

## Pakistan cuts power to control energy prices

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan will suspend electricity supply for about two hours during peak-usage times every evening, the government said, in an effort to manage energy prices affected by the Iran war.

Power will be suspended in most of the country for two-and-a-quarter hours between 5:00 pm and 1:00 am each day, according to a statement released by the energy ministry on Tuesday.

Demand peaks at these times, with expensive furnace-oil-fired plants needed to bridge the gap left by reduced hydroelectric generation.

The blackouts will occur on a rolling basis — rather than at the same time across the country — with the country's largest city Karachi, home to more than 20 million, exempt from the cuts.



Mourners react during the funeral of Palestinians who were killed in an Israeli strike that took place on Tuesday, according to medics, at Al-Shati camp in Gaza City, yesterday. Israeli fire killed at least 11 Palestinians, including two children, in separate incidents across the Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Spain to legalise 5 lakh migrants

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Spain has approved a major regularisation programme that could grant legal status to around 5,00,000 undocumented migrants, including a significant number of Bangladeshis living in the country.

The government on Tuesday finalized the migrant amnesty measure it had announced earlier this year. The approach sharply differs from much of Europe's prevailing attitudes on immigration in which governments are trying to reduce the number of arrivals and step up deportations, and contrasts with the Trump administration's harsh immigration policies.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez hailed the measure as "an act of justice and a necessity." He reiterated his government's position that people who already live and work in the country of 50 million people should "do so under equal conditions" and pay taxes, reports AP.

Those who meet certain conditions can now seek a one-year residency and work permit.

Migration Minister Elma Saiz said migrants could apply in person starting April 20 and online today. The window will close on June 30.

Those who apply must have arrived in Spain before January 1 and prove that they have been living in the country for at least five months.

That can be done by presenting "public or private" documents, Saiz said. Applicants must also show that they have no criminal record, the government said.

After a year, those granted the temporary measure will be eligible to apply for other work or residency permits.

The government estimates that half a million people living in the shadows of Spanish society could be eligible; analysts say the figure is likely higher.

Spanish think tank Funcas estimates there are roughly 840,000 migrants living in Spain without authorization.



## Hormuz blockade 'can complicate' talks

### Iran calls it ceasefire violation, with no confirmation of second US talks

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A senior research fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies said the Iranians have not confirmed a second round of talks with the US.

"However, there are efforts by regional players, specifically the mediators, in order to be moving in that direction," Abas Aslani told Al Jazeera.

He said some Iranians believe the US is hinting at talks to ease shock to the global oil market following its blockade on Iranian ports. Iran considers the blockade a violation of the ceasefire, and this "can complicate the situation", he said.

"The ceasefire, which is currently in place, is a very fragile one, and it is shaking because Israelis are attacking Lebanon, and the United States is implementing the blockade to somehow exacerbate the situation," Aslani said.

"We are waiting to see what will be the reaction from Iran, inside, to the recent blockade by the United States."

If talks do take place, "it could be possible to reach a kind of understanding on the remaining sticking points, given that [the delegations] might be coming to the new venue with, let's say, political decisions", he added.

The US-sanctioned tanker Rich Starry made its way back to the

Strait of Hormuz yesterday after exiting the Gulf the day before, shipping data showed, failing to break through a US blockade on vessels calling at Iranian ports.

"During the first 24 hours, no ships made it past the US blockade,"

The Rich Starry and its owner, Shanghai Xuanrun Shipping Co, were placed under US sanctions for dealing with Iran.

The company could not be reached for immediate comment.

The Rich Starry is a medium-



the US Central Command said on X, adding that six vessels complied with direction from US forces to turn around to re-enter an Iranian port.

The Chinese-owned tanker was among at least eight ships crossing the waterway on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

A US destroyer stopped two oil tankers attempting to leave the Iranian port of Chabahar on the Gulf of Oman on Tuesday, a US official said.

range tanker carrying about 250,000 barrels of methanol that was loaded at the port of Hamriyah in the United Arab Emirates, Kpler data showed.

Another US-sanctioned vessel, the Very Large Crude Carrier Alicia, is entering the Gulf via the strait yesterday, LSEG data showed. The empty tanker, capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil, is heading to Iraq to load a cargo today, Kpler data showed.

