

US VP made 'dozen calls' to Trump during talks

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump was not physically in Islamabad for the peace talks with Iran, but he was in constant touch with his team leading the negotiations, hoping to end the Middle East conflict.

The US delegation, led by Vice President (VP) JD Vance, talked to Trump a "dozen times" during multiple rounds of talks with Iran in Pakistan. The talks, however, remained inconclusive, reports NDTV online.

The peace talks mediated by Pakistan lasted 21 hours on Saturday but failed to produce any result, Vance said during a media briefing early yesterday.

When asked how often he communicated with the President throughout those rounds of negotiations, Vance said: "We were talking to the President consistently. I don't know how many times we talked to him, a half dozen times, a dozen times over the past 21 hours."



Relatives mourn four Saeed family members killed in an Israeli strike, at Al Kharab mosque in Tyre, Lebanon, yesterday. Lebanese authorities said Israeli strikes on the country's south on Saturday killed 18 people, bringing the death toll from Israel's operations since the war broke out past 2,000.

PHOTO: REUTERS

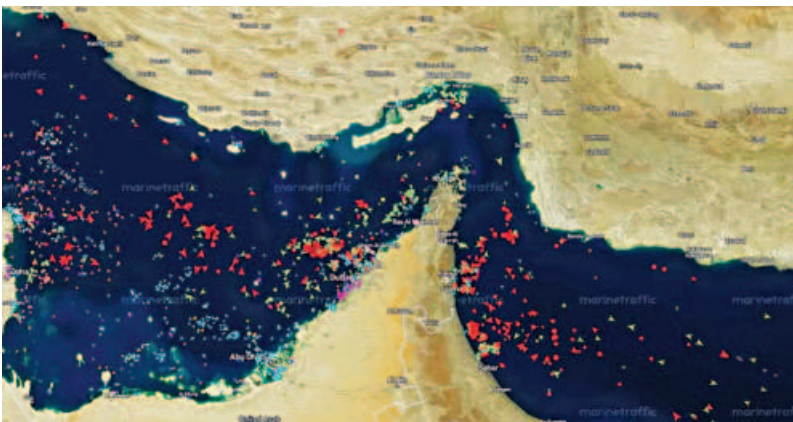
Why reopening Hormuz won't end shipping woes

AGENCIES

Even if the vital Strait of Hormuz fully reopens and oil along with other essential cargo begins to sail out, it will not be enough to restore normalcy. Reopening the waterway itself is proving difficult.

Experts say shipping lines will not re-enter the Persian Gulf through the strait while the risk remains that the ceasefire is only temporary. That's because empty ships must sail back into the strait to keep goods moving.

Tankers and ship owners — as well as their insurers — won't allow their ships to re-enter the Gulf unless they're sure they won't be caught there for weeks or longer, said Lale Akoner, a global market analyst at



for oil and other goods are likely to continue for months, reports CNN online.

According to Matt Smith of trade analytics firm Kpler, ships trapped in the Gulf must first be allowed to leave before things can get back on track. So far, that hasn't happened.

"(Almost) nobody is confident enough to pass through the strait," he said. The 100-plus oil tankers that typically move through the Strait of Hormuz every day, have been reduced to 10 or fewer, Smith noted.

Even if there is confidence in the ceasefire, the flow of vessels is going to be overwhelmingly outbound ships. Smith said there are about 400 loaded oil tankers in the Gulf waiting to get out, but only about 100 empty tankers eager to get in.

Smith said if the strait were to open today, it would still likely take until July for oil flows to get back to normal. The same is true with container ships that are critical for delivering food and other goods the Gulf states depend upon, as well as exports like fertilizer and industrial resins.

There are about 100 container

ships waiting to exit, but virtually none waiting to enter, said Peter Tirschwell, vice president for maritime and trade at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

That means 30 percent of the world's fertilizer that normally comes out of the region is likely stuck there for months until there are new ships to take them out, he said. As with the oil, sending that cargo out by ship is the only way to move it.

"The capacity does not exist to easily reroute those cargoes," he said. Without new ships coming through the strait and into the Gulf, experts say production of various goods made there — crude oil, gasoline and other refined fuels and fertilizer — will remain on hold.

