

LDC GRADUATION

# Government asks UN for three-year deferment

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and AHSAN HABIB

The government, on its first full day in office, formally sought a three-year deferral of Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category.

On behalf of the government, Shahriar Kader Siddiky, secretary of the Economic Relations Division, sent a letter on Wednesday to José Antonio Ocampo, chair of the UN Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP), requesting that the preparatory period be extended until November 24, 2029.

Bangladesh is currently scheduled to graduate on November 24 this year, with a third review underway ahead of the final transition.

Following calls from the leaders of top business chambers and trade bodies, and some economists, the interim government had earlier recommended coordinating with fellow graduating countries such as Nepal and Lao PDR to pursue a deferral until 2030, but left the final decision to the elected government.

It also advised that an application be submitted before the UN CDP's annual plenary on February 24, 2029.

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3rd review underway for transition

Extension sought to stabilise macroeconomy, consolidate reforms

Case for deferral hinges on arguments about vulnerabilities

UN vote requires 51% support

'SUBSTANTIAL GAPS' FOUND IN LDC READINESS - B1

## Family card project to pilot before Eid

### Tarique also directs ministers to begin tree plantation, waterways excavation

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and BAHARAM KHAN

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday issued directives to immediately begin work on three key election pledges of his party.

On his second day in office, Tarique instructed the concerned ministers to ensure swift and effective implementation of the pledges -- the Family Card programme, the nationwide tree plantation drive, and the excavation



and re-excitation of canals.

He urged them to set clear timelines, establish accountability mechanisms, and maintain transparency to fulfil the key commitments outlined in the BNP's election manifesto, ensuring the initiatives do not generate controversy or negative public perception.

The directives were issued during

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## US president, UK premier congratulate Tarique

Trump urges decisive action on defence deals

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US President Donald Trump has congratulated Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, hoping that the PM will help him maintain the "tremendous momentum" in US-Bangladesh trade relationship.

He also hoped that Tarique will take decisive

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Sutor Golpo: A fair for local brands

B1



Chawkbazar: where tradition meets taste

P3



AI can't be left to 'whims of a few billionaires'

P5



Booters brace for big debut

P11

সবার আগে বাংলাদেশ

জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে ঐতিহাসিক সাফল্যের মাধ্যমে গণতন্ত্রের অগ্রযাত্রা নতুন উচ্চতায় পৌঁছেছে।

সংসদ নেতা ও বাংলাদেশের ১৯তম মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী হিসেবে নির্বাচিত হওয়ায়

**জনাব তারেক রহমান -কে**

কেডিএস পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

আমরা বিশ্বাস করি, আপনার নেতৃত্বে দেশ উন্নয়ন, স্থিতিশীলতা ও সমৃদ্ধির পথে আরও এগিয়ে যাবে।

KDS

BOB BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF BANKS

**Congratulations**

**Mr. Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury**

Hon'ble Minister  
Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Planning  
The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

May your dynamic leadership takes the financial sector to a new height

Bangladesh Association of Banks

সবার আগে বাংলাদেশ

আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী

**জনাব তারেক রহমান**

আপনার দৃঢ় নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন, স্থিতিশীলতা ও অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রগতির নতুন উচ্চতায় পৌঁছাবে ইনশাআল্লাহ

মহান আল্লাহ তাআলা আপনাকে সুস্বাস্থ্য ও দশকে সেবা করার তৌফিক দান করুন-আমিন

ডাঃ-বাংলা ব্যাংক  
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী