

Economy

Govt drafts reform roadmap to seek delay in LDC graduation until 2029

June 04, 2026

- The government is preparing to submit a three-year reform roadmap to the United Nations in a final effort to secure a postponement of Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category until November 2029, despite a UN committee recommending a "shorter" extension.
- The draft document, titled "Action Plan for Bangladesh's Preparation for LDC Graduation (2026-2029)," focuses on strengthening macroeconomic stability, financial sector governance, fiscal reforms, business deregulation, export diversification and institutional capacity.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-drafts-reform-roadmap-seek-delay-ldc-graduation-until-2029-1453681>

Merchandise exports drop 7.07pc in May

June 04, 2026

- The country's merchandise export earnings in May 2026 again declined after a rise in April, registering a 7.07pc year-on-year negative growth.
- In May 2026, Bangladesh received USD 4.40bn in export earnings, which was USD 4.73bn in May 2025, according to the data released Wednesday by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/merchandise-exports-drop-707pc-in-may>

Govt may drop planned wealth tax, bike and rickshaw AIT

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- The government is set to backtrack from its plans to reintroduce a wealth tax and impose a first-ever advance income tax (AIT) on motorcycles and battery-run auto-rickshaws in the upcoming budget for fiscal year 2026-27.
- The planned AIT sparked public backlash and street demonstrations by motorcycle owners and ride-share drivers.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2026-27/news/govt-may-drop-planned-wealth-tax-bike-and-rickshaw-ait-4190076>

New IMF credit prog 'based on BoP needs, reform commitments'

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- A fresh IMF financial arrangement sought by Bangladesh to support its economic reforms is to

be determined by its balance-of-payments (BoP) needs and reform commitments, the international Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

- The IMF Mission Chief for Bangladesh mentions that planning is underway for a staff visit to Bangladesh, which would allow IMF staff to take stock of recent economic developments, engage with the authorities on their policy priorities, and assess the outlook and reform challenges.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/electricity-prices-hiked-across-the-board>

Banking

Banks asked to enroll employees in Pragati pension scheme

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- The Financial Institutions Division has directed Bangladesh Bank representatives and managing directors of all scheduled banks to take necessary steps to enroll their officers and employees in the Pragati Scheme under the Universal Pension System.
- Under the scheme, employees and employers each contribute 50pc of the monthly contribution. Monthly contributions range from BDT 1,000 (USD 8.2) to BDT 15,000 (USD 122.95), and participants receive lifelong monthly pension benefits after retirement.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-asked-enrol-employees-pragati-pension-scheme-4189996>

Trade and Commerce

Bonded warehouse benefits to cover all exporters: finance minister

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- The government will allow all exporters to import required materials duty-free for the production of export items, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday. To that end, the bonded warehouse facilities will be extended to any exporters producing goods for overseas markets, not just the garments industry – as stated by the minister.
- This would allow exporters in promising sectors such as jewellery and diamond cutting to avail themselves of bonded warehouse facilities under back-to-back LC arrangements, according to the minister.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bonded-warehouse-benefits-cover-all-exporters-finance-minister-4190341>

Energy and Power

Power tariff hiked 16.7pc as govt moves to cut subsidy burden

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- The government has increased electricity tariffs by 16.68pc at the consumer level in a move aimed at reducing the power sector's mounting subsidy burden, a decision economists, industry leaders and energy analysts warn could fuel inflation, raise business costs and further strain households already grappling with rising living expenses.
- The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on 3 June raised the weighted average retail electricity tariff by BDT 1.52 (USD 0.012) per unit, from BDT 9.11 (USD 0.075) per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to BDT 10.63 (USD 0.087) per kWh. The new rates will take effect from June's billing cycle. The regulator also increased the weighted average bulk electricity tariff by 19.85pc, or BDT 1.39 (USD 0.011) per unit, from BDT 7.00 (USD 0.057) per kWh to BDT 8.39 (USD 0.069) per kWh.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/retail-power-tariff-hiked-tk152-amid-subsidy-cuts-1453181>

Bangladesh to purchase 5 LNG cargoes from Switzerland, UK, Singapore

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- The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase has recommended separate proposals to import five liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes to meet the country's fuel requirements.
- Among the proposals was the purchase of two LNG cargoes from SOCAR Trading SA of Switzerland under a direct procurement process for 2026. The proposal was placed by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-purchase-5-lng-cargoes-switzerland-uk-singapore-4189801>

Telecom

Ctg port gets 5G spectrum for smart port trial

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- The internet regulator has granted the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) temporary access to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band to test a private 5G network aimed at transforming the Chattogram seaport into a smart port.
- Under a decision taken at a Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) meeting, the 20 MHz spectrum in the 3780 MHz to 3800 MHz band will be provided free of charge for a three-month trial period ending on 31 August.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ctg-port-gets-5g-spectrum-smart-port-trial-4190046>

International

India cabinet clears USD 1.05bn aviation fuel price stabilization fund to help domestic carriers

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- Information Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told a media briefing after a cabinet meeting in New Delhi that the aviation sector has been impacted by unprecedented volatility in global Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices following the West Asia crisis.
- "Due to the ongoing West Asia crisis, international ATF prices have surged nearly 2.5 times from Rs 60.50 per liter in March 2026 to Rs 142 per liter in May 2026," he said.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/india-cabinet-clears-105b-aviation-fuel-price-stabilisation-fund-help-domestic>

OECD cuts 2026 global growth forecasts over Mideast war fallout

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- Global economic growth is now forecast to slip to 2.8pc for 2026 if Gulf exports of oil and gas return to pre-conflict levels in the third quarter, the group of 38 industrialized countries said in its quarterly update.
- Previously, the OECD had forecast full-year global growth of 2.9pc.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/oecd-cuts-2026-global-growth-forecasts-over-mideast-war-fallout-1453146>

Gold prices ease

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- Gold prices slipped on Wednesday, as renewed hostilities in the Middle East pushed crude higher and stalled US-Iran talks, while investors awaited upcoming US economic data.
- Spot gold fell 0.5pc to USD 4,460.36 per ounce by 0702 GMT, after rising more than 1pc in the previous session. US gold futures for August delivery slipped 0.7pc to USD 4,488.90.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-prices-ease-4190001>

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