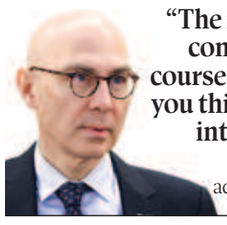
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"The message is: don't continue the current course of warfare where you think you are above international law..."

UN rights chief **TURK'S** advice to next Israeli govt



Bangladesh gets 3 more years for LDC graduation

Business leaders, economists urge swift reforms, trade deals, export diversification

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh has secured a three-year extension of its graduation from the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), for a smoother transition amid risks from energy and supply disruptions caused by conflicts.

World leaders took the decision shortly after the 30th plenary session of the 81st UN General Assembly began in New York, at around 1:00am Bangladesh time today.

Graduation has now moved to November 24, 2029, from November 24, 2026. Nepal also received the same extension as the draft resolution, placed by the Group of 77 and China, was adopted.

The government says preparations are going well, while business leaders and economists called for quick, intensified efforts on reforms, trade deals and export diversification.

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir told The Daily Star that the government would use the extra three years to attract investment, expand market access for local goods, and make ports more efficient.

It will also keep signing trade deals with countries and trade blocs, he said.

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, prime minister's adviser on finance and planning, told this newspaper that the government was working on a transition strategy, and had repeatedly urged the private sector to prepare through reforms in key sectors.

Its priorities are taking the economy into the trillion-dollar club, diversifying exports, and raising productivity in vital areas, he said. Reforms have been expedited under a "three Rs" philosophy: recovery from fragility, restoration, and reconstruction to acceleration.



- Graduation pushed to November 2029
- 75% of exports rely on LDC benefits
- EU deal remains crucial
- Investment shows little momentum

Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), called the extension "critically important" and said he was very happy the global community had endorsed Bangladesh's submission. "It will now be time for Bangladesh to do everything possible to graduate with momentum and make the process sustainable."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Fishermen repair their nets and prepare a boat at Patenga in Chattogram yesterday before heading back to sea in search of hilsa, as the government's 22-day fishing ban ended at midnight. The ban, imposed on October 8, was aimed at protecting mother hilsa during the breeding season. PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

Ex-airman found dead in Turag, family alleges murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tahsif Souri

The family of former Bangladesh Air Force flight lieutenant KM Tahsif Souri, whose body was recovered from the Turag a day after he went missing, suspects that he was murdered and his body dumped into the river.

His father AKM Enayetul Karim made the comments while speaking to reporters at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue yesterday.

Police, however, said no visible injury marks were found on the body, while the inquest report noted blood coming from his nose. The cause of death remains unclear pending the autopsy report.

SEE PAGE 2 CO 1

Family disputes SRB account over teen's death

Says he was shot dead by plainclothes SRB members

TOUSIF KAIUM

The family of an 18-year-old boy, who was shot dead in Dhaka's Jatrabari on Tuesday evening, alleged that plainclothes members of Special Response Battalion opened fire during an anti-narcotics drive and caused the death.

The following day, Selina Begum, mother of Maruf Hossain, alias Dukhu, filed a murder case with Jatrabari Police Station.

Maruf was killed in the Dhalpur area, where SRB personnel reportedly

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Govt bets Tk 2,320cr on jute revival

12 projects proposed to boost export earnings, seed production

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **SUKANTA HALDER**

- Over 80% of jute seeds still imported
- Jute export earnings fell nearly 24% in 5 years
- 73 of the country's 266 jute mills closed

The government has proposed 12 projects worth Tk 2,320 crore to revive Bangladesh's jute sector, aiming to reduce dependence on imported seeds, boost value-added production and double export earnings by 2031.

The Ministry of Textiles and Jute has proposed completing the projects by June 2030, funded entirely by the government.

Md Jahid Hossain, joint secretary for planning at the ministry, told The Daily Star that the proposals had recently been submitted to the planning ministry for approval.

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