Production halted during the past six weeks because there was no place to put those goods, said Smith.

The oil producers around the Gulf "are used to just putting (oil) on a tanker and it immediately going out," he said. "They're going to need time to increase production, but also have the tankers in place there to be able to load that crude."

Masterminds in Kushtia

FROM PAGE 12
set on fire during the attack around 2:30pm.

No case has yet been lodged in connection with the killing, and no one has been detained, although many individuals were clearly visible in videos of the attack.

"A shadow investigation is underway, and we have gathered several pieces of information," Kushtia Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime and Ops) Faisal Mahmud told The Daily Star.

Law enforcement members said a group of 70-80 people were initially involved in the attack, including some elderly individuals, while seven to eight people directly carried out the acts of vandalism. In a second wave, several hundred students from a local madrasa joined.

Followers of Shamim, present during the incident, said that while the attack was carried out on allegations of insulting religion, looting could have been another motive. They claimed valuables were taken and the rest set on fire. The pir's gold crown, flute and anklets are currently missing.

Fazlur Rahman, the victim's elder brother who witnessed the attack, said, "If he had done anything wrong, he could have been tried under the law. But no human being should be killed like this. I want justice."

He later said that immediately after the attack, he rushed to the scene and found his brother lying unconscious near the staircase of the two-storey darbar building. Police were present at the time, and with their assistance, Shamim was initially taken to Mirpur

Health Complex.

Dr Hossain Imam, resident physician at the 250-bed Kushtia General Hospital, said the victim sustained major injuries to the head, neck and back, along with wounds across the body, and died due to excessive bleeding.

Sheikh Joynuddin, additional DIG of Khulna Range, visited the scene around 11:00am yesterday. Speaking to journalists, he said, "Insulting religion is unacceptable under any circumstances. The country's existing laws provide for action against such acts. If law enforcement agencies had been informed, instead of people taking the law into their own hands, legal action could have been taken. At the same time, the attack and the killing were wrong."

Shamim's janaza was held after Asr prayers at the Poshchim-Dokkhin Philipnagar Eidgah ground. He was later buried at a nearby graveyard.

Fazlur Rahman told The Daily Star that the family would decide on filing a case after discussions, adding that no final decision had yet been taken.

Kushtia Superintendent of Police Jasim Uddin said around 7:00pm that family members of the deceased were expected to visit the police station in the evening, after which the process of filing a case would begin.

Asked about the circulation of videos on Facebook that allegedly created the ground for the attack, the SP said it was too early to comment and urged patience, noting that such matters require extensive analysis and verification.

Ex-Speaker freed

FROM PAGE 1
Metropolitan Magistrate Md Zakir Hossain granted her bail on health grounds after a petition was submitted by the defence, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

During yesterday's hearing, defence lawyer Abul Hasanat Imrul Qausar said, "Not a single word about her [Shirin] appears in the case. Her name is mentioned only once in the FIR. Everyone knows about her qualifications."

"She is suffering from multiple illnesses. She has not been able to receive any treatment since August 5, 2024, as she had been hiding. In 2016, she suffered a heart attack. Every six months, she has to go to Singapore for treatment. But since June 11, 2024, she has not been able to go abroad for treatment. If she is not given treatment, her life will be at risk."

The lawyer said, "There are no allegations of embezzlement, corruption, or abuse of power against her. She is a neutral person. She is a woman and deserves certain privileges. If mercy is not shown on medical grounds, her life will be in danger. An unfortunate incident could happen at any moment."

Opposing the bail petition, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi said, "She is an illegal MP and an illegal Speaker. By supporting Sheikh Hasina, she helped turn her into a fascist. When protesters attacked the parliament building, she was in the underground area of the parliament."

"She is a named accused in the FIR. She was arrested, and the case is currently under investigation. There are accused who are older than her and are also in prison. According to the jail code, they are

being provided medical treatment and are doing well with that treatment."

After hearing the prosecution and the defence, the court granted the ex-Speaker bail on a bond of Tk 50,000.

