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Tankers cross strait as US, Iran sign deal

US lifts blockade on Iranian ports; uncertainty clouds Swiss meet on technical negotiations

Israel adamant, keeps hitting Lebanon, killing 3

Global fertiliser trade down 30% this year: UN

Iran commits not to develop nukes; missile programme not part of talks

AGENCIES

The US yesterday lifted a blockade of Iranian ports imposed during the Middle East war after President Donald Trump and President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a deal to end the conflict on all fronts, as uncertainty surrounded planned talks in Switzerland aiming to take the accord further.

The signing of the deal set in motion a 60-day period for talks on wider issues between the two foes, including the Iranian nuclear programme.

But there was uncertainty over the next steps, and it remained unclear if the two sides, who have had no diplomatic relations following the 1979 Islamic revolution, would hold a signing ceremony and talks in Switzerland on Friday as previously announced.

And in Lebanon, Israeli forces launched fresh airstrikes yesterday morning, raising doubt about how far Trump will go to force his wartime allies to halt an offensive he has now pledged to end. Lebanon's media said at least three

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PHOTO: AFP

England produced one of the most impressive performances of the tournament to open their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign, beating dark horses Croatia 4-2 in a Group L clash at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington yesterday. It was Three Lions skipper Harry Kane who shone with a brace as Thomas Tuchel's side made an early statement.

Shahe Alam saga leaves BNP MPs embarrassed

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

A section of BNP lawmakers has expressed disappointment over the controversy surrounding State Minister for LGRD Mir Shahe Alam, saying it has created discomfort within the ruling party and risks damaging the government's image.

Three ministers and two state ministers said that nearly four months into the government's tenure, this was the first time they had felt embarrassed by

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SWISS BANKS

Bangladeshis' deposits surge 41%

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladeshis' deposits in Swiss banks rose over 41 percent in 2025 to 834.16 million Swiss francs, which is about Tk 12,751 crore, the highest level in four years.

In 2024, Bangladeshi-linked funds parked in Swiss banks surged to 589.5 million Swiss francs, or about Tk 8,800 crore.

The Swiss National Bank data, released annually, tracks funds held in all currencies by Bangladeshi nationals, residents, or

corporate entities in Swiss banks under the category "Banks in Switzerland". It does not disaggregate by type of depositor or specific purpose of the funds.

Swiss banks have historically been associated with financial secrecy, leading to concerns about their role in facilitating illicit money flows.

While recent reforms have increased transparency and cooperation with international authorities, Swiss banks continue to be scrutinised for their

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A goal, an instant without shadows

BISHWAJIT ROY

Feats of greatness have a unique power to enthrall, especially those moments demanding extraordinary skill, courage and imagination. Football delivers such moments with remarkable frequency. A perfectly struck shot, a last-ditch tackle, a dazzling dribble, an acrobatic bicycle kick, a miraculous save, or a decisive goal can make a fan's blood race and heart pound a little faster.

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