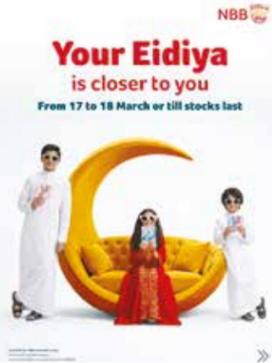


National Bank of Bahrain provides “Eidiya” new Banknotes through ATMs and branches

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced the availability of new Eid banknotes through ATMs and branches across the Kingdom, starting 17th March 2026 until stocks last.

The new banknotes will be available through six ATMs and fourteen branches across various locations in Bahrain. Customers can obtain the new banknotes from ATMs located at Seef Mall, Muharraq Souq,



The new banknotes will be available through six ATMs and fourteen branches across various locations in Bahrain. Customers can obtain the new banknotes from ATMs located at Seef Mall, Muharraq Souq, Souq Waqif, Bukowarah - Riffa, Marassi Galleria, and Sitra, available 24 hours a day. They will also be available at the following branches from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM: Hamad Town, Isa Town, Al Istiqlal Street, Riffa Souq, Muharraq Souq, Souq Waqif, Al Muthanna, Khalifa City, Salmaniya, Exhibition Road, Budaiya, Atrium Mall, Bukowarah, and Jidhafs.

Souq Waqif, Bukowarah - Riffa, Marassi Galleria, and Sitra, available 24 hours a day. They will also be available at the fol-

lowing branches from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM: Hamad Town, Isa Town, Al Istiqlal Street, Riffa Souq, Muharraq Souq, Souq

Waqif, Al Muthanna, Khalifa City, Salmaniya, Exhibition Road, Budaiya, Atrium Mall, Bukowarah, and Jidhafs.

Guided by the Bank's campaign slogan 'Your Eidiya is closer to you' this initiative reflects NBB's customer-first approach by ensuring safe, convenient, and seamless access to Eidiya notes across multiple locations. By bringing this service closer to communities across the Kingdom, the Bank aims to make this special time of year more accessible and enjoyable for families, enhancing the overall customer experience during the holiday period.

UAE's ADNOC 'suspends' loading oil at Fujairah terminal: source

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The UAE's state-owned energy giant ADNOC halted the loading of oil into storage tanks at their Fujairah facility, a source with knowl-

edge of the operations told AFP Monday, following repeated strikes on the energy installation.

"ADNOC oil loading at Fujairah is suspended," the source told AFP.

Fujairah is home to a major port where Iranian attacks have already targeted oil storage tanks. The port is also home to a key oil export terminal just at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz.

Non-Iran tanker transits Hormuz with tracker on: MarineTraffic

● Since the peak of disruptions due to the war, "the Aframax tanker Karachi, carrying Abu Dhabi's Das crude, has become the first non-Iranian cargo to transit the chokepoint

AFP | London, United Kingdom



Boats manoeuvring around a tanker vessel during a military exercise by members of the IRGC and navy in the Strait of Hormuz.

A Pakistani oil tanker transited the Strait of Hormuz with its automatic transponder system activated, despite major disruption to shipping in the crucial waterway from the Middle East war, monitor Marine Traffic said yesterday.

Since the peak of disruptions due to the war, "the Aframax tanker Karachi, carrying Abu Dhabi's Das crude, has become the first non-Iranian cargo to transit the chokepoint while broadcasting its AIS signal, suggesting that select shipments may be receiving negotiated safe passage," Marine Traffic said on X.

It said the 237-metre-long Pakistani-flagged oil tanker had a draft of 11.5 metres, indicating it was heavy and likely loaded.

It entered Iranian waters on Sunday and "is currently sailing

in the Gulf of Oman at around 9.6 knots, having successfully passed through the strait with AIS active," MarineTraffic said in a post on Monday at 1028 GMT.

"The transit follows weeks of significantly reduced traffic through the strategic waterway."

Bloomberg data indicated it was last moored at the Emirati oil hub of Das Island.

The Strait of Hormuz is a strategic route for oil and gas exports from Gulf countries, with one-fifth of global oil production and of liquefied natural gas passing through it in normal times.

Tehran has targeted the waterway in retaliation for Israeli-US strikes, aiming to hurt the global economy to put pressure on Washington.

