

# US, Iran reject ceasefire plan; surrender or else, says Trump

## 'Can Take Out Iran In 1 Night... Maybe Tomorrow'

Chidanand Rajghatta

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday warned Iran that he is ready to go beyond destroying its power plants and bridges if it does not "cry uncle" before his Tuesday evening deadline.

**FULL COVERAGE**  
**PAGES 2, 5, 7, 14, 16, 18**

"We have obliterated the country...they don't want to say uncle (capitulate)... they should. Otherwise they will not have much left," Trump told reporters as he strolled on the White House grounds mingling with children for the Easter egg hunt the First Lady was hosting.

The remarks came soon after the US and Iran rejected a 45-hour ceasefire plan put together by Pakistan, Egypt and Turkiye as part of mediation

## IRAN'S LARGEST PETROCHEM UNIT HIT

> **US-Israeli attacks in Iran kill more than 25 people.** Iran responds with missile fire on Israel and Gulf nations

> **Sharif Univ of Technology (pic) hit on Monday.** Multiple countries have sanctioned the university, particularly for its work on Iran's ballistic missile programme

> **Israel claims 'powerful strike' on Iran's largest petrochemical complex in South Pars,** the world's largest known gas reserve



> **Four of family die trapped in rubble of a residential building in Haifa** in northern Israel after Iran missile strike

> **21 ships transit Hormuz over weekend - highest levels of traffic since the war.** Before war, it was 135 vessels a day

efforts. While Trump called it a "very significant step" but "not good enough" for him to sign, Tehran said it wanted a "permanent end" to the war.

In his presser, Trump maintained that his administration was talking to a third-tier Iranian leadership (having eliminated the first two) whom he found much more reasonable. "We could leave right now and it would take them 15 years to rebuild what they have, but I want to finish

it up," Trump said, amid growing disquiet across America, including in MAGA circles, that he is driving the US into a quagmire in West Asia and maybe crossing a war crimes red line.

At a White House briefing later, Trump warned, "the entire country (Iran) could be taken out in one night...and that night may be tomorrow night."

► **Continued on P 18**

## Head of Iran Guards' intel wing killed

The head of the intelligence organisation of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was killed Monday in a US-Israeli "terrorist attack", Iranian media said, citing a statement by the Guards. Majid Khademi, who becomes the latest key figure killed in the ongoing war, took over in 2025 after Israeli airstrikes killed his predecessor.

Israel's military also said it had killed Asghar Bagheri, commander of the Guards' Quds Force special operations unit, Sunday. "We will reach anyone who seeks to harm us," Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said.

The Guards' Intelligence Organisation vowed a "major retaliatory strike" against those responsible for killing their commanders, their official Sepah news website reported. AGENCIES

# In ₹10cr deal, Army arms itself with kamikaze drones

**Surendra.Singh**  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** A Gujarat-based deep-tech drone company has delivered “hundreds of kamikaze (suicide or self-destruct) drones” to the Army under a Rs 10 crore defence ministry contract.

The contract with Surat-based InsideFPV was signed last Dec, and the consignment was delivered within two months via the emergency procurement route. The exact number supplied to Army’s Northern Command was not disclosed for security reasons.

Recognised as a pioneer in FPV (first person view) and kamikaze drones, InsideFPV develops systems tailored for GPS-denied zones and extreme environments. An FPV drone is an



## STRIKE READY

unmanned aerial vehicle operated using specialised goggles that relay real-time video from an onboard camera, giving the pilot an immersive, cockpit-like view.

CEO Arth Chowdhary said the systems are engineered for harsh deployment conditions, functioning in temperatures as low as -35°C. The company said the drones feature waypoint control, multi-step safety mechanisms and a detonation trigger, enabling precision strikes.

# Saudi sets record \$19.50/barrel premium on Arab Light crude

NEW DELHI, Apr 6 (IANS)

SAUDI Arabia on Monday increased the price of its flagship crude as State-owned SaudiAramco has set the official selling price of its Arab Light crude for May shipments at a record premium of \$19.50 per barrel over the regional benchmark for Asian buyers. The steep hike comes as energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz face severe disruptions, according to reports. The move follows heightened tensions linked to the ongoing conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran, which has significantly impacted oil shipments from the Persian Gulf.

