

TALKS IN PAKISTAN Hormuz toll plan key point of contention

AFP, Paris

Iran's imposition of a toll for ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz looks set to be a key point of contention at talks opening in Pakistan.

While Iran agreed to reopen the thoroughfare during the two-week truce with the United States, it has also spoken of a toll system to fund reconstruction following punishing US-Israeli attacks.

The European Union was quick to denounce the idea Thursday. Bloomberg News has reported that shipping companies would be expected to pay up to \$2 million per vessel.

The Financial Times said the price to pay would be a dollar a barrel of oil, paid in crypto-currency or yuan, China's currency.

One of the points on the 10-point plan for ending



the war that Iran sent to Washington was that Tehran would maintain control of the Strait of Hormuz.

"Paying a toll legitimises Iran's coercion and sets a precedent under international law that other regimes may want to pursue," wrote Guntram Wolff, senior researcher at the Brussels-based Bruegel think tank.

Trump has suggested that the US and Iran could run the system in a "joint venture".

Hormuz has become "more important for Iran than enriched uranium", Amir Handjari, an analyst with the US Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, told AFP.

"That's the real security guarantee to prevent Israeli and US attacks in the future," he argued.



Mourners gather around the bodies of people killed earlier this week in Israeli airstrikes on Abbasiyeh, during a funeral in Tyre, southern Lebanon, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

US bases in Gulf 'useless' after strikes

Middle East expert says US Fifth Fleet 'highly unlikely' to return to Bahrain

AGENCIES

At least a dozen US military sites across the Gulf region have been so badly damaged by Iran's retaliation to US and Israeli attacks that their presence now creates significantly more vulnerabilities than it does benefits, a slate of Middle East experts argued on Thursday.

The original revelation about the state of the bases was first reported in The New York Times last month, in which they were described as "all but uninhabitable". The Trump administration has yet to acknowledge the extent of the damage sustained.

"This is the physical architecture of American primacy, and Iran has essentially rendered it useless in the span of a month," Marc Lynch, director of the Project on Middle East Political Science at George Washington

University, said at the Arab Center Washington DC's annual conference.

"We are not seeing a full and accurate reporting of the extent of damage that has been done to US bases in the region," he added.

Access to these sites - some of which are logistical hubs and not necessarily active bases - is tightly controlled by both the Pentagon and the Gulf states themselves: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman, reports Middle East Eye online.

Gulf leaders had previously pledged not to permit the US to use bases on their territory for the war.

"The bases around the region are suffering real damage, and I think it's very unlikely that we're ever going to go back and put our Fifth Fleet back in Bahrain. It's too vulnerable," Lynch added.



PHOTO: REUTERS

A firefighter works at the site of a Russian drone strike near Konotop in Ukraine's Sumy region yesterday. A separate Russian artillery strike and aerial attack killed two people in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region.

Iran truce may be too late for many African countries

Fuel surge, trade obstruction cause fertiliser shortages

CNN ONLINE

In northern Malawi, Sutey Williams Nsamba is struggling to buy fertiliser for his small farm, where he grows corn, groundnuts and tobacco. The war in Iran sent living costs soaring, and he warns if shipping disruption continues into Malawi's crop-growing season in November, a "devastating low yield" is inevitable.

"The prices of many commodities will rise, and life will be unbearable," he told CNN.

Nsamba's struggles echo across Africa, with economies hit hard as fuel prices surge and the obstruction of trade routes leads to shortages

of fertiliser during the key planting season.

The two-week ceasefire announced between the United States and Iran brings hope, but even if it holds, few expect a swift return to normality.

Aliko Dangote, the owner of Africa's largest oil refinery in Nigeria, told CNN last month that it may take several months for oil prices to stabilize.

While nowhere has been spared the impact of the Iran war, African countries - which rely heavily on imports of fuel, food, and fertilizer - are especially vulnerable.

Simon Mulongo, a former special

African Union envoy to Somalia and the Sahel, told CNN that the temporary ceasefire has come too late to ease the hardships faced by African nations confronting rising resource prices.

"It is late and uneven," he said, leaving some oil-importing countries on the continent dealing with "currency pressure, subsidy strain, and rising pump prices."

Across Africa, fuel prices have surged by as much as 15 percent to 40 percent, further straining already struggling economies.

In Malawi, petrol prices have risen by 34 percent, while jet fuel prices jumped by 81 percent.

"They're stupid people, they know it, their families know it, and everyone else knows it, too!"
Trump slams right-wing commentators who oppose Iran war

Israel approves 34 new West Bank settlements

AFP, Ramallah

Israel has approved the establishment of 34 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, according to Israeli media reports and the watchdog Peace Now, which said the decision was taken "secretly" in early April.