Maritime data firm Lloyd's List Intelligence had recorded 77 ships passing through Hormuz as of Friday since the start of the war on February 28 -- mostly vessels belonging to the so-called "shadow fleet", outside traditional insurance and tracking systems.

Since March 1, 20 commercial vessels, including nine tankers, have been attacked or reported incidents in the region, according to UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO).

Iran Guards threaten to target US companies in region, urge evacuations

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's Revolutionary Guards threatened on Monday to target US companies across the region, calling on employees to evacuate the sites.

"Employees of American

companies... are requested to leave these areas immediately. These areas will soon be targeted by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," said the Guards in on their official Sepah News website.

It was not immediately clear

which companies would be targeted but last week, the Tasnim news agency published a list of potential targets on Telegram that included the offices of tech giants such as Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Nvidia in Gulf countries.

Israel army says ground assault against Hezbollah underway in Lebanon

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli military said on Monday it was carrying out what it described as "limited" ground operations against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, with its defence minister warning that those displaced would not return home until northern Israel was secure.

Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war on March 2 when Tehran-backed Hezbollah attacked Israel in response to the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes.

Israel responded with air raids on its northern neighbour and troop incursions. Lebanon said on Monday that Israeli at-

tacks have killed 886 people, including 111 children, in the country since the latest war erupted. More than 830,000 people have registered as displaced. An Israeli military statement said that in recent days its troops "have begun limited and targeted ground operations against key Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon".

Oil eases, equities rise as market focuses on Strait of Hormuz

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices pulled back and equities rose yesterday as investors focused on the crucial Strait of Hormuz and the head of the IEA said more crude could be released on the market if necessary.

As the Middle East war entered its third week, Wall Street and most European stock markets climbed after Asian stocks mainly dipped.

International benchmark Brent North Sea crude dropped back 1.3 percent to \$101.84, while the main US contract West Texas Intermediate fell 3.5 percent to \$95.27.

The price falls came after a Pakistani oil tanker became the first non-Iranian tanker to transit the Strait of Hormuz with its automatic transponder system activated, according to monitor

Key figures at around 1630 GMT

West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 3.5% at \$95.27 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 1.3% at \$101.84 per barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.6% at 46,831.02 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.8% at 6,683.37
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 1.0% at 22,326.20
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.6% at 10,317.69 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.3% at 7,935.97 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.5% at 23,564.01 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.1% at 53,751.15 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 1.5% at 25,834.02 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.3% at 4,084.79 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1480 from \$1.1416 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3292 from \$1.3223
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 159.32 yen from 159.74 yen
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.37 pence from 86.33 pence

Marine Traffic.

"The impact of geopolitical events on markets, and the mac-

ro outlook, hinges more on when transits through the Strait of Hormuz begin to normalise than

it does on when hostilities come to an end," wrote Michael Brown at Pepperstone.

Meanwhile, the head of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, said member countries could unlock more oil from strategic stocks "if needed".

IEA member countries already agreed last week their biggest-ever release, of 400 million barrels.

"When you get a bit of a reprieve in the energy price, it's not surprising to see a bounce in equity markets," Art Hogan, from B. Riley Wealth Management, told AFP.

US President Donald Trump piled pressure on allied powers over the weekend to help reopen the vital shipping lane choked off by Iranian attacks, although the call has not found an enthusiastic response.

"The market, again, appears

to be leaning on the notion that the war will come to an end relatively soon without much lasting damage to the global economy," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.

"Therefore, a buy-the-dip trade has taken root," he added. In Asia, Tokyo and Shanghai closed lower, while Hong Kong rose.

During Asian trading hours, crude had climbed further above \$100 a barrel after attacks on oil infrastructure on the UAE's east coast and strikes on Iran's Kharg Island.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told CBS his country was not interested in talks with Washington, but was ready to speak to countries about safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

More strikes occurred Monday, with Saudi Arabia saying it

had intercepted more than 60 drones since midnight, while flights were temporarily suspended at Dubai's airport after a "drone-related incident" sparked a fire nearby.

Traders' attention will turn this week to policy meetings of major central banks including the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England, the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan.

While they are expected to keep interest rates unchanged, any remarks on the impact of the war and rising energy prices on their respective economies will be closely followed.

"Investors want to hear what the world's central bankers think about a potential inflation shock and a prolonged energy crisis and how this feeds into their future decision making," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB.