td> <td>AGE (Navy) Mongla</td> <td>2000.00</td> <td>2,50,000.00</td> <td>12 (Twelve) Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Price of Tender Document (Non Refundable)	Tender Security in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay order in favour of AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. (Taka)	Completion Time in weeks/ Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	a.	Manufacture & Supply of Furniture for 1 x 50 Bed Hospital 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor at Mongla Commander Flotilla West (Comflot West) under AGE (Navy) Mongla.	AGE (Navy) Mongla	2000.00	2,50,000.00	12 (Twelve) Months
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16. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works																						
17. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works																						
18. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Web address : <a href="http://www.army.mil.bd">www.army.mil.bd</a>																						
19. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel No. 9832870 Fax No. 9832882 e-mail- <a href="mailto:wksdte@army.mil.bd">wksdte@army.mil.bd</a>																						
20. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders																							

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/২৭৭

XEN E/M  
For Director of Works  
Works Directorate  
Engineer in Chief's Branch  
Dhaka Cantonment  
Tel: Mili: 8711111 Ext: 2886  
Civil: 9832886

GD-713

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Divisional Forest Officer  
Sylhet Forest Division, Sylhet  
[www.forest.sylhetdiv.gov.bd](http://www.forest.sylhetdiv.gov.bd)

Memo No.22.01.0000.672.01.001.26.

Date: 01/04/2025

### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tenders have been published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No	Tender ID, Package No	Name of Package	Publishing date and Time	Online Tender Last Selling Date and Time	Online Tender Closing Date and Time
01	1251416, SFD/Rev/2025-26/WR-1	Repair of Residential Building (Sreemangal ACF Quarter)	01- April-2026, 18:00	12- April-2026, 12:00	13- April-2026, 12:00
02	1251783, SFD/Rev/2025-26/WR-2	Repair of Non-Residential Building (Sunamganj SFNTC Office Building, Shahpur R.O.S Quarter cum Office, Shahzibazar Mall's Barrack)	01- April-2026, 18:00	12- April-2026, 17:00	13- April-2026, 12:00

The interested Person/firms may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender. 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.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk.

([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) , +8809609112233, +880176225528, +8801762625529).

(Mohammad Abdur Rahman)  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Sylhet Forest Division  
Sylhet

GD-715