Reports indicated that Iran's near closure of the key shipping route has effectively choked a major portion of global crude supplies, triggering sharp volatility in energy markets. The turmoil has pushed international oil prices significantly higher. Brent crude has surged by more than 50 per cent in recent sessions, while fuel prices across major economies, including the US, Europe, and Asia, have also witnessed a steep rise.

## Lanka hikes cooking gas prices by 23%

Sri Lanka on Monday raised prices of LPG by nearly a quarter. As well as gas, Sri Lanka also imports all of its oil and buys coal for electricity generation. The increase in cooking gas prices on Monday is on top of an 8% hike last month. A private company, which accounts for about a quarter of the domestic LPG market, raised its retail price by 23% to 5,700 rupees (\$18.08), up from 4,630 rupees (\$14.69). The state-owned Litro Gas, the main supplier of LPG used in cooking stoves, increased the price of a 12.5-kg refill to 4,765 rupees (\$15.62), up from 3,990 rupees — an increase of 19.42%. AFP

## Indonesia raises jet fuel surcharge

Indonesia announced Monday a 28-percentage point rise in the surcharge on jet fuel, and said it will allow airlines to raise the domestic ticket price, which the govt caps, by up to 13%. Economy minister Airlangga Hartarto told reporters the jet fuel surcharge would rise from 10 to 38%, and the base ticket price between nine and 13%. Southeast Asia's low-cost carrier AirAsia X said it, too, was raising ticket prices and cutting routes. AFP

## NEAR 52 WEEK HIGH

# Crude oil prices climb over 3%

■ Brent crude futures rose as much as 2.01 per cent or \$2.2, to \$111.23 per barrel, hovering near a 52-week high. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 3.53 per cent or about \$4 to



as 2.01 per cent or \$2.2, to \$111.23 per barrel, hovering near a 52-week high. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 3.53 per cent or about \$4 to \$115.48 by 10.20 am.

On the domestic front, crude oil futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) (May 18 contract) were trading at Rs 9,276, up 0.9 per cent or Rs 83. The contract touched

an intraday high of Rs 9,335, rising 1.54 per cent or Rs 142.

The surge follows a sharp rally in the previous session, when WTI surged over 11 per cent and Brent climbed nearly 8 per cent — their biggest single-day gains since 2020 — amid escalating geopolitical tensions. Analysts said crude oil continues to remain a key driver for markets, with prices holding firm amid ongoing supply concerns.

Globally, US crude is trading near the \$110–\$112 range, close to a key resistance zone.

According to them, a breakout above \$115 could trigger a rally towards \$118–\$120 levels.

“On the downside, a fall below \$109 may lead to a correction towards \$106, with strong support placed around \$100–\$102. The

overall trend remains bullish as long as these support levels hold,” they added.

Tensions intensified after US President Donald Trump warned of severe consequences if Iran fails to reopen the Strait of Hormuz by his Tuesday deadline, raising concerns over potential disruptions to global oil supplies.

OPEC+ has agreed to increase output by 206,000 barrels per day in May. However, the move is unlikely to significantly ease supply concerns in the near term.

Meanwhile, domestic equity markets traded in the red, with the Sensex falling 529 points or 0.72 per cent to 72,790, hitting an intraday low, and Nifty declining 150 points or 0.66 per cent to 22,561, logging an intraday low in early trade.

NEW DELHI, Apr 6 (IANS)

INTERNATIONAL crude oil prices traded higher on Monday as persistent fears of supply disruptions in West Asia kept markets on edge, with the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict weighing on sentiment.

Brent crude futures rose as much

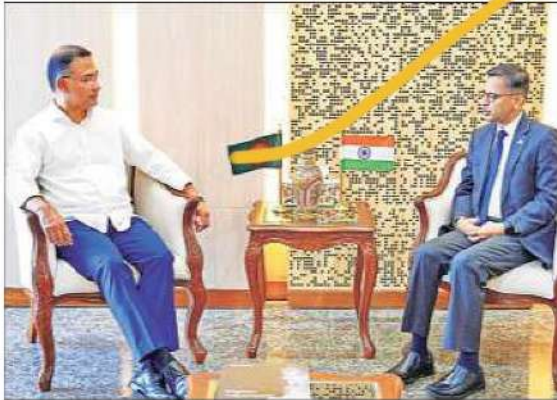
# Indian envoy meets B'desh PM; signals 'positive' ties

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, Apr 6 (PTI)

INDIAN envoy Pranay Verma on Monday met Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and conveyed New Delhi's intent to pursue "positive", "constructive", and people-centric ties with Dhaka based on mutual interest.

