



This brilliant no-strategy war they started has now been downgraded from 'regime change' to 'Hey! Can anyone find our pilots? Please?'

Mohammad Ghalibaf, Speaker of Iran parliament

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Nation braces for power cuts in hot summer

War fallout ripples through gas, fuel, LPG imports, fertiliser production

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The country stands on the edge of a difficult summer as global tremors from the war on Iran ripple through its energy lifelines, stoking fears of blackouts as heat waves loom.

Despite official assurances, stress in the energy sector is evident: long petrol queues, gas shortages affecting fertiliser output, and a volatile LPG market, even at record-high prices.

In the power sector, the gas supply crunch and disruptions in production at major coal-fired plants have forced officials to forecast load shedding of around 2,000 megawatts (MW) during peak hours, which could translate into two to three hours of outages nationwide.

In response, the government is weighing a slew of measures to reduce electricity consumption, particularly during evening peak hours.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has called for public cooperation as a series of high-level meetings continues to assess the evolving situation.

Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku yesterday hinted at imminent power cuts during a meeting with leaders of the Bangladesh Shop Owners' Association at

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department has forecast multiple heatwaves in April, with temperatures nearing 40°C, which will likely push electricity demand sharply higher.

the Bidyut Bhaban to discuss a directive to close shops by 6:00pm.

According to sources present, the minister said global energy disruptions have squeezed gas supply, dragging down electricity generation and heightening the risk of load shedding.

"Gas supply has fallen, and as a result electricity generation is also declining, increasing the risk of load shedding," a source quoted him as saying.

Bangladesh's power generation remains heavily reliant on imported gas, coal, and furnace oil, leaving it exposed to global shocks.

Currently, around 920MMcfd (million cubic feet per day) of gas is being supplied to the power sector, producing about 5,200MW of electricity daily.

However, an internal analysis by the Power Development Board (PDB) suggests if supply drops below 800MMcfd, output could fall under 4,500MW.

Even if other fuel supplies remain stable, total electricity generation would reach around 16,200MW — well short of the projected peak demand of 18,500MW during April-May, the PDB analysis showed.

"If there is any disruption in fuel supply, the generation plan could fall short. Coal is largely imported, and a portion of gas is also imported, making supply stability crucial," said Md Zahurul Islam, member (generation) of PDB.

"We may not receive the full 900-950MMcfd of gas that was expected for April-May," he said, adding that the purchase of LNG from the spot market may help recover some of the shortfall if the shipments arrive on schedule.

He also said that electricity demand will depend on weather conditions as well. "If rainfall continues and temperatures remain moderate, the pressure on the power system may stay manageable."

As of yesterday, the country received 14,900MW of electricity against

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PHOTO: STAR

Onlookers gather as thick plumes of black smoke billow from a tin-shed gas lighter manufacturing factory that caught fire at the Kadamtali intersection in Keraniganj yesterday. At least six people were killed and 15 others were injured in the blaze.

Businesses seek reforms, steady energy supply

PM holds maiden meeting with industrialists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businesses yesterday called for uninterrupted energy supply, easing of regulatory bottlenecks, lower bank interest rates and inauguration of the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to improve the investment climate.

The demands came at a meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday at the Prime Minister's Office with a select group of businesspeople.

The group comprised Arif Dowla, managing director of ACI; Syed Nasim Manzur, MD of Apex Footwear; Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of Runner Group; Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of PRAN-RFL Group; Ziaur Rahman, MD of Bay Footwear; Abdul Muktaadir, chairman and MD of Incepta Pharmaceuticals; Md Abdul Jabbar, MD of DBL Group; Sohana Rouf Chowdhury, MD of Rangs Group; and Syed Mohammad Tanvir, MD of Pacific Jeans Group.

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Six killed as fire rips thru Keraniganj factory

Death toll may rise as 15 injured, 2 missing

TOUSIF KARUM and RAKIB MADBER

At least six people died after a fire tore through a gas lighter manufacturing factory at the Kadamtali intersection in Keraniganj yesterday.

Fire Service officials recovered the bodies from the tin-shed structure — five of whom could not yet be identified due to the severity of the burns.

Seven firefighting units rushed to the scene after being informed around 1:11pm, and brought the blaze under control by 2:30pm, said Anwarul Islam, assistant director of Fire Service and

Civil Defence in Dhaka.

The fire was fully extinguished by around 4:45pm.

However, speaking to The Daily Star around 12:30am, he said that rescue operations were still ongoing.

Shamim Hossain, additional magistrate of Dhaka district, said at least 15 people were injured in the incident. One person was reported missing by a family, while this newspaper found that at least two people were being searched for by relatives.

According to locals, around 40

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Open Hormuz in 48 hours or face 'hell'

Trump issues new ultimatum after Iran downs fighter jets

AGENCIES



President Donald Trump yesterday said that Tehran had 48 hours left to cut a deal or face "all Hell", as US and Iranian forces scrambled to find a downed American airman.

Trump's latest threat came after a strike near an Iranian nuclear power plant prompted evacuations, and as Tehran announced fresh attacks in the region, with the Revolutionary Guards saying they hit a commercial ship in Bahrain allegedly linked to Israel.

The war erupted more than a month ago with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, triggering a retaliation that has spread the conflict throughout the Middle East and convulsed the global economy — particularly due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital conduit for oil and gas.

"Remember when I gave Iran ten days to MAKE A DEAL or OPEN UP THE

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Rokia Afzal Rahman
1941-2023

"Three Years Have Passed"

Three years without your laughter,
Three years without your light,
Yet somehow you are closer
In every silent night.

In the courage we now carry,
In the kindness that we show,
In every choice we make with love
Your presence continues to grow.

Three years have passed in silence,
Yet your voice is always near,
A whisper of fearless wisdom
We still hold close and dear.

-Anonymous

Govt starts measles shots drive today

Aims to vaccinate over 13 lakh children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government today launches an emergency measles-rubella vaccination drive targeting over 13 lakh children, aged six months to under five years, in 30 upazilas of 18 districts, where the infection rate is relatively high.

The health ministry has already completed all necessary preparations, including the supply of vaccines and logistics to the field level, for the campaign amid a recent surge in measles cases and related deaths, officials said.

The move comes as the country recorded four more deaths from suspected measles cases in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, taking the death toll to 98, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At a press conference at the Secretariate yesterday, Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain said the emergency campaign designed following the experts' recommendations aimed at quickly

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SHANTA Life

Eastern Bank PLC.

আপনার পরিবারের সুবক্ষায় পাশে আছে শান্তা লাইফ এবং ইবিএল

শান্তা ডিপোজিটরস প্রটেকশন প্ল্যান

শান্তা চাইল্ড এডুকেশন প্ল্যান

বিস্তারিত জানতে কল করুন ১৬২৩০ নম্বরে

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