



Sheikh Hasina poses with a group of people with autism at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. The prime minister attended a programme there to mark the Ninth World Autism Awareness Day.

Indian PM visits Saudi Arabia

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Modi is expected to sign trade agreements, including contracts to secure investment for infrastructure projects, and offer security and military cooperation, such as training and joint exercises, the officials said.
India, which imports around 80 percent of its oil needs, is keen to take advantage of low crude prices by signing overseas deals that will help secure supplies to meet its growing demand.
The Saudi Press Agency reported Modi's arrival but gave no immediate details on the visit.
Indian foreign ministry official Shri Mridul Kumar said Modi was also expected to discuss means "to ensure the well being" of 2.96 million Indian expatriates in Saudi Arabia who send over \$10 billion in remittances every year.
The Indian premier's visit is just over seven months after he travelled to another Pakistan ally, the United Arab Emirates, and signed a security cooperation agreement that includes regular meetings between top security advisers.
"It's simple. We have to do everything to deal with Pakistan - use economics, strategy and emotional ties to win the hearts of Islamabad's friends," said Ram Madhav, national general secretary of Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.
Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence in 1947, two of them over Kashmir. New Delhi has long accused Islamabad of sponsoring a separatist movement and militancy in the Himalayan region. Pakistan denies the charge and accuses India of occupying

Kashmir and fomenting trouble in its restive provinces, like Baluchistan.
New Delhi has been frustrated that often its ties with countries have been coloured by concerns about its relationship with Pakistan. One foreign ministry official said the Saudis tended to bring up Pakistan during discussions with India.
Government officials described Modi's diplomatic push as an effort to "de-hyphenate" India from Pakistan, especially as New Delhi tries to play a bigger geopolitical role in Asia to counter China's influence.
Stronger relationships with Pakistan's allies can help India get a more sympathetic hearing on global and regional forums and put pressure on Islamabad to rein in militants.
On Thursday, Saudi Arabia and the United States imposed joint sanctions targeting the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group blamed for the 2008 attacks in Mumbai.
In Washington on Friday, where Modi was attending a summit on nuclear security, Indian government spokesman Vikas Swarup welcomed the move.
"Countries working against terror entities - particularly entities that have targeted India repeatedly - is I think a welcome development," he told reporters.
Until now, India's relationship with Saudi Arabia has been driven primarily by trade and the Indian diaspora in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is India's top energy supplier and home to more than 3.5 million Indian expatriates.
Over the past few years, there has

been some cooperation on security between the two countries, with Riyadh deporting four most wanted fugitives to India.
Modi will look to broaden those ties, with one foreign ministry official saying healthcare, education, religious tourism and labour reforms would also be key talking points.
Still, there are limits to what New Delhi can hope to achieve. The relationship between Pakistan and the Saudis goes back decades, based in their shared Sunni Muslim heritage.
Saudi Arabia has long been a source of financial aid for Islamabad. In 2014, the Saudis gave Pakistan \$1.5 billion as a "gift" to shore up its foreign reserves. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif spent time in political exile in Saudi Arabia in the 2000s, after he was ousted in a military coup.
But Indian officials said the timing was right for Modi's visit, as relations between Riyadh and Islamabad enter a rough patch.
Pakistan declined to provide ships, aircraft and troops to the Saudi-led fight to halt Iranian-allied Houthi rebels in Yemen last year. It has also sought to avoid taking sides in the escalating dispute between Saudi Arabia and Iran.
"Pakistan knows that relations with Saudi have come to a low. That doesn't mean that India can fill that gap," said Zahid Hussain, a former newspaper editor in Pakistan. "But certainly this is part of Modi's diplomatic offensive in the region."

Blast kills two at a workshop in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj
Two workers were killed and four others injured when an air compressor exploded at a machinery workshop in Purba Behkoi Battala area of the district's Sonargaon upazila last night.
The dead are Al Amin, 27, and Haris, 42.
Manjur Kader, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station, said the explosion took place at Ali Raj Repairing Workshop around 10:00pm.
Sources at the fire service headquarters in the capital said the compressor exploded when the workers started to cut it with a blow torch. The blast sparked a fire at the workshop.
On information, five fire engines rushed to the workshop and doused the blaze.
Police later recovered the bodies from the workshop. The four injured received treatment at local clinics.

