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BECOMING A DEVELOPING NATION

Bangladesh reaches A MILESTONE

UN gives final nod to country's graduation from LDC status; transition period extended to 2026

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and REFAJET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh has stepped into a new journey as it qualified to graduate into a developing nation from a Least Developed Country (LDC) after 45 years.

The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) recommended the graduation in its final evaluation on Friday.

Bangladesh is scheduled to officially become a developing country in 2026 as the UN committee recommended that the country should get five years, instead of three, to prepare for the transition due to the impact of the

Covid-19 on its economy.

Until 2026, the country will continue to enjoy the trade benefits as an LDC.

The recommendations will be sent to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for endorsement in June and the UN General Assembly is scheduled to approve the proposal in September.

The development comes when Bangladesh gears up for celebrating the golden jubilee of its independence next month.

Taffere Tesfachew, chair of the CDP subgroup on LDCs, shared the decision of

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COMING OUT OF LDC, A WELCOME MOVE FROM ALL SIDES - B1

All credit goes to people: PM

Govt's relentless efforts, planning, hard work made it possible, she says

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh's graduation from the group of the least developed countries (LDCs) to a developing one stemmed from her government's relentless efforts, planning and hard work over the last 12 years.

"The people of the country did all these things. Staying in government, we just gave policy support to create the scope. It's a historic moment and a moment of pride for the nation," she said.

The premier was speaking at a virtual press conference marking the UN's final recommendation for Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC group.

She joined the event, held at the Shapla Hall of the Prime Minister's Office, from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina strongly hoped Bangladesh would get its place as a dignified country at the world stage following its graduation to a developing nation.

She extended heartiest congratulations to the Bangladeshis at home and abroad for achieving this feat.

"Father of the Nation Bangabandhu had turned Bangladesh into a least developed country lifting up the war ravaged country in just three and a half years' time. And Bangladesh Awami League -- a party founded at the hands of the great leader -- established the country as a developing nation in this Golden Jubilee year of its independence," she said.

In her written speech, the premier gave credit to the people of the country for this saying the coordinated efforts of all made the

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➤ Bangladesh is now a changed country in the world

➤ Govt to import another 3 crore doses of vaccines

➤ Stimulus packages help keep national economy moving

➤ Target to build a developed, prosperous, dignified country

QUALIFICATION

Bangladesh has met all the 3 eligibility criteria for graduation -- per capita income, Human Assets Index, Economic Vulnerability Index.

WHAT'S NEXT

The proposal will be sent to the UN Economic and Social Council for endorsement in June. The UN General Assembly is scheduled to approve it in Sept this year.



BANGLADESH'S TARGET

To become a higher middle-income country by 2031 and a developed country by 2041.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Protesters denounce the Digital Security Act and demand investigation into the death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed at the capital's Shahbagh area. Students and teachers have been demonstrating since the writer, arrested nine months ago in a case filed under the act, died on Thursday.

State cannot avoid responsibility

NHRC on Mushtaq's death; TIB says DSA a 'fatal weapon' to suppress the voices of dissent; protests rage on; cases filed against detained demonstrators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after protesting writer Mushtaq Ahmed's detention under the Digital Security Act and subsequent death in custody, Ruhul Amin himself was sued under the controversial law.

"If such writings sent Mushtaq to jail and then to death, depriving him of bail six times, then arrest me too," read a Facebook post that Ruhul, a coordinator of left-leaning Shramik-Krishak-Chhatra-Janata Oikya Parishad, wrote on Friday.

He shared a digital poster of a protest march from Shahbagh to the Jatiya Sangsad, called for yesterday, and also some screenshots of Mushtaq's



Facebook posts.

Around 10:00pm, Detective Branch officials picked him up along with Niyaz Murshid Dolon, convening committee member of his organisation, from their mess in Goakhali area of Khulna city.

Dolon was released later but Ruhul was made accused in a case filed by a DB inspector yesterday.

BM Nurujjaman, deputy commissioner, Detective Branch at KMP, said Ruhul was sued under the Digital Security Act for trying to destabilise the state, creating social unrest and over other reasons.

A Khulna court placed Ruhul on two days' SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

BORDER KILLINGS Use non-lethal weapons

Dhaka urges Delhi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has once again asked its counterpart India for using "non-lethal" weapons in the Indo-Bangla border to bring down the border killing to zero.

The issue was raised during Home Secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh yesterday.

Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Senior Secretary of Public Security Division of the home ministry, led the Bangladesh delegation while Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Union Home Secretary, led the Indian delegation.

After the virtual meeting held at a city hotel, Senior Secretary Mostafa Kamal Uddin told reporters that "we have discussed bringing down the border killing to zero. There has a principle to use the non-lethal weapon to avoid causality."

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Schools, colleges to reopen on March 30

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

After a year of closure due to the pandemic, and significant academic losses, the government yesterday announced that all schools and colleges will be reopening on March 30.

It was a sigh of relief for many students and their parents.

The government decided to resume in-person classes at all primary, secondary, and higher secondary schools in phases, Education Minister Dipu Moni said last night after holding an inter-ministerial meeting on reopening educational institutions.

She said fifth graders, and SSC, and HSC candidates will be brought back to schools and colleges for daily classes.

Pupils of class-IX and -XI will attend classes twice a week and students of others class will have classes once in a week.

Pre-primary students will not go to schools now. "After some days ... in phases, we will head towards normalcy."

Ramadan holidays will be reduced, she said.

Usually, schools remain closed during the month of Ramadan.

She also said SSC exams would be on the shortened syllabus and the lessons for those could be completed in 60 working days. The same goes for HSC but it would take

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

This Day in Bangladesh Liberation War History In commemoration of Bangabandhu's birth centenary The Daily Star ran a year-long series titled First Year of Bangladesh: Bangabandhu's Nation Building Challenges which continued till January 10, 2021. To observe 50 years of independence, we are launching another series titled Road to Freedom: This Day in Bangladesh Liberation War History which will present a day-to-day account of Bangladesh's glorious fight for independence as well as an analysis of the events from a historical perspective. Look out for tomorrow's issue of The Daily Star to read the first installment.

Unrest over any death undesirable

PM on Mushtaq; says DSA to provide digital security to people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that the death of anyone is not desired and so is not any unrest centering the demise.

"No death is desirable. But it is also not desirable to create unrest centering that. On November 3 [1975], four national leaders of the country were brutally killed in jail. There is no such incident in the country now. What can

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➤ Fifth, 10th, 12th graders to have classes daily

➤ Ninth and 11th graders to have classes twice a week

➤ Other school-goers have classes once a week

➤ Pre-primary students to stay home now

➤ All teacher, staffers to be vaccinated before reopening

➤ Ramadan holidays to be shortened

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