

## 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 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.

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-

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.

## They filed a false

FROM PAGE 12

the chest, abdomen, and legs, which he believed reflected extreme brutality.

Testifying as a prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case over Tayim's killing, Moynal alleged that Sub-Inspector Shahdat, acting under "orders from higher authorities," omitted any reference to police firing in the inquest report prepared at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, noting only holes and black marks on the body.

He told the tribunal that Shahadat informed him his son had been killed in an attack and firing by "student people."

Moynal said he signed the inquest report under severe distress. He said his job was on the line, and because more than 24 hours had passed, the body of his son was decomposing.

"I was compelled to sign the inquest report," he told the tribunal.

He said Tayim left home around noon and joined protests in Kajla with his friends. While Moynal was on duty at Rajarbagh Police Lines, he was informed that his son had been shot and his body was left at the Kajla foot overbridge.

He rushed to DMCH but initially could not find him. Later, a journalist showed him photographs of unidentified bodies, through which he identified his son at the morgue, where 20-30 bodies were kept.

He added that formalities at Shabbagh Police Station were completed later, after which he was informed that SI Shahadat would conduct the inquest and post-mortem on July 21.

Despite his request, he said Shahadat delayed both procedures, with the inquest conducted around noon and the post-mortem at 4:30pm.

During ritual washing at Rajarbagh, a large wound on Tayim's left waist was discovered, which was believed to be a pistol bullet injury. Tayim was later buried that night in the family graveyard in Cumilla.

Moynal, citing Tayim's friends, claimed that protesters, including Tayim, took shelter in a tea stall as around 20-25 police personnel, including Inspectors Zakir Hossain and Mamun and SI Sajjad of Jatrabari Police Station, chased them. Police later forced them out, beat them with batons and rifle butts, and ordered them to run.

As Tayim ran, Mamun and Sajjad opened fire, he added. When he fell, Zakir allegedly shot him repeatedly at close range, Moynal said.

Tayim's friend Rahat, who tried to rescue him, was also shot in the leg but managed to escape. Tayim

was left at the scene for a long time before being taken to DMCH.

Moynal demanded the highest punishment, including the death penalty, for those involved. Meanwhile, at ICT-1, a grieving mother of a July uprising victim broke down in the witness box, forcing the court to pause proceedings for several minutes.

The incident took place after a graphic video was played in court showing her 23-year-old son, Rakib Hossain, collapsing on a road after being shot, with blood pooling around him.

The footage was shown after the defence counsel for former Border Guard Bangladesh official Lt Col Mohammad Redowanul Islam requested its exhibition during the cross-examination of the victim's mother, Hashi Akhter.

"I carried my son in a rickshaw to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from Rampura, but he could not speak a word to me. I am bearing such a huge pain," she said, her voice breaking as she wept in court, forcing a pause in the proceedings.

Earlier on April 7, Hashi Akhter testified as the third prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case over the killing of 28 people in Rampura during the July 18-19, 2024 unrest.

The accused include two former Border Guard Bangladesh officers, Redowanul and Maj Rafat Bin Alam Moon, along with two former police officers, then additional deputy commissioner of Khilgaon Md Rashedul Islam and then officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station Moshirur Rahman.

While Redowanul and Rafat were present in the dock during her testimony, the two police officials remain fugitives.

## Maldives leader cuts cabinet

AFP, Malé

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has cut down his cabinet and brought in new ministers, the government said yesterday, following his party's humiliating defeat at local polls.

Muizzu introduced four new faces into a cabinet trimmed to 15 members from the previous 20. Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel was replaced by the Maldives High Commissioner in London, Iruthisham Adam.

"President Muizzu has restructured the cabinet, reducing the number of ministers to 15 members," his office said in a statement.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. www.lged.gov.bd

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.eprocure.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)).

  
Project Director

Phone: +88-02-55006730

Email: [pd.lged.river@gmail.com](mailto:pd.lged.river@gmail.com)

GD-831



### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Police Rapid Action Battalion-7 Patenga, Chattogram www.rab.gov.bd



## Invitation For e-Tender

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



MD HAFIZUR RAHMAN, PSC  
Lt Col  
Commanding Officer  
Rapid Action Battalion-7

Tel: 023-33300400

GD-826