



"Any provocative action by the aggressors... including in the UN Security Council regarding the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, will only complicate the situation."
Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi

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SUSPECTED MEASLES

94 deaths in 19 days: govt

Cases surge to 5,792 nationwide

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government yesterday reported 94 suspected measles deaths, mostly among children, over the past 19 days, alongside 5,792 suspected cases nationwide, suggesting the outbreak is far more severe than earlier thought.

Only nine deaths have so far been confirmed as caused by measles,

Health officials and experts attribute the surge largely to immunisation gaps, citing long intervals between special campaigns, repeated disruptions to routine vaccination, and supply constraints.

the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said in its report as the highly infectious disease has seen a sharp rise this year, particularly since March.

The rise in measles cases has raised serious public health concerns, prompting the government to announce emergency vaccination drives in high-burden areas from tomorrow.

As most of the deaths reported by hospitals were among unvaccinated PHOTO ON PAGE 12 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Motorists line up for fuel from a pump in the city's Asad Gate with the queue stretching to the Crescent Lake bridge over a kilometre away on Thursday midnight as the energy crisis worsens amid the US-Israel war on Iran. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

15 hours in queue for fuel worth Tk 2,000!

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Jan-E-Alam, 50, joined a long queue of vehicles around 1:30am yesterday near Mohakhali Railgate to get fuel from Trust Filling Station near Bijoy Sarani, about 2km away.

He finally managed to buy fuel around 4:30pm, after nearly 15 exhausting hours.

Adding to his ordeal, he could take octane worth Tk 2,000, as the station, amid mounting pressure from a growing number of vehicles, was forced to impose caps on sales around 2:00pm.

"It was a holiday, and I thought I would rest after refuelling and spend time with my family. But all my plans were wasted in the queue," he told The Daily Star.

The pump was selling fuel worth Tk 600 to SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

NEWS ANALYSIS

Opportunity for reforms slipping away once more

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Bangladesh's political journey has repeatedly swung between hope and disappointment. The question now is whether the country is about to witness yet another repeat of that cycle.

The 13th Parliament sat on March 12. But the ruling party did not convene a Constitution Reform Council as mandated by the July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order, 2025. Nor were there any attempts to convene such a council. The main opposition Jamaat-e-Islami brought it up at parliament leading to heated exchanges and debate.

But the BNP's reluctance to adopt a clear path towards reforms, citing constitutional complexities, coupled with the special committee's decision against ratifying 20 ordinances, has only deepened the uncertainty around July charter proposals for change. Many of these ordinances were central to reform — judicial independence, SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

DROPPED ORDINANCES

Hard-earned reforms at risk

Say rights activists, experts



The fact that people's lives can become extremely difficult in the absence of an effective Human Rights Commission, an independent judiciary, and provisions for preventing enforced disappearances should not be forgotten by those in power, including the head of the ruling party.



TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Eminent rights activists have criticised the parliamentary special committee's recommendation to drop key ordinances issued by the interim government, noting that most of them are tied to crucial reforms.

Out of 133 ordinances issued by the previous government, four are set for repeal, while 16 would be allowed to expire.

The activists and experts said the move by the committee, tasked with reviewing the ordinances, has deepened

concerns over the future of judicial, anti-corruption and human rights reforms.

From retired judges to leading civil society figures, many have warned that the stance risks undoing hard-won gains.

The special committee's report, placed before parliament by chief whip Zainul Abedin on Thursday, said 16 ordinances would later be reintroduced in the House as bills following scrutiny and further strengthening. That means these 16 ordinances are not going to be adopted within the stipulated time.

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AUSTERITY MEASURES

Development projects now on the back burner

BAHARAM KHAN and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The government has decided to step back from new development projects and cut public spending in a broad austerity drive, as it seeks to conserve state resources and manage rising pressure on fuel supply and distribution.

It has also announced several steps, including a 30 percent cut in fuel use for the official vehicles of the prime minister, ministers, and state ministers, the phased removal of old vehicles from roads, and a halt to interest-free car loans for some civil servants.

In the meantime, the Power Division has set a target to save around 3,100MW of electricity a day to help reduce pressure on the power and fuel sectors.

The decisions were made as part of a wider effort to prepare for possible strain on the economy and the energy sector in the coming months as the US-Israel war on Iran escalated.

Officials indicated that the government wants to keep more money in hand so that it can respond quickly SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

BNP govt being tested by turmoil

Ministers grapple with fuel crisis, measles, backlash over reforms

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP-led government is navigating multiple challenges in running the country and managing its own ranks, party leaders and political analysts said.

Since assuming office on February 17, the government has been dealing with multiple crises, including the fallout of the US-Israel war on Iran, a surge in measles cases, and opposition demands over the July charter.

The war, which broke out in late February, has severely strained fuel supplies. Long queues at filling stations and rising fuel import costs have compounded the crisis.

The rise in measles cases has also added pressure on the government. Cases have surged since January, as routine vaccination programmes, particularly for measles, were disrupted by vaccine shortages after the previous interim government failed to release funds on time, according to government sources.

Political analyst Mohammad Mojibur Rahman said the government is facing multifaceted pressure — political, cultural, social, and economic — but decisions are being taken in haste. "These things will create problems for the government," he told The Daily Star.

Mojibur, also a professor at the Institute of Education and Research at Dhaka University, said the party needs SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Bangladesh players celebrate after winning the SAFF U-20 Championship, beating defending champions India 4-3 on penalties following a goalless final at the National Stadium in Male, Maldives yesterday. USA-based youngster Ronan Sullivan sealed the deal for the 2024 champions with an audacious Panenka in the fifth kick after Samuel Raksam's effort struck the crossbar. PHOTO: BFF

Trump vows to destroy 'what's left in Iran'

Threatens to target it's bridges, power plants next; Tehran claims downing US jet as it steps up attacks on Israel, Gulf states

Kuwait refinery, desalination plant, UAE gas complex hit

UN vote to reopen Hormuz faces China veto

US army chief fired; \$1.5t defense budget requested

FAO says longer war may roil food security

AGENCIES

Iran stepped up its attacks on Israel and targets across the Gulf yesterday, as US President Donald Trump warned Washington had yet to begin "destroying what's left" of Iran's infrastructure.

Meanwhile, a push by Gulf states to the UN Security Council to open the key Strait of Hormuz yesterday met with Chinese opposition.

As the war continues to roil the global economy, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization yesterday warned that global food security might take a big hit if the war continues for a long time.

The war started more than a month ago with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, triggering retaliation that spread the conflict

throughout the Middle East.

Tehran yesterday claimed to have downed a US F-15E fighter jet over southwestern Iran.

A spokesperson for Iran's military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said the jet had been "completely destroyed" and that the pilot's chances of survival were low, in comments carried by the semi-official Tasnim News Agency.

Initially, the Iranians claimed the jet was an F-35, but US military sources later briefed the media that it was an F-15E that had been downed.

Both the US and Iranian militaries have launched a search for the pilot. Iranian citizens have been urged to join the hunt by authorities.

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