

# Inspectors Will visit Iran 'N' Sites, says IAEA

Tokyo: The head of the UN's nuclear agency signalled Wednesday that Iranian nuclear enrichment sites would be visited by his inspectors, a key component in the interim US-Iran to reach an end to the war. But an Iranian diplomat promptly rejected this, saying such a visit can only come after a final deal. "I would like to remind you and draw your attention to is that there has been a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by both presidents," he told journalists at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The accord "says explicitly that the nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regards to the nuclear material facilities will be supervised by the IAEA — in all letters," he said.—AP

# FRictionless Flow More tankers set to move out of Hormuz; Prospect of Tehran oil in market icing on the cake; Rubio to visit Kuwait and Bahrain

## \$74.61 Signs of Smooth Oil Flow Fuels Brent Price to Lowest Since February 27



### Israel vows to keep troops in south Lebanon, Rubio on Gulf tour to defend peace deal

**Bengaluru:** Brent crude prices fell 3% on Wednesday to the lowest level since before the start of the Iran war on signs that more oil tankers are set to move out of the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude futures were down \$2.32, or 3.01%, at \$74.76 a barrel by 5.48pm. US West Texas Intermediate slipped by \$2.17, or 2.96%, to \$71.04. Brent touched a low of \$74.61, its weakest level since February 27, the day before the start of US-Israeli strikes on Iran. WTI fell as low as \$70.91, the weakest since March 3.

"While there are early encouraging signs of increased tanker activity, the market is pricing in the broader scenario of Iranian oil re-entering the global market and the Strait of Hormuz normalising," said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

Israel's defence minister Israel Katz said on Wednesday that Israeli troops will not withdraw from southern Lebanon, highlighting a hurdle to Iran-US peace talks, with US secretary of state Marco Rubio on a West Asian tour to win over allies sceptical about a proposed deal.

"The IDF is prepared... and we are not retreating. We announced that in any case we are not withdrawing, and as of this moment—this is a political achievement—there is no American demand for Israel to withdraw from Lebanon," Katz said in an onstage interview at a conference in Tel Aviv.

He made his comments as Lebanon and Israel discuss a US-backed proposal at talks in Washington for Israeli forces to pull out of some of the territory it invaded in the war and hand it to Lebanese army control.

"For us, a ceasefire in Lebanon is as im-

portant as a ceasefire in Iran, and further, an end to the war in Lebanon is as important as an end to the war in Iran," Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Wednesday in Baku during a meeting of the Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation member states.

### RUBIO SEEKS TO CONVINCE ALLIES

The proposed peace deal has been met with scepticism in West Asia, where many states came under attack from Iran during the war and view the accord as too generous to Tehran, including a \$300 billion fund and the waiver of some sanctions.

Rubio, on a tour of the region to try to allay concerns, held a working lunch on Wednesday with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and other senior figures.

Rubio will also be visiting Kuwait and Bahrain. Both nations host strategic US military bases, and both were hit by an onslaught of Iranian missiles, resulting in civilian deaths and a heavy economic toll.

### FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF STRAIT

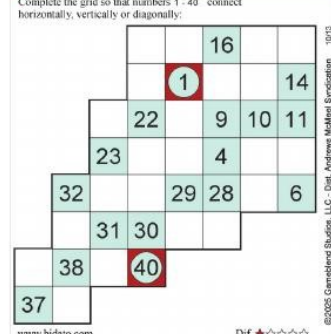
While shipping has begun flowing through Hormuz, the longer-term operation and management of the waterway remains under discussion between Iran, Oman and other Gulf states.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani visited Muscat on Wednesday for talks with Oman on initiating negotiations on the waterway, a diplomat said.

Gulf states are expected to push for no transit fees, but Iran could propose environmental, navigation and security fees, the diplomat added.—Reuters

## HIDATO

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE



Complete the grid so that numbers 1-40 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

Yesterday's puzzle solution.

