



DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 6, 2026

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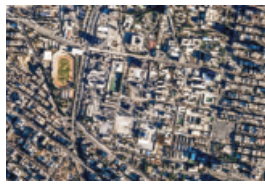
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US satellite firm withholds war images after Trump request

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When reform becomes more power, less accountability

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Repeal of SC ordinances may return courts to political captivity

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'Islamisation in Bengal has no parallel in South Asia'

P10

LDC GRADUATION

UN report flags serious gaps in readiness

US-Israel war on Iran hurting Bangladesh economy as risks mount over export loss

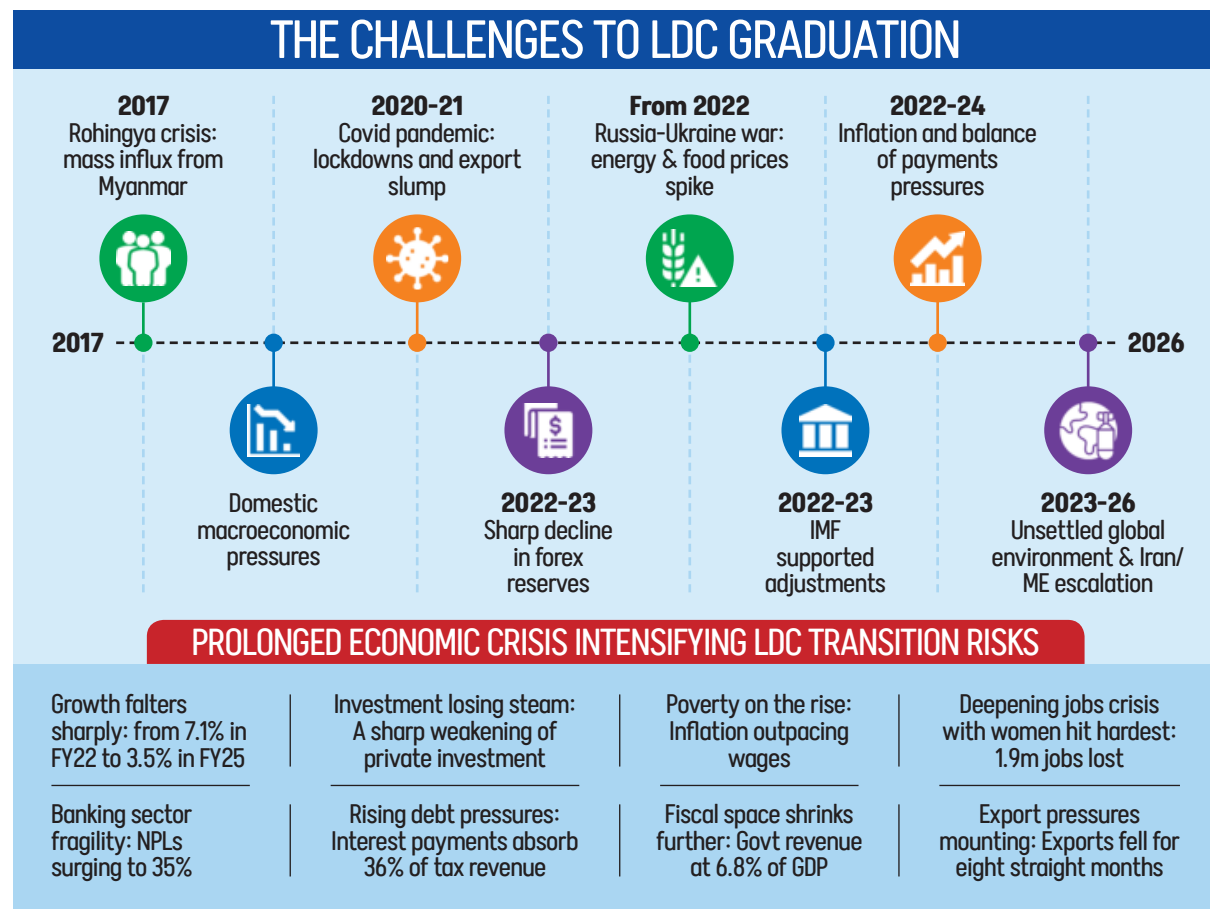
REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh's readiness for graduation from least developed country status in November this year has been undermined by domestic and international crises, a UN assessment warns, with the US-Israel war on Iran adding a new threat.

The report, released yesterday, underscores a series of shocks the country has faced between 2017 and 2026. These include continued exposure to climate vulnerability; the Rohingya crisis; a prolonged macroeconomic downturn predating the regime change; Covid-19 fallout; political transition; the Russia-Ukraine war; inflation; and balance of payments pressures.

An expert panel of the United Nations Office of the High

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'Ordinance repeal could have been handled better'

BNP leaders at Standing Committee meeting

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Some senior BNP leaders have expressed disappointment with the way the repeal of several key ordinances, issued during the interim government, was handled.

They said the issue was poorly managed despite there being valid grounds for the move. As a result, the opposition is now using it to mobilise protests and question the ruling party's stance on the July charter, which could have been avoided with clearer and more timely public communication.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee, the highest policymaking body of the BNP, at its chairman's Gulshan office on Saturday night, they said that as an all party parliamentary

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Imported energy accounts for 59% of trade gap

Bangladesh's heavy reliance becoming structural burden, says global report

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Nearly three-fifths of Bangladesh's trade deficit is now driven by fossil fuel imports, underscoring how the country's growing reliance on imported energy has become a major structural burden on the economy, said the UK-based energy think-tank Ember.

The trade deficit in fiscal 2024-25 stood at \$20 billion, down from \$22 billion in fiscal 2023-24, according to Bangladesh Bank.

Heavy reliance on imported energy also leaves countries vulnerable to external disruptions, the report said, adding that geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have once again highlighted these risks. The cost of these imports has risen sharply as a result.

A trade deficit is an economic condition where a country imports more goods and services than it exports.

Spending on foreign oil and gas accounts for nearly \$0.60 of every dollar in the country's trade deficit, said the report titled "The Electric Fast-Track for Emerging Markets".

The report describes such spending as a persistent economic burden because it represents a recurring outflow of foreign currency rather than an investment that generates domestic economic value.

Ember prepared the analysis in partnership with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), of which Bangladesh is a founding member.

Only 10 out of 74 member countries of the CVF produce enough

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US forces recover F-15 pilot in Iran

Trump hails rescue as 'one of the most daring' in its history; Iran says it 'foiled' mission after downing four US aircraft

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday said US forces safely extracted a second airman downed in Iran, calling it "one of the most daring Search and Rescue Operations" in its history.

Meanwhile, Iran said it had "completely foiled" the rescue operation and distributed images appearing to show the wreckage of several aircraft but did not confirm whether it had captured the US serviceman or that US forces had recovered him.

After announcing the rescue, Trump threatened in an expletive-laden post to strike Iran's power plants and bridges if it does not reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz.

The war, which erupted on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, has engulfed the Middle East and convulsed the global economy. Iran has virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz shipping lane, a conduit for roughly one-fifth of global oil trade, and launched strikes on Israel and its Gulf neighbours.

Trump warned Iran to stop choking traffic through Hormuz. "Open the f***ing Strait, you crazy bas***ds, or you'll be living in Hell," he said in his social media post. The Daily Star has used asterisks in the quote due to obscene language.

Trump's warning came as the Omani and Iranian deputy foreign ministers reportedly held talks on easing passage through Hormuz.

RESCUE OPERATION

Trump said on Truth Social that the airman had been "behind enemy lines in the treacherous



- Trump threatens strikes on Iran's infrastructure if Hormuz remains closed
- Iran targets energy facilities in Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi
- Hezbollah launches cruise missile at Israeli warship
- Oman and Iran hold talks on Strait of Hormuz

mountains of Iran, being hunted down by our enemies".

"He sustained injuries, but he will be just fine. This miraculous Search and Rescue Operation comes in addition to a successful

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JULY CHARTER ROADMAP

No breakthrough in House yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmakers yesterday said they are committed to implementing the July charter in its entirety, including clauses with notes of dissent, while the Jamaat-led opposition said the ruling party is attempting to distance itself from the charter under the pretext of constitutional complexities.

The comments came as the treasury and opposition benches set out their respective stances during a two-hour discussion on an adjournment motion regarding the July National Charter 2025 in parliament.

Earlier, on April 1, treasury bench lawmaker Zainul Abdin Faroque placed the adjournment motion, seeking a discussion on the roadmap for implementing the July charter.

But yesterday's discussion ended without consensus on a roadmap.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmad said the BNP remains committed to implementing every clause of the July charter, including those with notes of dissent, and urged the opposition to join discussions on its implementation.

"Let's discuss how we can implement the July National Charter, which was signed historically, and determine the way forward. I had placed a proposal to form a special parliamentary committee for constitutional amendment."

While outlining key proposals in the July charter, Salahuddin noted that the BNP would pass laws in the current parliament to establish a judicial secretariat and regulate the appointment of judges.

He termed the July charter implementation order both a "colourable legislation" - a law that appears valid but exceeds the legislature's power, and a "fraud on the constitution".

"Many people view 1971 differently: for the majority it represents a people's victory, while for some it carries the stigma of defeat."

He concluded by saying that constitutions are not "reformed"; they are repealed, suspended, amended, or

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A child receives a measles shot at the Nagar Matrisadan Health Centre in Barishal city's Kaunia area amid a sudden outbreak. A special emergency vaccination drive was launched yesterday across 30 upazilas in 18 districts, targeting children aged six months to five years. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

SPORT



'Plenty of time left for politics, not much for cricket'

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan says his priority is returning home after nearly two years abroad. While legal hurdles have complicated his comeback, the former Member of Parliament remains hopeful of resolving the issues soon and resuming cricket. The 39-year-old said time in sport is limited compared to politics, adding that he intends to continue in politics.

**Read full interview on P11

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