## NEW US-INDONESIA DEAL US may be eyeing Strait of Malacca after Hormuz

AGENCIES

As tensions escalate around the Strait of Hormuz, where the US is intensifying pressure on Iranian-linked maritime activity, a parallel development in Southeast Asia is drawing attention.

A fresh defence arrangement between the United States and Indonesia has triggered speculation that the US' focus may be widening toward the Strait of Malacca, which is another critical artery of global trade.

The agreement, finalised earlier this week, gives US military aircraft expanded operational access to Indonesia's airspace.

Although it is officially framed as a step toward deeper defence cooperation, it could also enhance Washington's surveillance and operational reach over the Malacca Strait, which links the Indian Ocean with East Asia.

Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore collectively manage this passage, which facilitates a significant portion of global trade transit. However, the timing of the deal has raised questions about whether the US is recalibrating its Indo-Pacific strategy to secure key maritime chokepoints beyond the Middle East.

Unlike Hormuz, which is central to global oil shipments, the Strait of Malacca serves as a broader commercial lifeline, facilitating the movement of energy supplies as well as manufactured goods,



**The US views the Strait of Malacca through a strategic and military lens as China remains heavily reliant on this route for energy imports.**

electronics and industrial components.

It is significant because of the sheer volume of trade it handles, including a major share of global oil flows, reports NDTV online.

The corridor is especially crucial for East Asian economies. China, in particular, remains heavily reliant on this route for energy imports. This is a dependency long viewed in Beijing as a strategic vulnerability, often referred to as the "Malacca Dilemma".

Despite comparatively lower direct economic dependence, the United States views the strait through a strategic and military lens.

Its narrow width at key points makes it both a potential bottleneck and a leverage point in any future conflict scenario. Any expanded US role in the Strait of Malacca, however, would have to navigate a complex regional landscape.

Indonesia and Malaysia share control over the strait, which has longstanding sensitivities regarding sovereignty and maritime boundaries.

Singapore, while controlling a smaller part of the strait, remains central to its commercial ecosystem due to its advanced port infrastructure and dominance in global shipping services, including bunkering operations.

Recent global debates over maritime tolls and restrictions have also heightened concerns in Southeast Asia. Against this backdrop, Washington's evolving posture suggests a broader effort to secure multiple strategic corridors simultaneously.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Local Government Engineering Department**  
**Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project**  
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Memo No.: 46.02.0000.670.07.033.2025-2145

Date: 15/04/2026.

**e-Tender Notice**  
**Tender Notice No. 10/2025-2026**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal System (<http://eprocare.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details are given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Name of the Project	Description of Works	Tender Last Selling (Time & Date)	Tender Closing (Time & Date)	Tender Opening (Time & Date)
1	1258603 & Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project	Construction of Primary School cum Flood Shelter with Solar PV Nano Grid, Street Light, Lightening Protection & Connecting Roads, Bridge/Culvert, Furniture and Tree Plantation at Bogura District. (Package No.: LGED/RIVER/BOG/21-22/NW-16)	17.00 hrs 17-May-26	14.00 hrs 18-May-26	14.00 hrs 18-May-26

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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.e-procare.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for the e-GP downloading e-Tender Documents from National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches up to 18-May-2026 upto 13.00 hours. The notice is also published in the [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd) & [www.riverbd.org](http://www.riverbd.org) websites.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocare.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocare.gov.bd)).

  
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### Invitation For e-Tender

For financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal ([www.e-procare.gov.bd](http://www.e-procare.gov.bd)) for the procurement of:

SL	Tender ID No & Reference No	Description of goods	Last selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
1.	1258094, 7453/Q/RAB/Part-1/652	High Quality Local Mashur Dal	16 Apr 2026 09:00	26 Apr 2026 12:00
2.	1258173, 7453/Q/RAB/Part-1/653	Edible Oil (S/Oil)	16 Apr 2026 09:00	26 Apr 2026 12:00

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 system portal ([www.e-procare.gov.bd](http://www.e-procare.gov.bd)) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocare.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocare.gov.bd)).

Tenderer having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 01777-710705 (Assistant Director, Quartermaster).



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