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**News Brief**

The month of mourning begins today for the nation to recall once again the most brutal killing in its history and renew the pledge to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty. The killing of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members, friends and relatives on the fateful night of August 15, 1975 is the ugliest chapter of the nation's history.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the Bangabandhu Satellite-1 would play a pivotal role in the development of the country. She said, the people of the country will get various services like education, health and weather forecast from the satellite. The PM was addressing a program marking the successful launching of the satellite and inaugurating the landing stations of the satellite at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over savings certificates to the families of 25 persons, killed or injured in the August 21 grenade attack in 2004 at Ganabhaban yesterday.

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday directed the Dhaka Metropolitan Police to take legal action against those responsible for Sunday's road crash that took the lives of two college students and left several others injured. It also directed the DMP and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority to take action against under-aged drivers and those who drive without licences. The directives came after a meeting at the PMO, presided over by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said, Japan has expressed interest to import skilled manpower from Bangladesh for its textile sector. The Minister said this after a meeting with visiting member of Japan's House of Councillors Hiroshi Yamada and Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Hiroyasu Izumi at his secretariat office yesterday.

The Asian Development Bank has approved an assistance package totaling more than $357 million for a project to develop two power lines in support of Bangladesh’s national target of electricity for all by 2021.The investments comprise a $350 million ADB loan, a $7 million grant from the Japan Fund and a $500,000 grant from the Republic of Korea.

The government has increased home loan for public servants ceiling to maximum Tk 75 lakh with five per cent subsidised interest rate from pervious Tk 1.2 lakh at 10 per cent interest rate. The highest ceiling will be applicable for borrowers from the fifth grade and above in Dhaka and other metropolitan cities and divisional headquarters, according to a notification by the finance division yesterday.

A tripartite agreement was signed yesterday among the government, employers and workers organisations selecting some priority areas to promote decent work and productive employment as well as social dialogue in the country. The three parties will work in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) until 2020.

The High Court Division yesterday directed the government to submit a report within three months about the status of fitness of motor vehicles on the country’s roads after holding a nationwide survey.

Bangladesh Bank unveiled its first half monetary policy for the financial year 2018-19 at its headquarters in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Bank governor Fazle Kabir formally announced the policy.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange settled yesterday at 5,302.64 points.

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