In the order, the metropolitan magistrate said, "She is a former Speaker. At the time of the incident, she was performing the duties of the Speaker. She is ill. Bail is granted on a bond of Tk 50,000 until the police submit the investigation report."

On April 7, detectives arrested her from her cousin's home in the capital's Dhanmondi.

She was sent to jail the same day, after the court rejected a two-day remand prayer submitted by Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

On May 25 last year, victim Mohammad Ashraful filed the attempted murder case with a Dhaka court, accusing deposed prime minister Hasina and 129 others.

Following a court directive, the officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station recorded it as a first information report (FIR) on July 17.

According to the case documents, Ashraful was shot in Azimpur on July 18, 2024.

Shirin Sharmin served as Speaker from April 30, 2013, until her resignation on September 2, 2024, according to the parliament website.

According to lawyers and court sources, there are six cases against her linked to the quota reform protests, including four murder cases. Five were filed with police stations under the DMP and one was lodged with Kotwali Police Station under the Rangpur Metropolitan Police.

Rivals stab teen gang leader

FROM PAGE 1

At one point, Imon, who was the leader of the "Alex Group", a juvenile gang network in the area, fell to the ground. He was carrying a weapon but he dropped it while trying to flee.

The attackers, who were from a rival faction reportedly led by Arman and Shahrukh, then caught up with him and repeatedly struck him with sharp weapons as bystanders remained helpless, said police and as seen in CCTV footage.

Imon, widely known as "Alex Imon", was taken to the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in critical condition, where doctors later declared him dead, morgue sources said.

Following the incident, members of the Rayerbazar police outpost conducted a drive and arrested three

suspects — Saif, 23, Tuhin, 20, and Rabbi Kazi, 25 — all believed to be members of the Arman group.

Police also recovered three machetes, a cutter, and a steel plate from their possession.

Local sources said tensions had long been simmering between the two groups over control of the area, eventually erupting into Sunday's deadly clash.

Imon had 18 cases filed against him, including for robbery and murder, AC Mamun said, adding that the arrested individuals were also accused in several cases.

Regular drives are ongoing and efforts are being intensified to arrest the suspects, said Ibne Mizan, deputy commissioner of Tejgaon division.

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রদ্ধী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Reference No.:28.16.9100.034.86.005.26 Dated: 09April, 2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID : 1252239 Package No: e-GP-EMM-09 Date of Publishing : 09.04.2026	Procurement of Starting/ Starter Motor for 320 kVA Gas Generator Installed at Head Office of JGTDSL.	Last Selling : 22.04.2026, 12:30 Closing date & time : 22.04.2026, 15:00 Opening date & time : 22.04.2026, 15:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website <https://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 portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal/e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(ENGR. MD. SARWAR JAHAN MAHMUD)
General Manager (Operation Division)
Tel: + 8802997700621
E-mail: gm.op@jalalabadgas.org.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Jail Super
Natore District Jail, Natore.

Memo No. 58.04.6900.130.04.013.26-1339/6 Date: 12.04.2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal:

Sl. No	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing, Closing date & Time
1	1255464	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of animal protein) of Package-1 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
2	1255465	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of animal protein) of Package-2 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
3	1255466	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of animal protein) of Package-3 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
4	1255467	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of animal protein) of Package-4 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
5	1255468	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of animal protein) of Package-5 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
6	1255469	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of vegetable) of Package-1 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
7	1255470	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of vegetable) of Package-2 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
8	1255471	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of vegetable) of Package-3 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
9	1255472	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of vegetable) of Package-4 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
10	1255473	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Different types of Oil) of Package-1 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
11	1255474	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Spices and other product) of Package-2 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
12	1255475	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Spices and other product) of Package-3 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
13	1255476	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Spices and other product) of Package 4 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
14	1255477	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Fire Wood and Transportation) of Package-5 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00
15	1255511	Procurement of Dietary Articles (Cigarettes, Bidis, and Rice) of Package-6 for the period of July/2026 to December/2026.	12-Apr-2026 09:00:00 22-Apr-2026 13:00:00

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 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).

(Jahanara Begum)
BJ 01791000493
Superintendent
District Jail Natore.