## 7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>CLUES</b>              | <b>SOLUTIONS</b> |
| 1 "out of joint" (10)     | _____            |
| 2 awkward (6)             | _____            |
| 3 athletic attire (10)    | _____            |
| 4 annoyed (6)             | _____            |
| 5 emeralds and rubies (6) | _____            |
| 6 a bit salty (8)         | _____            |
| 7 clueless (7)            | _____            |

CK	CLU	DIS	RTS	AT
ED	ELS	MSY	AR	JEW
SPO	ISH	MIF	LOC	AW
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**E-AUCTION**  
TO BE HELD ON  
**28.07.2026**

### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES MORTGAGED TO THE BANK

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Bank of India under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice, to borrowers and Authorized Officer has taken possession of the properties described herein below. Offers are invited by the Authorized Officer under sub-rule 5 & 6 of rule 8 of the said Act by holding e-auction on the date, place and time mentioned. Public at large and borrowers and guarantors in general are being informed hereby that e-auction under SARFAESI Act in respect of under noted properties will be conducted for sale on the terms and conditions presented in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following conditions for realization of the Debts due to the Bank.

Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors with Branch Name	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	Secured debt / Amount due (In Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice & Date of Possession	Reserve Price (In Rs.) & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD, In Rs.)
<b>BRANCH: KAIKHALI</b> Borrower: Mrs. Sumita Bhowmik and Mr. Mrimoy Bhowmik Add: 114, New Colony Sodepur, Panihati Municipality, ward no.-12, Dist- North 24 Pnns, Kolkata, West Bengal-700110	All that part & parcel of residential flat situated at Flat No. F1, First Floor of a 3 storied building, measuring SBU 850 sq. ft. more or less, holding no. 114, New Colony Sodepur, Mouza-Sodepur, J.L.No.-8, R.S.No.-45, L.O.P No.2A in R.S.Dag No.-663(P), R.S.Khatian No.-2, PS-Khardah, under Panihati Municipality ward no.-12, Dist- North 24 Pnns, Kolkata, West Bengal-700110 consisting 2 Bedroom, 1 Kitchen cum dining Drawing, 1 Toilet. Boundaries of Property: On the North: L.O.P No.4H/O/Manik Dey. On the South: 18' wide Municipal Road. On the East: L.O.P No.2B/H/O/M Banerjee. On the West: 18' wide Municipal Road. Boundaries of Flat: On the North: Open to Sky, On the South: Open to Sky, On the East: Open to Sky, On the West: Stair Case and common corridor.	Rs.20,90,004/- as on 06.11.2025 with further interest & expenses thereon	31.07.2023 & 19.10.2023 (Physical Possession)	Rs.16,73,000/- & Rs.1,67,300/-
<b>BRANCH: KAIKHALI</b> Borrower: Mr. Supriya Roy and Mrs. Mousumi Roy Add: 114, New Colony Sodepur, Panihati Municipality ward no.-12, Dist-North 24 Pnns, Kolkata, West Bengal-700110	All that part & parcel of residential flat situated at Flat No. G1 (South-East-North Side), Ground Floor of a 3 storied building, measuring SBU 607 sq. ft. more or less, holding no. 114, New Colony Sodepur, Mouza-Sodepur, J.L.No.-8, R.S.No.-45, L.O.P No.2A in R.S.Dag No.-663 (P), R.S Khatian No.-2, PS-Khardah, under Panihati Municipality ward no.-12, Dist-North 24 Pnns, Kolkata, West Bengal-700110 consisting 1 Bedroom, 1 Kitchen cum dining Drawing, 1 Toilet. Boundaries of Property: On the North: L.O.P No.4H/O/Manik Dey. On the South: 18' wide Municipal Road. On the East: L.O.P No. 2B/H/O/M Banerjee. On the West: 18' wide Municipal Road. Boundaries of Flat: On the North: Open to Sky, On the South: Open to Sky, On the East: Open to Sky, On the West: Stair Case and common corridor.	Rs.20,12,451/- as on 06.11.2025 with further interest & expenses thereon	11.05.2023 & 19.09.2023 (Physical Possession)	Rs.11,03,000/- & Rs.1,10,300/-
<b>BRANCH: CHAKDAH</b> Borrower: Mr. Shankar Kumar Roy, Mrs. Putal Pandab Roy Add: Palpara, Netaji Nagar, P.S.-Chakdah, Dist.-Nadia, Pin-741222	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Details of property:- Flat No. -2A on the second floor of (G+4) storey building "Samiyha Residency & Commercial" situated at Mouza-Palpara, J.L.No.-35, R.S. & L.R. Dag No: 203, R.S. Khatian No. -157 & L.R. Khatian No. -2686, under Chakdah Municipality, Ward No. 1, Holding No. 1436/1, P.S. & Block - Chakdah, Dist.-Nadia, WB-741222 (Title Deed Nos. I-9973 of 2019) Area of Flat-1156.25 sq.ft (Super Built up area) 925.00 sq ft (Covered area) Boundaries of Property:- North: By Palpara Station Road. South: By Property of Satyaji Biswas. East: By 10' common passage then L/O Partha Rudra. West: By 10' common passage then L/O Swama Chakraborty (Mortgagors: Mr. Shankar Kumar Roy and Mrs. Putal Pandab Roy).	Rs.35,06,145/- as on 20-11-2025 with further interest & charges thereon	01.03.2024 & 06.06.2024 (Physical Possession)	Rs.24,50,000/- & Rs.2,45,000/-
