



"We're victims of geopolitics and we're victims of this war that started several months ago."
EMMANUEL MACRON
French President

The Daily Star

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No measles let-up before mid-May

Experts say it'll take 2-3 weeks for jabs to start kicking in; 11 more die of suspected cases

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Measles cases and deaths continue to rise with the situation unlikely to improve much until the second week of May despite the ongoing vaccination campaign, experts say.

They explained that the vaccination drive began on April 5 in 30 upazilas of 18 districts with high measles cases, but it takes two to three weeks for immunity to develop.

It may take time for cases to decline in other areas, as vaccination started there later, the experts said.

Even after cases begin to fall, deaths may continue for another month, they said.

The warning came as 11 more patients with suspected measles died in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

Not all cases, despite symptoms indicating measles, can be confirmed currently due to a lack of testing kits.

The latest fatalities took the number of deaths from suspected measles to 209, mostly child patients, since March 15.

The 11 deaths also marked the highest

single-day toll since April 5, when a total of 12 deaths – two confirmed and 10 suspected – were recorded by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

As of yesterday, over 3,000 patients with suspected measles were still being treated at hospitals.

No death was recorded among the patients who tested positive for measles in the last 24 hours, leaving the number of deaths from confirmed measles unchanged at 42.

Authorities classify these as confirmed measles deaths based on laboratory tests. However, a government expert panel has reportedly suggested counting both suspected and confirmed deaths as measles deaths.

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PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star yesterday concluded its two-day 35th anniversary celebrations in the presence of distinguished guests -- including freedom fighters, members of parliament, civil society leaders and media personalities -- at its office on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital.

Trump calls off US envoys' trip to Pakistan

Says move doesn't mean resumption of war as Iran doubts US's seriousness for talks

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday announced he had cancelled his envoys' planned trip to Pakistan for peace talks with Iran yesterday, but said that did not mean an immediate resumption of the US-Israeli war against the Islamic republic.

Shortly before the announcement, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrapped up his own diplomatic visit to Islamabad after meeting with Pakistani

"We have all the cards. They can call us anytime they want, but you're not going to be making any more 18-hour flights to sit around talking about nothing," the president said he had told his team.

Asked by US media outlet Axios whether that meant a resumption of hostilities, Trump said: "No. It doesn't mean that. We haven't thought about it yet."

Iran's foreign ministry said Araghchi had left Islamabad and arrived in Muscat yesterday for meetings with Omani

Iranian FM arrives in Muscat, leaving Islamabad

Iran defence ministry says US seeks 'face-saving' way out of war

6 killed in Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon amid ceasefire

Commercial flights resume from Tehran

military chief Asim Munir, a key figure in the mediation effort, as well as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

The White House had previously said Trump emissaries Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were headed to the Pakistani capital for an "in-person conversation" with the Iranians that would "hopefully move the ball forward towards a deal".

But Trump told Fox News that he had nixed the trip.

officials. He is also expected to travel on to Russia to discuss efforts to end the war, which the United States and Israel began against Iran on February 28.

Araghchi described his Pakistan trip as "very fruitful" in a post on X, adding he had shared Iran's position on a "workable framework to permanently end the war".

"Have yet to see if the US is truly serious about diplomacy," he said.

Even before Trump's announcement,

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Brothers in arms, bound for life

Fellow freedom fighters honour Star editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of The Daily Star's 35th anniversary celebrations, members of the Bangladesh War Courses Foundation visited the newspaper's Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and presented him with a token of appreciation and pride for his role in the 1971 Liberation War.

The token also acknowledged his subsequent service to the country through a highly respected and trusted newspaper like The Daily Star, and his contribution to promoting independent journalism.

Among those present, including retired army officers, were M Abdul Majed; Maj M Abul Hossain (Dr); Col M Aminul Islam; Maj M Atiqur Rahman; Maj Gen Jamil D Ahsan, Bir Protik; Lt Col M Zainul Abedin; Maj Gen Jiban Kanai Das, and Brig Gen Miran Hamidur Rahman.

Speaking on behalf of the group at the event, Maj Gen (ret'd) Jamil, Bir Protik, described how the "comrades in arms" came to be.

"As the war was prolonged, the then government felt they needed more military leadership... So, they decided to select some people from among the

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A celebration of resilience

The Daily Star wraps up its two-day 35th anniversary programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday marked the final day of its 35th anniversary celebrations, with the scars of the December 18, 2025 arson attack still on full display.

Guests were greeted not by a traditional gala but by exposed brick and soot-blackened pillars, where the acrid, lingering scent of charred debris clung to the air.

After visiting the exhibition, Law Minister Asaduzzaman said the scene was not something that could leave anyone with a pleasant feeling.

"Freedom of the press is deeply linked with democracy. An attack of this nature on a newspaper, regardless of difference of opinion, is, I believe, an attack on the heart of democracy."

"We want this situation to end, and we want Bangladesh to move forward on the path of press freedom. These [memories] are like a nightmare. ... Let the nightmare end," he said.

Also at the event, Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman said the space The Daily Star has created

UNBOWED

The Daily Star
CELEBRATING

35

YEARS of

JOURNALISM WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

for itself in Bangladesh's journalism landscape is unparalleled. "I sincerely hope the daily continues this journey and sets new examples in journalism."

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Yasser Khan Choudhury said, "What I saw today -- the destruction -- is deeply saddening and unfortunate. I hope no one stands as an obstacle to freedom of speech, whether it is The Daily Star, other newspapers, media outlets, or television channels."

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said

that seeing the exhibition was both painful and inspiring. "The attack on The Daily Star was an attack on an institution that symbolises independent and free media in Bangladesh. In other words, it was an attack on the country's media, and on the expectation and aspiration for a free press."

Commenting on the way the attack was carried out, he questioned the role of the then RELATED STORY ON PAGE 8 SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Fuel queues start to ease after supply boost

ASIFUR RAHMAN

After nearly two months of what felt like never-ending queues at filling stations in Dhaka, pressure at petrol pumps has finally started to ease.

Motorists are now getting fuel with less waiting and hassle, a trend also visible in Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna, Rangpur and Mymensingh, where correspondents reported shorter lines, quicker service and reduced crowding.

Pump owners attributed the change to higher supply following the latest fuel price hike, alongside falling demand in some areas.

A visit to 14 pumps in Tejgaon, Mohakhali, Bijoy Sarani, Matsya Bhaban and Paribagh yesterday found motorcyclists waiting 30 minutes to two hours, while cars generally needed two to four hours.

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Rehena Akter holds her one-year-old son Farhan Ibne Faruk, who was admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Mohakhali, with measles on Wednesday. According to DGHS, 11 more patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, taking the number of suspected measles deaths to 209. As of yesterday, 42 patients have died from confirmed measles cases. PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Dreams of PhDs end in Florida

Bangladeshi student killed, another feared to be dead; roommate arrested, charged

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshi PhD students, who got enrolled at the University of South Florida in the United States with dreams of a brighter future, are now tragically at the centre of a grim murder investigation.

Limon has been confirmed dead, while Bristy is believed to have been killed as well, according to investigators in Florida.

Limon's roommate, Hisham Saleh Abugharbieh, a 26-year-old US citizen and former USF student who was arrested on Friday, has been charged with two counts of first-degree premeditated murder.

"Evidence was presented to the State Attorney's Office, resulting in further charges against Abugharbieh. At this time, the search for Bristy continues," the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office said.

Bangladesh's embassy in Washington confirmed the developments, with Press Minister Golam Mortzo describing the case as "extremely heartbreaking" in a Facebook post.

Limon's body was recovered on Friday from the Howard Frankland Bridge after he had been missing for eight days. While Bristy remains unaccounted for, authorities have told her family they believe she is dead. Efforts continue

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Limon

Bristy