Death toll
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during a clash between the supporters of two chairman candidates of Kunia UP in Madaripur Sadar upazila on Friday. He died around 5:30am yesterday.
In the second phase, 639 unions went to polls on March 31. The first phase elections were held in 725 UPs on March 22.
Widespread violence and irregularities marked both the phases, according to media reports.
Meanwhile, at least 80 people were injured in several districts on Friday night and yesterday in post-polls violence.
In Bogra, the local administration yesterday imposed Section-144 at a village in Sonatola upazila following a clash between supporters of a member-elect and a defeated rival.
At least eight people were injured in the clash in the morning. The restrictions on public gathering there will be in effect till 10:00am today.
Meanwhile, over 50 Hindu families at Laxmipur village under Dashmina upazila in Patuakhali are passing days amid fear of further attacks by supporters of AL rebel chairman aspirant Iqbal Mahmud Liton.
Iqbal was furious after local AL leader Goutam Roy got the party's nomination to contest the polls in Dashmina UP. During the polling on March 22, Liton's men attacked the houses of Goutam and his neighbours, and vandalised a temple, according to the victims.
The EC suspended voting to three polling stations of the UP.
Although a case was filed with Dashmina Police Station over the incident, no one was arrested, victims alleged.
In Thakurgaon, criminals set fire to a Hindu house on Friday night allegedly over a polls-related feud.
In Sunamganj, at least 40 people were injured in a clash between supporters of a member-elect and a defeated rival in Kalaruka UP of Chhatak upazila on Friday afternoon.
In the same UP, 10 others were injured when the supporters of a member-elect clashed with those loyal to a defeated member candidate around 6:00pm the same day.
In Pabna, at least 20 people were injured in post-election violence in Rannagar area under Faridpur upazila Friday afternoon.
[Our correspondents in the districts concerned contributed to this report]

Family quizzed once again

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Detective Branch (DB) of police investigated the case filed by Yaar Hossain, an employee of Comilla Cantonment Board.
On March 26, the family members, including the parents, were brought to the office of Rab-11 in Comilla city around 3:30am from their Mirzapur village home in Muradnagar upazila.
They went to the village to bury the 19-year-old college student.
The Rab men dropped them at their Comilla Cantonment residence around 5:00am after the interrogation, family members said. Khorshed Alam, commander of Rab-11 in Comilla, confirmed this.
Again in the afternoon the same day, detectives took the family members from the Cantonment house to Kotwali Police Station for interrogation.
Visiting the crime scene on Thursday, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman said the family of the victim should not be harassed in the name of collecting information or by any means.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan at a programme in the capital yesterday said, "The way the investigation is going on, soon we will be able to disclose how the murder was committed and who were involved."
Tonu, a second-year history student of Comilla Victoria Government College and a theatre activist, was found dead in Moinamoti Cantonment area on the night of March 20.
The murder sparked a storm of protest across the country, mostly from students.
In Dhaka, Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) yesterday brought out a procession carrying sticks in Shahbagh area.
At a rally before the procession, Chhatra Union President Lucky Akhter, expressing dissatisfaction over the murder probe, said, "The second autopsy proved that the first one was not done properly. Moreover, evidence of the rape and murder is being destroyed. The incident is being covered up."
The body of Tonu was exhumed on Wednesday for a fresh autopsy as police

say they found the first one not matching their inquest report.
However, the findings of the first autopsy were not made public.
During his visit to Comilla, the NHRC boss also said it was necessary to bring to book those responsible for the inadequacy in the first post-mortem, which was done the day after Tonu's body was found.
The home minister yesterday said, "We are doing a fresh autopsy... the CID had suspicion, so they are conducting autopsy again."
To protest the murder and demanding immediate arrest of the killer(s), Dhaka University students along with students of more than five educational institutions of the capital have called strike at all educational institutions across the country for today.
The Gonojagoron Mancha and 13 left leaning student organisations have expressed solidarity with the strike.
Chhatra Union has called another strike at all schools and colleges in the country tomorrow on the same ground.