<b>BRANCH: SISIRKUNJA</b> Borrower: DEBAJYOTI SENGUPTA & RIMA SENGUPTA Add: 57/31, ASHOKNAGAR, NEAR SHOKTI SANGHA CLUB, ASHOKNAGAR	All that part & parcel of residential property, flat No B-201 on the 2nd floor (North East Corner) having super built area 740 sqft, building name Hasi Villa, Mouza-Masudia, J.L.No.-34, Re Su No 96, Touzi No 169, LR Khatian No 2731, R.S. Dag No 186/1631 corresponding to L.R. Dag No 337, R.S Khatian no.24, Jamindar Khatian No-11, lying and situated at holding no 172, Dr B C Roy Sarani Po+Ps-New Barrackpore, Kolkata-700131.	Rs.23,35,097/- as on 08.04.2025 with further interest & charges thereon	28.08.2019 & 19.08.2020 (Physical Possession)	Rs.12,10,000/- & Rs.1,21,000/-
<b>BRANCH: KAMARHATY</b> Borrower: Mr. Amit Agarwal Add: Mega Tower, 35/1 B.T. Road, Belgaria, Kolkata-700056	All that part & parcel of flat no.-E(U/C) on the 4th floor of G+4 storied residential building named "Krishna Apartment" at 7/6/23, Bagstation Road, P.O. Kancharapara, P.S.-Bisnupur, Dist.-24 parganas(North), P.N.-743145, Mouza- Matlickbag, J.L.No.-01, L.R. Khatian No.-2142, 2143, 2145, 2146, 2147, R.S. Dag No-63, L.R. Dag No-304, Holding No. 7/6/23, Ward No 01, under Halisahar Municipality, Dist.-24 Parganas (North), Bounded by North- Land of Kalipada Pal, South- Sri Keshab Singh, East- 9ft 7 inch wide common passage & house of Smt. Renubala Sarkar, West- House of Kalipada Pal.	Rs.33,39,562/- as on 08.04.2025 with further interest & charges thereon	08.05.2015 & 16.09.2015 (Physical Possession)	Rs.14,85,000/- & Rs.1,48,500/-
<b>BRANCH : KAIKHALI</b> Borrowers: Mr. Mitraraj Ghosh & Rupa Acharya (PAN NO ANKPG 4800B & DZJPAS237A) Add: S/o Santosh Ghosh, Govt Colony, 9 Rajarhat Gopal Pur, Maswini Nagar, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata 700159	Flat no: 72/1 (BHK with SBUA: 400 sqft along with Proportionate share in land & common areas carpet area 324 sqft) on 2nd floor of a residential building Block A2 at Vicky Housing Complex Holding No: 116 Mollahpara Street, Mouza- Mollahpara, RS & LR Dag No-172, RS Khatian No-02, LR Khatian No- 868,871,873,879,882, 884, 885, 898 & 998 P.S. - Madhyamgram Kolkata 700125 comprised in Ward no: 1, within limit of Madhyamgram Municipality, Kolkata Dist North 24 parganas.	Rs.6,84,653.22/- (Principal + Interest) dated 28-02-2024 with further interest & charges thereon	01/03/2024 & 03/08.2024 (Physical Possession)	Rs.8,84,000/- & Rs.88,400/-
<b>BRANCH: DUMDUM</b> Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Amit Sarkar and Mrs. Anikta Sarkar Add: Subham Residency, Flat No-4F, 4th Floor East Side Holding No-195 Kabi Mukunda Das Road, Ward No-2, North 24 Pgs, WB-700065	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat being Flat No. 4F, measuring 475 sq. ft. (approx), super built area on the 4th floor of G+4 storied building situated at Holding No-195, Kabi Mukunda Das Road, Dum Dum Near Sishu Udayan Park, P.O-Rabindra Nagar, PS-Dum Dum Ward No.-2, Kolkata-700065 situated in Mouza-Digla, J.L.No. 18, R.S. No.-161, Touzi No.-163/63, 173, CS 6 L.R. Dag Nos.-33,34,37 & 38, R.S.Khatian Nos.-1967, 1968 & 1681, CS Khatian no-579, Municipality- South Dum Dum, ADSR Cossipore Dum Dum, Dist-North 24 Parganas, West Bengal.	Rs.14,33,110/- as on 06.02.2026 with further interest & charges thereon	06.08.2024 & 23.06.2026 (Physical Possession)	Rs.12,85,000/- & Rs.1,28,500/-
<b>BRANCH: PHULIA</b> Borrower: Smt Shefali Biswas W/O- Mahadeb Biswas Add: Prafullanagar, Jyotipally, Belemath, PIN-741402	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of land & building situated at Mouza Punris, J.L.No-55, Khatian No-1497, Plot RS & LR 259383 under Belgharia 1 No. Panchayat, Area 4.25 decimal, P.O.-Phulia Boyra, PS-Santipur, Nadia-741402. Bounded On the North by: Property of Harendranath Biswas. On the South by: Panchayat Road. On the East by: Property of sahabeb Biswas. On the West by: Property of Subal Biswas.	Rs.6,07,368/- as on 21.07.2023 with further interest & charges thereon	21.07.2023 & 16.12.2023 (Physical Possession)	Rs.2,88,000/- & Rs.28,800/-
<b>BRANCH: BARANAGAR</b> Borrower: Late Mrs. Sanghita Murmu (since Deceased) W/O Mr. Balaram Kisku, Mr. Balaram Kisku, S/o Mr. Sanatan Kisku (Husband and Legal Heir of Late Mrs. Sanghita Murmu) and Ms. Ridhik Kisku, D/o Mr. Balaram Kisku (Daughter & Legal Heir of Late Mrs. Sanghita Murmu), Both residing at- Flat No. 2B, First Floor, 310AM G Road, PS- Haridwarpur, P.O.-Thakurpukur, Kolkata-700063	A) Equitable Mortgage of Immovable property by depositing of Title Deed No. I-1524-08925/2021 dated 14/12/2021 in the name of Mrs. Sanghita Murmu comprising of a self-contained residential flat, identified by Flat No. 1-A measuring more or less 1515 sq. ft. super built up area with marble flooring and with lift facility, consisting of two bed rooms, one living-cum-dining room, two toilets, one kitchen, one verandah & one temple room, located at first floor of the premises named "Diganata Villa", lying and situated at- Mouza- Osmanpur, J.L. No. 13, R.S. No. 42, Touzi No. 172 of the Collector of North 24 Parganas, comprised and contained in R.S. Dag No. 313 under R.S. Khatian No. 76, corresponding to L.R. Dag No. 656 under L.R. Khatian No. 4188/624, within the jurisdiction of Panihati Municipality being Municipal Holding No. 46 of Kshetrahari Chatterjee Road (Uttarpally) under Ward 27 under P.S.- Gholi, District- North 24 Parganas and under the jurisdiction of A.D.S.R.O. Barrackpore at present A.D.S.R.O. Sodepur. Property bounded by:- On the North: 22 ft wide Kshetrahari Chatterjee Road (Uttarpally). On the South: 12ft wide Municipal Road. On the East: H/o Pampa Sen Karmakar & Sri Apurba Biswas. On the West: Land Dag No. 886, Flat bounded by:- On the North: Open to Sky, On the South: Common Stair & lift and others flat, On the East: Open to Sky, On the West: Open to Sky. B) Equitable Mortgage of Immovable property by depositing of Title Deed No. I-1607-09991/2018 dated 30.10.2018 in the name of Mrs. Sanghita Murmu comprising of a self-contained residential flat, identified by Flat No. 2-B measuring more or less 565 sq.ft. super built up area with marble flooring, located on the first floor (Southern side) of the two storied building, consisting of two bed rooms, one drawing-cum-dining room, one toilet with lift, one kitchen, lying and situated at Municipal Premises No. 310A, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kolkata- 700063, Mouza- Purba Barisha, J.L. No. 23, R.S. No. 43, Touzi Nos. -1,6, 8-10, 12-16, Pargana: Khaspur under Alipora Collector, comprises in part of R.S. Dag No. 2163 under Khatian No. 1028, within the local limit of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Ward No. 124 under P.S.- Bahala then Thakurpukur ward Haridwarpur, K.M.C. Assessee No. 41-124-06-0682-7. Property bounded by:- On the North: Part of Dag No. 2163, On the South: 10ft wide common passage, On the East: Part of Dag No. 2163; P-1, On the West: Part of Dag No. 2163; P-3. Flat bounded by: On the North: Stair, Corridor & partly Flat No. 2A, On the South: Open to Sky, On the East: Open to Sky, On the West: Partly open to Sky & partly Stair & Corridor.	Rs.49,57,126.55/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six and Fifty Five paise only) as on 12.05.2026 & further interest & charges thereon	27.02.2026 & 12.05.2026 (Physical Possession)	(A) Rs.31,00,000/- & Rs.3,10,000/- (B) Rs.14,00,000/- & Rs.1,40,000/-
<b>Branch: Chakdah Municipality</b> Borrower: A/c M/s Purnima Enterprise, Mrs. Purnima Adhikary (Proprietor) W/o Mr. Samir Adhikary, Add: 50 No. KBM, Chakdah, Dist.- Nadia, Pin- 741222 & Mr. Dipak Kumar Dey (Mortgagor) S/o Late Paresch Ch. Dey, Add: Vill- Salua Colony, P.S & P.O.- Chakdah, Dist.- Nadia, Pin-741222	All that Part and Parcel of the property consisting of 976 sq.ft. under Mouza Jaykrishnapur, J.L. No. 31, Plot No. A under Chakdah Municipality, Khatian No. 5220, Holding No. 430, Ward No. 19, Salua Colony within Dist. of Nadia, P.S. & ADSRO at Chakdah. Property in the name of Mr. Dipak Kr. Dey S/o Late Paresch Ch. Dey, Title Deed No. I-2768/2011 and I-3229/2011. Bounded by:- North: L/o Mr. Dilip Dey, South: L/o Mr. N.G. Banki; East: H/o Mr. Dilip Kumar Dey; West: Municipal Road.	Rs.25,50,898.16/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight and Sixteen Paise only) as on 16.06.2026 & further interest & charges thereon	01.07.2017 & 16.06.2026 (Physical Possession)	Rs.16,50,000/- & Rs.1,65,000/-

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:**

- Auction sale / bidding would be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" process through the website <https://BAANKNET.com/>
- Date and time of Auction 28.07.2026 between 11.00 a.m. to 05.00 for all properties, followed by unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each, viz the auction process would run for 120 minutes in first instance and in case a valid bid is received in last 10 minutes, the auction would get extended by another 10 minutes. The process would continue until there are no valid bids during last 10 minutes. Auction would commence at one notch above Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only). Interested parties can inspect the properties at site on 21.07.2026 & 22.07.2026 between 11.00 a.m. and 04.00 p.m.
- The intending bidders should register their names at portal <https://BAANKNET.com/> and get their User ID and password. Prospective bidders may find how to register for auction, mode of auction, and other processes to be followed on the above-mentioned link. Intending bidders may contact Mr. Abinash Sahu (+91-424328547) for any query.
- The above properties/assets shall be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS". The intending bidders should make their own enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claim/right/dues affecting the property, the time and cost involved in taking physical possession (for properties under symbolic possession) prior to submitting their bid. All the accrued statutory dues including property tax, energy charges etc shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/right/dues and also for the delay, costs and/or legal issues involved in taking physical possession (in case of properties under symbolic possession).
- Particulars specified in the schedule above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer/Bank, Authorized Officer and / or Bank will not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this public notice.
- The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above. Intending bidders are required to deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) stated above in the wallet provided on the E-BAANKNET. Details of the process for depositing EMD in the wallet can be found on the above-mentioned link.
- The intending bidders should register themselves on the afore-mentioned portal well before the auction date, in any case no later than 28.07.2026 up to 5 pm.
- The highest / successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount, including the EMD already paid immediately after acceptance of bid by the Authorized Officer in respect of the sale, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the successful bidder/ purchaser of the properties mentioned herein provided always he is legally qualified to bid.
- The balance 75% of the bid/purchase money shall be payable on or before 15th day (during banking hours) of confirmation of the sale by the Authorized Officer or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. In case of default in payment by the successful bidder the amount already deposited by the bidder shall be forfeited and the Authorized Officer/ Bank will be at liberty to cancel the auction and conduct fresh auction.
- On receipt of the entire sale consideration, the Authorized Officer shall issue the Sale Certificate in the name of bidder and the sale shall be considered complete thereafter and that the Bank shall entertain no claims.
- The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest bid or any or all bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof and vary, modify and waive any condition of sale in his absolute discretion.
- The successful bidder / purchaser would bear all the charges / fees payable for conveyance deed, taxes including Service Tax/TDS (As per Section 393 (1) table No.3 (1) as per Income Tax Act 2025 for properties valued Rs.50 Lakhs & above) if any.
- This publication is also Thirty days' notice under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement), Rules 2002 to the above borrowers / guarantors/mortgagors to the advance.
- For downloading further details, please compliance & terms & conditions, please visit [www.bankofindia.bank.in](http://www.bankofindia.bank.in).

Date : 25-06-2026  
Place: Kolkata

Sd/- Authorized Officer  
Bank of India

# Trump: Iran Says Strait of Hormuz is Toll-Free

Washington: US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Iran has told the United States that no tolls were being sought from ships traveling through the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump has faced criticism over the deal domestically, including from hardliners in his Republican Party.

"Iran has informed the US that, despite troublemaking Fake News reporting to the contrary, there are no tolls, no insurance costs, and no other charges of any kind being sought or received by Iran on ships travelling (via) the Strait of Hormuz," Trump wrote in a social media post. "If this is false information, negotiations would end, immediately!"



deal to end the war "a declaration of America's defeat" on Wednesday. "The Islamabud understanding was not the result of pressure and coercion, but rather the result of the resistance and authority of the brave Iranian nation," Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Wednesday of the deal, which was finalised through Pakistan's mediation.—Agencies

# Gold Trades Below \$4k, a 1st Since Nov

Gold fell below \$4,000 an ounce for the first time since November, as a resurgent dollar and the prospect of higher interest rates bring bullion's three-year bull market to a halt.

Prices slipped as much as 2.9% to \$3,999.90 an ounce, retreating for a second session. The precious metal has posted double-digit gains for each of the last three years, more than doubling in price as central banks, money managers and retail investors all piled into the trade.

That rally ran out of steam in late January, shortly after the precious metal hit an all-time-high near \$5,600 an ounce.

By June, it had fallen more than 20% below its last peak, the threshold that conventionally marks the start of a bear market.—Bloomberg

## NON-SEQUITUR



## Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
12			13				
	15			16		17	
18							22
19				20		21	
23			24			25	26
28				29			
30				31			

**ACROSS**

- Sensitivity with truffles, say (8)
- Recall low sound of disgust for sound of brass (6)
- Loyal type has surprise about violation of law (8)
- Greeting in Asia unfortunately retracted by a Frenchman (6)
- Dull note put in guy's case (4)
- A stiff examination? (10)
- With all limits removed, like a wrestling free-for-all? (2,5,6)
- One that's swept by the way? (6,7)
- Irregular lad in area keeping times in Mediterranean port (10)
- Prince with love for circle of light (4)
- Fancy base in centre of pile for woman (6)
- Funds for clubs with best players, first off (8)
- Humble ways shown by student ultimately (6)
- Sad teen's somehow given acceptance (8)
- Cook given herb as quantity of medicine (6)

**SOLUTION TO NO. 9634:**  
ACROSS: 6 Rheumatologist. 9 Asthma. 10 Arboreal. 11 Enswathe. 13 Anchor. 15 Evolve. 17 Edwina. 19 Offend. 20 Boil down. 22 Pinafore. 24 Affirm. 26 Administrative. DOWN: 1 Presence of mind. 2 Tech. 3 impart. 4 Club card. 5 Igor. 7 Travel. 8 Seasonal worker. 12 Whole. 14 Cried. 16 Video fit. 18 Absent. 21 In a jam. 23 Axis. 25 Foil.