"The security cabinet secretly decided to establish 34 new settlements," Peace Now said in a statement released late on Thursday.

The 34 settlements come on top of 68 others already approved since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government came to power in 2022.

The decision has not been officially published by any government body, and the defence ministry, in charge of settlements in the occupied West Bank, declined to respond to AFP's questions.

"We are not addressing this issue," a spokesperson for the ministry told AFP.

According to news channel i24News, 10 of the 34 settlements are already existing outposts, which are illegal under Israeli law, but will now be retroactively legalised under the decision.

The remaining 24 are yet to be built. All settlements are illegal under international law.

News website Ynet reported that military chief Eyal Zamir warned during the security cabinet meeting that took place on April 1 that the army could "collapse" because of increasing demands on its manpower.

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Bangladesh Bank
Common Services Department-2
(Mechanical Engineering Wing)
Head Office, Dhaka-1000.

Invitation for Tender (Goods & related works) through Web.

1	Procuring Entity	Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka-1000.
2	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
3	Invitation ref. No. & Date	CSD-2(MES): 14/1(generator)/2026-264 Date: 09/04/2026
4	Source of Funds	Bangladesh Bank's own fund.
5	Name of the work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 500 KVA Diesel Generator at Bangladesh Bank Barishal office, Barishal.
6	Tender Last selling Date	The Tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank (7th floor of 30th storied Building), Head Office, Dhaka on payment of Tk.1000/- (Taka One Thousand) only (Non-refundable) per set during office hours on or before 22/04/2026 upto 4.00 pm.
7	Address of the web for submission e-tender.	etender.bb.org.bd
8	Last date & time of submission through web	23/04/2026 on or before 3:00PM.
9	Last Date & Time and Name & Address of the office for receiving Original tender security and other documents	23/04/2026 on or before 3: 15 PM Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7th floor of 30th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000.
10	Name & Address of the office Opening Tender.	Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7th floor of 30 storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000 on 23/04/2026 at 3.30 PM. (intending tenders or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening).
11	Eligibility of the Tenderer	(a) Tenderer shall have minimum 10 (Ten) years of general experience in the supply of goods and related services. (b) Tenderer shall have agency/distributorship/authorization from Manufacturer of the proposed brand Generator. (c) Tenderer shall have specific experience for supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of power generator installed in any Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous organization worth not less than Tk. 2.10 crore only in single contracts in the last 05 (five) years. (d) The minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 2.50 crore. In case of credit facilities, Bank shall ensure that the above mentioned credit limit will be given if the said work is awarded to the contractor. (e) The Tenderer shall have to furnish the certificate in this respect from an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent and shall meet all other criteria, terms & conditions as specified in the tender documents without which the tender will not be considered.
12	Tender Security	Tender Security amounting BDT 7.90 Lac only will be required in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee in favour of Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
13	Work completion Time	09 (Nine) months from the date of Award of Contract.
14	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Sudhangshu Kumar Sarker, Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7th floor, 30th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000.
15	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 88-02-9530099, Fax: +88-029530490.
16	Special Instructions	(i) The Tenderer shall submit the tender through Bangladesh Bank Website (e-Tendering) & shall have a valid e-mail address for participating in e-Tendering. (ii) Original PO/BD/BG as Tender Security has to be send to Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 within stipulated date and time of TDS. (iii) Scanned copy of the tender security shall be submitted with the tender through web. (iv) Tenderer shall submit the documentary evidence etc. (attested or original whichever necessary) at the time of Tender opening or when required, failing which the Tender may be considered as non-responsive. (v) Tenderer shall duly fill in the Form PG3-1 (Tender Submission Letter) and Form PG3-2 (Tenderer Information) as per format given in Tender Document. (vi) PG3-1 form will be completed and signed by the Authorized Signatory on the Letter-Head Pad, attached by scanning during submitting tender and original will have to send to Director (Engineering-E/M), CSD-2 at scheduled time as per TDS. (vii) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents shall result in rejection of the tender and may lead to action under Rule 149 of the Public Procurement Rules, 2025. (viii) All sorts of Security and Safety measures shall be carried out by the Contractor during execution of the work. (ix) Bangladesh Bank reserves all right to accept or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claim will be entertained in this regard.

DCP-48/2026-831
Date : 09/04/2026

ব্যংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে, হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

(Sudhangshu Kumar Sarker)
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Phone 02-9530490

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