Muslim family kicked off US flight

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Two videos filmed by Shebley show the air stewardess and then the pilot asking the family to leave.
Shebley asked the pilot whether it was a "discriminatory" decision. The pilot replied it was a "flight safety issue" but were not given any details.
The Council on American-Islamic Relations sent a letter to United Airlines on the family's behalf demanding disciplinary action against the staff involved.
"We are tired of Muslim-looking passengers being removed from flights for the flimsiest reasons, under a cryptic claim of 'security,'" said CAIR-

Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab said in a statement. "Security means securing passengers, not harassing and humiliating them and booting them off their flight for, of all things, actually asking for security."
Shebley on Wednesday wrote on Facebook: "Shame on you unitedAirlines for profiling my family and me for no reason other than how we look and kicking us off the plane for 'safety flight issues' on our flight to DC for the kids spring break. My three kids are too young to have experienced this."
Another Muslim woman and a Northwestern University chaplain,

Tagera Ahmad, was denied a can of diet coke onboard a United Airlines flight in May as the flight attendant said she "may use it as a weapon".
The airline apologised multiple times to Shebley's family after they got off the plane and were rebooked on another flight.
In a statement to BuzzFeed News, United Airlines said the family was rebooked "on a later flight because of concerns about their child's safety seat, which did not comply with federal safety regulations" and said the airline has "zero tolerance for discrimination".

Money source?

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million stolen from the Bangladesh central bank's US account into the Philippines.
"In casinos we always say, 'Show your money first before you talk,'" Wong told Reuters on Friday in his first interview with an international news organisation.
As for the source of that money? "You don't ask. It's disrespectful."
The 54-year-old denied any involvement in the heist. But he described one of the two high-rolling gamblers as a long-time friend from Macau who in a single week in 2014 ran up a debt of \$10 million at a Manila casino. Wong acted as guarantor until it was paid off.
The other high roller was from Beijing, said Wong, adding that he barely knew him.
Neither high roller is being sought by Philippine police because no complaint has yet been filed against them. It was not known if they were still in the Philippines.
Wong gave a rare peek into a world where Chinese high rollers rack up multi-million-dollar debts at Manila casinos and life-changing sums of money change hands as casually as sticks of gum.
Since appearing at the Senate hearing, his cash-drenched profession has dominated headlines in a country where around a quarter of its 100 million people live on two dollars a day.
At Solaire, Manila's flashiest casino, the minimum bet in the VIP rooms is \$5,000, or as much as a Filipino teacher earns in a year.
Wong's lawyers arrived at the Philippine central bank on Thursday to surrender a suitcase packed with \$4.63 million in cash.
This fulfilled Wong's earlier vow to pay back what was left of \$5 million in stolen money he had received via Philrem, a foreign exchange broker.
Another 1 billion pesos (\$21 million) of the stolen funds ended up in a Philippine bank account of Eastern Hawaii, a company run by Wong,

according to a criminal complaint filed by the Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).
Of that money, said Wong, 550 million pesos was used to buy gambling chips for clients. The rest he has promised to pay back.
"Give me 15 days to a month. I will pay," he said.
The rest of the \$81 million went to Solaire casino and another junket operator, according to the AMLC complaint. In the Philippines, casinos are outside the purview of the anti-money laundering laws.
Dressed casually in jeans and a polo shirt and showing no signs of wealth, Wong sat in the backroom of a Chinese restaurant in Manila and spoke of his own improbable rise. A stocky bodyguard stood nearby.
Speaking mostly in slang-laden Filipino, Wong described how he was an immigrant from Hong Kong who arrived in the Philippines as a boy. He later got rich and befriended many of the country's powerful politicians - including two one-time presidential contenders.
Wong said his mother brought him to Manila when he was 11. He still holds Chinese citizenship and said his real name is Kam Sin Wong.
He lived in Manila with his father, who worked at a tobacco company owned by a wealthy grand uncle. