



A Sharpie robot makes a Blizzard ice cream for a customer at a Dairy Queen store in Shanghai

Bangladesh measles crisis kills more than 1,000 children

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

The death toll from measles in Bangladesh has topped 1,000 children since March, health officials said Wednesday, admitting that failures in a vaccination drive may have fuelled the outbreak.

The South Asian nation of 170 million has recorded 1,002 deaths and 187,484 infections among children, making this year's outbreak the country's deadliest in decades, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Measles is highly contagious, spreading through coughs and sneezes, and has no specific treatment once caught.

Complications can include brain swelling and severe breathing problems. Although anyone can catch the disease, young children are particularly vulnerable.

The disease has kept spreading in Bangladesh even as health authorities rolled out a mass vaccination drive to combat the outbreak.

DGHS spokesman Zahid Raihan said more than 18 million children had been vaccinated so far, and teams were searching for those who had missed inoculations.

"We couldn't achieve herd immunity," Raihan told AFP.



Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known. If one infected person enters a group of people who aren't immune, up to 90% of close, unprotected contacts can become infected. The virus can also remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves.

EU gives Spain 115 mn euros aid over Ceuta crisis



Migrants display clothes, food, and other items laid out on the ground for sale as they spend the night on El Trampolin beach in Ceuta

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU yesterday said it was granting Spain 115 million euros (\$130 million) in emergency aid to help bolster border security and assist returns after the massive migrant rush into the north African exclave.

More than 70,000 migrants crossed into Spanish territory from Morocco on July 30 and 31 in an unprecedented rush

that left scores dead, most by drowning as they tried to swim around a breakwater.

"The situation in Ceuta has put pressure on our external borders," said European Commission vice president Henna Virkkunen.

"Our message remains clear: we are committed to combat illegal migration and ensure the swift return of those who remain illegally in Ceuta."

Ukrainian drone hits Russian Arctic region, almost 3,000 km from border

AFP | Moscow, Russia

A Ukrainian drone sparked a fire at an industrial facility in Russia's Arctic Yamalo-Nenets region yesterday, some 2,800 kilometres (1,700 miles) from the Ukrainian border, officials said.

The Russian Mediazona news outlet reported the attack was the longest-range on Russia since Moscow launched its Ukraine offensive in 2022.

"A drone attack on an industrial facility in Novy Urengoy was repelled today. Falling debris from the drone caused a fire," the governor of Russia's Yamalo-Nenets region, Dmitry Artyukhov, said on Telegram.

"The main thing is that there were no deaths or injuries. The extent and nature of the damage are being determined," he added.



Dmytro Chubenko (back), spokesperson of the Kharkiv prosecutor, and his assistant cover a Russian Shahed drone shot down by Ukraine's air defense forces in a field used for the storage of Russian missiles in Kharkiv

Novy Urengoy, home to around 100,000 people, lies just south of

Russia's Arctic circle.

Ukraine's Fire Point arms com-

pany said the drone "travelled over 3,300 km and successfully hit the target" in a post on social media.

Artem Zhoga, the Kremlin's envoy to the Urals, said the strike was the first ever to hit the Arctic part of his region.

Ukraine has escalated its long-range strikes on Russia in recent months, in retaliation for daily Russian bombardment of Ukrainian towns and cities.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said earlier in September that his country's drones would make Russian air space "completely unsafe" for the duration of the war.

Mediazona reported the strike appeared to target an energy facility, quoting Ukrainian open-source intelligence.

Israel will not 'expel or deport' anyone from Gaza



Prematurely-born babies lie in infant warmers at the overcrowded neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

AFP | Ljubljana, Slovenia

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar yesterday said his country was "not planning to expel or to deport anyone from Gaza Strip" during a visit to Slovenia for the opening of an Israeli embassy.

If someone wants to leave Gaza "from his own will, and there is a country which is ready to accept him, as it happens from any conflict area in the world, we will not oppose that," he added.

Several Israeli cabinet members have spoken of plans to remove all two million people from war-ravaged Gaza, although they largely cast the initiative as voluntary, saying that Palestinians want to leave and

Israel hails 'friendship' with Slovenia ahead of embassy opening

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar thanked Slovenia for its "friendship" and for "standing with Israel when it matters" ahead of the opening of an Israeli embassy in Ljubljana yesterday.

Saar's visit and the embassy opening are the latest manifestations of a diplomatic reset under nationalist Slovenian

Prime Minister Janez Jansa, who is embracing Israel as a chill sets in between it and much of the rest of Europe.

The pivot by Jansa, who has long been at loggerheads with the European Union and who took power for a fourth time earlier this year, is a sharp contrast with the previous centre-left government, which described Israel's campaign in Gaza as "genocide".

to reset diplomatic ties with Israel under nationalist Prime Minister Janez Jansa.

He thanked Slovenia for its "friendship" and for "standing with Israel when it matters".

"An embassy is more than a flag in the building. It is an investment in a relationship and a commitment to its future. And that is exactly what we are planning to do together," Saar said.

"Israel remembers its friends. As you have stood with us, we will stand with you," he said.

The opening of an Israeli embassy in Ljubljana marks a dramatic departure from the policies of the previous centre-left government, which had been one of the EU's most critical voices on Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

are prevented by the militant group Hamas.

Saar was speaking at a press

conference in Ljubljana ahead of the opening of an Israeli embassy there as Slovenia looks