



The American side tweets a lot, talks a lot. Sometimes confusing, sometimes, you know, contradictory.

Saeed Khatibzadeh
Iranian deputy foreign minister

The Daily Star

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Diesel now Tk 115, octane Tk 140

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government last night raised fuel prices to record highs, increasing diesel by Tk 15 per litre, octane by Tk 20, petrol by Tk 19, and kerosene by Tk 18.

According to the new rates, which came into effect at midnight, diesel will cost Tk 115 per litre, up from Tk 100; octane Tk 140, up from Tk 120; petrol Tk 135, up from Tk 116; and kerosene Tk 130, up from Tk 112.

The price hikes were announced in a notification of the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources.

Fuel prices have not seen a mid-month change since the automated adjustment mechanism was introduced to reflect global trends in 2024.

The government has made the move despite global prices trending downward. On Friday, Brent crude fell 9 percent to \$90 a barrel, significantly down from late March, when it was close to \$120. The government, however, had not hiked the price then.

Energy Division spokesperson Monir Hossain Chowdhury said, "The government tried to keep prices stable in the local market until the very last moment. But volatility in the global market made it impossible."

"Prices change from morning to afternoon. We tried to keep them stable, but the economy just cannot afford it at this moment," Monir Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

"The government tried to keep prices stable in the local market until the very last moment. But volatility in the global market made it impossible."

Energy Division spokesperson MONIR HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY

He also mentioned that uncertainty over the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted imports.

Iran yesterday declared the strait closed, hours after opening it, saying it was responding to a continued US blockade of Iranian ports, calling it a violation of the ceasefire.

With Iran's tight grip on the strait, a conduit for roughly one-fifth of global oil trade, importing crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Middle East has become a challenge for Bangladesh over several weeks.

On Friday, a 25,000-tonne octane shipment from Malaysia anchored at the Chatogram port, which is expected to be added to the national stock within a day.

With the latest shipment and ongoing local production, total stock of octane is expected to hit 55,500 tonnes, which is more than the country's maximum storage capacity of 53,000 tonnes and enough to last 45 days.

The stock initially improved after a 26,000-tonne octane shipment arrived on April 9, the first consignment since the US-Israel war on Iran erupted on February 28.

FUEL QUEUES SNAKE CITY STREETS — PAGE 12

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Govt achieved 60 milestones in 60 days

Says opposition blocking reform efforts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 60 steps taken by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in his first 60 days in office are remarkable achievements, said Prime Minister's Office Spokesman Mahdi Amin yesterday.

"The government has taken up an unprecedented range of activities at a fast pace — the 180-day action plan covering all sectors and aimed at improving people's lives is itself a remarkable achievement," he said at a press conference organised yesterday to present the government's first 60-day activities under the 180-day action plan.

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Govt, IMF at odds over spending on polls pledges

Family Card scheme the latest flashpoint

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh and the International Monetary Fund are locked in new disagreements over the country's economic programme, with tensions centring on social spending, revenue mobilisation, exchange rate policy, and the pace of financial sector reforms.

The latest flashpoint is the government's flagship "family card" scheme, a social protection initiative central to the ruling party's election manifesto. During meetings in Washington, the IMF raised concerns about the

cost of rapid implementation, urging Dhaka to conduct a feasibility study before committing substantial expenditure, officials familiar with the discussions told The Daily Star yesterday.

The social welfare ministry has already requested Tk 13,000 crore from the finance ministry for the next fiscal year to cover family cards for 40 lakh households — a sum that would make it one of the largest single expansions of social welfare spending in Bangladesh.

The IMF also pressed the government to align the scheme with existing social safety

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Iran shuts Hormuz again

Says US 'blockade' must end as Trump slams 'blackmail'; rivals harden stance ahead of talks

AGENCIES

Iran's military declared the Strait of Hormuz closed again yesterday, prompting ships to abandon attempts to transit the waterway and President Donald Trump to warn Tehran against trying to "blackmail" the United States.

Tehran said it was responding to a continued US blockade of Iranian ports, calling it a violation of the ceasefire.

"We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again — you know, as they've been doing for years

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