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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed the hope that Bangladesh will be poverty and hunger-free by 2021, the year of golden jubilee of its independence. The PM said this while addressing a mammoth public rally at Chandpur Stadium yesterday. Sheikh Hasina, in her address, sought all-out support of the countrymen for the continuation of the development programmes being carried out by her government. The Premier inaugurated 23 development projects and laid foundation stones of 24 others. She also announced that her government would establish a medical college and special economic zone in the district.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated 6<sup>th</sup> National Comdeca of Bangladesh Scouts at Haimchar Upazila in Chandpur yesterday. On the occasion, the Prime Minister said, the government is going to expand cub scouting in primary schools. Scouts Training Centres are being built in every district, she added. The PM, in her address, praising the role of the scouts in grooming up children, expressed the hope, scouts would take forward the country with the ideals of War of Liberation.

The 11<sup>th</sup> World Autism Awareness Day is being observed in the country. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion. The PM is attending a discussion marking the Day at BICC in the capital this morning. To create awareness about autism, government offices and major installations of the country would be illuminated with blue coloured light for three days from today.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has said, the economy is on track to perform a better GDP growth in the current fiscal over the previous year which earned 7.28 percent. The Minister said this as he was addressing annual conference of Janata Bank in Dhaka yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has said, the supply and price of essential commodities will remain normal during the holy month of Ramadan as the country has sufficient stock of different commodities. The Minister expressed the speculation while exchanging views with the businessmen in his ministry yesterday.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali left Dhaka for Moscow yesterday on a two-day visit to seek Russian support in addressing the Rohingya crisis. The visit is taking place at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

More than 13 lakh students are appearing at the HSC and equivalent examinations from today. The government has taken various measures including lottery to choose question set to prevent question leak.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has said, Bangladesh remains well ahead in women education among SAARC countries and the country will achieve gender equity in university level education by 2024. The Minister said this as he was addressing the convocation of Chittagong Independent University in the Port City yesterday.

Bangladesh U-15 girls' football team emerged champions at the four-nation Jockey Youth Football tournament defeating host Hong Kong by 6-0 goals yesterday. Earlier in the tournament the Bangladeshi girls defeated Iran and Malaysia. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted the team for clinching the victory.

Bangladesh Ambassador to UAE Muhammad Imran speaking to the daily Khaleej Times on the occasion of the Independence Day celebration has said, the workforce from Bangladesh continues to play significant role in the UAE economy. The Bangladesh workers consider the UAE as their second home, the envoy added.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, finished yesterday at 5,747.14 points.

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