



"We don't want that (confrontation) but it is our duty to be ready to avoid it, and if it were unavoidable, to win it."

Cuban President Miguel Diaz Canel on possible US attack

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Strait of Hormuz NOW OPEN

Says Tehran as Lebanon ceasefire takes effect; oil drops 11%; Trump says 'no sticking points' in deal with Iran

AGENCIES

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi yesterday said the Strait of Hormuz was open following a ceasefire agreed on in Lebanon, while US President Donald Trump said he believed a deal to end the Iran war would come "soon", though the timing remained unclear.

"The passage for all commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of the ceasefire," Araqchi said on X.



Children gesture from a vehicle as displaced people return to their homes in Lebanon's Tyre yesterday after a 10-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel took effect.

PHOTO: REUTERS

IMF, WB assure Dhaka of funds to absorb war shocks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh has secured assurances of substantial financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and other multilateral lenders to tackle the energy crisis triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran.

"I believe we will get the package [to recover from the energy shock], and things are moving positively. I expect Bangladesh will receive an improved package," Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington on Thursday night (Bangladesh time). He did not say how much Bangladesh may receive.

Leading an 11-member delegation, the minister has held a series of meetings with the IMF, World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and other donor agencies over the past four days.

Officials in the delegation said Bangladesh pressed for additional funds to cover the shortfall caused by the energy crisis, beyond regular budget support.

Speaking to journalists, Amir Khosru said that the energy crisis was a common topic in all meetings. "We need support here. This concern has been raised in meetings with the IMF, World Bank, and other multilateral bodies. The discussions have been very positive, but we must wait to see what the package will be."

He added that talks with development partners will continue, with their teams expected to visit Bangladesh. "My impression is that we will get the package," he said.

Meanwhile, Krishna Srinivasan, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, said discussions on additional financial support for Bangladesh are ongoing.

Responding to a question on the

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Trump says Israel banned from bombing Lebanon



Trump rejects Nato offer on Hormuz, says Iran removing mines

Iran says ban remains on military vessels

US says blockade on Iran to remain until a final deal

US president terms Iran war a 'little diversion'

It was unclear whether he was referring to the 10-day truce between Israel and Lebanon that took effect at midnight, or an earlier two-week truce between Iran and the United States that began on April 8.

Iran, which had effectively blocked the crucial waterway, had made extending a ceasefire to Lebanon a condition for reopening it.

A senior Iranian military official told state television that only civilian vessels would be allowed to pass through designated routes with permission from the navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"The passage of military vessels through the Strait of Hormuz remains prohibited," the official said.

Trump welcomed Iran's announcement but said the US naval

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Octane imports now beyond storage capacity

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Bangladesh's octane stock is set to reach near full storage capacity after a fresh consignment of 25,000 tonnes anchored at the outer anchorage of Chattogram Port last night.

With the latest shipment and ongoing local production, total stock is expected to hit 55,500 tonnes, which is more than the country's maximum storage capacity and enough to meet

more than 45 days of demand.

Additionally, around 700 tonnes of octane are being produced locally in a day.

The country's total octane storage capacity is 53,000 tonnes across 16 depots, including 20,000 tonnes at Eastern Refinery (ERL) and 22,000 tonnes at Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's main storage in Chattogram.

"The country has never witnessed such a high level of fuel capacity and enough to meet

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

- Octane stock now 55,000 tonnes
- Storage capacity 53,000 tonnes
- Supply increased by 25% at pumps
- Supply more than March 2025 and 2026
- Supply for Apr-May ensured

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