



I have ordered the US Navy to shoot and kill any boat ... that is putting mines in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz.
Donald Trump

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Star

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Power cuts worsen amid searing heat

Dhaka city to endure 110MW of load shedding, state minister tells JS

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government continues to struggle to meet electricity demand amid a sweltering heatwave, with rural Bangladesh suffering frequent and lengthy outages as power generation remains under strain due to fuel shortages.

Bangladesh's power system largely depends on imported gas, coal, and furnace oil, supplies of which have fallen since the US-Israel war on Iran began.

Consumers in most rural areas reported seven to eight hours of power cuts a day, some up to 10 hours. People in urban areas, outside Dhaka, are experiencing two to three hours.

To reduce the disparity, the government decided to increase load shedding in urban areas as well, State Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit told parliament yesterday.

As part of the initiative, 110 megawatts (MW) trial load shedding will be introduced in Dhaka, he added.

Officials said the shortfall may translate into one to two hours of power cuts in Dhaka city.

As per the Power Development Board's

Officials said a 110MW shortfall may translate into one to two hours of power cuts in Dhaka city.

forecasts, in Dhaka district, areas under the Rural Electrification Board (REB) were facing around 500MW of power cuts yesterday. However, no load shedding was forecast for Dhaka Power Distribution Company and Dhaka Electric Supply Company, the two distributors in the capital. REB supplies to 75 percent of total electricity consumers in the country.

Aninda said it was not right that urban residents would remain comfortable while rural people suffered. He added that a discrimination-free Bangladesh was the spirit of the July uprising.

"To eliminate this gap, we have decided to enforce load shedding in cities if necessary, so that farmers in villages can get adequate electricity for irrigation," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



HIGHEST TEMPERATURE IN KHULNA 37.5°C

A SIP OF RELIEF... An elderly man, his shirt drenched in sweat, sits under the shade of a tree and rehydrates on a hot summer day in Khulna yesterday. A mild to moderate heatwave is sweeping across 20 districts, including Dhaka, with children, the elderly, and low-income groups suffering the most. The photo was taken in Debitala village of Botiaghata upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

UNBOWED

The Daily Star CELEBRATING

35

YEARS of

Journalism without fear or favour

The Daily Star begins its two-day 35th anniversary celebrations at its office today.

Founded on January 14, 1991, the newspaper has grown into one of the country's most trusted news sources and the largest circulating English-language daily.

The Daily Star pays tribute to its readers and patrons who have stood by it for over three decades.

Govt, opposition team up on fuel crisis

Committee formed with 5 MPs from each side

These 10 individuals will be able to sit together and discuss the issues. If there are any suggestions, those will reach the government through this committee, and if the government finds any of them realistic, it will certainly take steps to implement them.

TARIQUE RAHMAN



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to form a 10-member parliamentary committee comprising ruling and opposition MPs to address the ongoing fuel situation.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday proposed the initiative in parliament, naming five representatives from the ruling side.

They are Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku, State Minister for Energy Aninda Islam Amit, Lakshampur-4 MP ABM Ashraf Uddin, Manikganj-2 MP Moinul Islam Khan, and Shariatpur-3 MP Miah Nuruddin Ahmad Apu.

He further proposed that Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan serve as chair of the committee.

The prime minister urged the opposition to nominate five members from their side.

"These 10 individuals will be able to sit together and discuss the issues. If there are any suggestions, those will reach the government through this committee, and if the government finds any of them realistic, it will certainly take steps to implement them," he said.

Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman welcomed the move, thanking the PM for taking the matter positively. "We hope parliament will become the centre for resolving all national problems. This marks a new journey for the House, and we will soon submit names," he said.

Later, Shafiqur proposed five

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Bus fare hiked by about 5%

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday raised bus fares by 11 paise per kilometre following the recent hike in diesel prices, although the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners' Association submitted a note of dissent over the decision.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam announced the new fares after a meeting with transport owners and other stakeholders at the ministry in the capital.

The revised fares took effect from yesterday, while the minimum fares of Tk 10 in metropolitan areas and Tk 8 outside will remain unchanged.

Under the new rates, fares in Dhaka and Chattogram metropolitan areas have increased from Tk 2.45 to Tk 2.56 per kilometre, while fares for 52-seat inter-district buses have risen from Tk 2.12 to Tk 2.23 per kilometre.

In areas under the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority, the fare has gone up from Tk 2.32 to Tk 2.43 per kilometre.

The fare from Sayedabad to Chattogram and Cox's Bazar has been set at Tk 1,300, up from Tk 1,249, according to the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority fare chart. Within the capital, a trip from Mirpur-12 to Jatrabari will now cost Tk 51, compared to Tk 49 previously.

ASM Ahmed Khokon, additional secretary general of the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners' Association, expressed dissatisfaction over the fare hike.

The association had initially proposed a 28-paise increase, which was later revised to 22 paise during the discussions.

The transport sector does not depend solely on fuel costs; there are many other operating expenses

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

THE THIRD VIEW



When independent newspapers burn, so does democracy

As The Daily Star celebrates its 35th anniversary, Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam reflects on the arson attacks on

THE DAILY STAR AND PROTHOM ALO

offices on the night of December 18, 2025, arguing that such acts strike at the heart of democracy. He questions the silence and inaction of those in power, defends the role of a free press, and calls for a renewed commitment to rights, inclusion, and a future driven by human potential and technology.

READ THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 6

Iran tightens its grip on Hormuz as talks uncertain

Starts taking tolls from tankers; Trump orders sinking of any boats laying mines in the strait

US boards another supertanker in Indian Ocean

Iran says talks only possible if Washington lifts blockade

Experts say Iran economy looks set to withstand blockade

UN says war pushing more than 30m back into poverty



An Iranian gunboat.

AGENCIES

Iran showcased its tightened grip over the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, releasing footage of commandos storming a large cargo ship and announcing its first proceeds from tolls imposed on vessels transiting the waterway.

With planned peace talks hanging in the balance, more fuel-hungry airlines cancelled flights, oil prices opened higher, and the keenly-watched S&P Global PMI index showed eurozone business activity shrinking for the first time in 16 months.

Iran vowed it will keep the strait closed to all but a trickle of approved vessels for as long as the United States blockades its ports, brushing off demands from President Donald Trump that it buckle to US threats and both reopen Hormuz and surrender its enriched uranium.

While strikes around the region have mostly ceased since the two-week-old truce began, there has been no letup in the stand-off over the crucial trade route, with both sides seeking economic leverage -- only for Trump to announce an indefinite ceasefire to create space for more Pakistani-mediated talks.

Iranian state television broadcast footage overnight of masked troops pulling up in a grey speedboat alongside the MSC Francesca, climbing a rope ladder to a shell door in the hull and jumping through, brandishing rifles.

The footage, presented with an action-movie style soundtrack and no commentary, also included views of another ship, the Epaminondas. Iran said it had captured both on Wednesday, accusing them of trying to cross the strait without permits.

Washington, which has been confronting Iranian ships in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Economic outlook fragile: PRI

B1



Lebanon accuses Israel of war crime over journo killings

P5

মশক নিয়ন্ত্রণে প্রয়োজন জনগণের অংশগ্রহণ

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

নিয়মিত প্রতিদিন জমা পানি ফেলে দিন

নগর ভবন, ৫, ফিনিক্স রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, 'পশু জবাই ও মাংসের মান নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন, ২০১১' এবং 'পশু জবাই ও মাংসের মান নিয়ন্ত্রণ বিধিমালা, ২০২১' অনুযায়ী, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন/মালিকানাধীন বিভিন্ন গবাদি পশুর মাংসের দোকানসমূহ হতে প্রতি জবাইকৃত পশু হতে নির্দিষ্ট হারে ফি (ছাগল/ভেড়া ১০ টাকা, গরু ৫০ টাকা ও মহিষ ৭৫ টাকা) আদায় করার নির্দেশনা রয়েছে। উপর্যুক্ত নির্দেশনা প্রতিপালন করার জন্য ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন সকল মাংস ব্যবসায়ীকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান উক্ত নির্দেশনা অমান্য করলে বিদ্যমান আইন ও বিধিবিধান অনুযায়ী সংশ্লিষ্ট পক্ষের বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

নিজ আঙ্গিনা পরিষ্কার রাখি, সবাই মিলে সুস্থ থাকি

কর্তৃপক্ষ

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২২৭/২০২৫-২০২৬

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