The meeting came as India and Bangladesh are making efforts to rebuild bilateral ties after Rahman became Prime Minister following his Bangladesh Nationalist Party's victory in February polls. The ties between the two nations came under severe strain earlier during the tenure of Bangladesh's interim Government headed by Muhammad Yunus.

During the meeting, Verma and Rahman "discussed bilateral engagement with a focus on people-centric cooperation in multiple domains aligned with



High Commissioner Pranay Verma (Right) with Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka on Monday. (ANI)

the national development priorities of the two countries," the Indian High Commission said in

an X post. The High Commissioner also conveyed "India's intent to work together

## Indian envoy, Nepal's new Foreign Minister discuss bilateral ties

KATHMANDU, Apr 6 (PTI)

INDIAN Ambassador Naveen Srivastava paid a courtesy call on Nepal's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal on Monday and discussed various aspects of bilateral ties.

Khanal assumed office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 27.

During the meeting, Srivastava conveyed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's greetings on Khanal's appoint-

ment, according to a statement by the Foreign Ministry.

"Various matters relating to Nepal-India relations and cooperation were discussed on the occasion," said the statement. Jaishankar had extended his greetings to Khanal on X the day he assumed office.

Jaishankar said he looks forward to working closely with his Nepalese counterpart to further strengthen the traditional partnership between India and Nepal.

with the Government and people of Bangladesh by adopting a positive, constructive and forward-looking approach and based on mutual interest and mutual benefit."

# Iran's Revolutionary Guard Intel chief killed in Israeli strike

- Leader of the Revolutionary Guard's undercover unit in Quds Force, Asghar Bakeri also killed in Israeli strike
- Israel also strikes key petrochemical plant
- Israel-US attacks kill over 25 people in Iran.
- Iran rejects ceasefire proposal sent by Egyptian, Pakistani and Turkish mediators

TEHRAN, Apr 6 (AP)

**ISRAEL** struck a key petrochemical plant at Iran's massive South Pars natural gas field and killed two paramilitary Revolutionary Guard commanders on Monday, potentially challenging a new 45-day ceasefire proposal for Tehran and the United States as President Donald Trump's ultimatum looms within hours.

The gas field attack was aimed at eliminating a major source of revenue for Iran, Israel said. The field is critical to Iran's electricity production, but the strike appeared to be separate from Trump's threats to target power plants and bridges if Tehran doesn't reopen the Strait of Hormuz to all shipping traffic.

Among those killed was the head of Intelligence for Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary



Pedestrians look at a destroyed building within the Grand Hosseiniyeh, with the mosque visible in the background, which was hit by US-Israeli airstrikes in Zanjaan, Iran. (AP/PTI)



Israeli rescue teams search for missing people amid the rubble of a residential building a day after it was struck by an Iranian missile in Haifa, Israel on Monday. (AP/PTI)

Guard, Major General Majid Khademi, according to Iranian state media and Israel's Defense

Minister. Israel's military said it also killed the leader of the (Contd on page 5)

## Who 'leaked' downed airman's info to you: Trump asks media

WASHINGTON, Apr 6 (AP)

**TRUMP** threatened to jail the journalist who first reported that US forces were searching for an F-15 weapons officer shot down in Iran, if they don't reveal their sources.

"The person that did the story will go to jail if he doesn't say, and that doesn't last long," Trump said. He didn't name the journalist or news organisation. He said the leak tipped off the Iranians, endangering the officer and his rescuers. He called the leaker "a sick person."

The President said that operation undertaken by the US to rescue the airman from the downed aircraft included 155 aircraft including four bombers, 64 fighters, 48 refueling tankers, and 13 rescue aircraft, among others.

Much of it was an effort to throw off the Iranians, who were also looking for the missing crew member, the President said. He said, the downed officer followed his training to get as far away from the crash site.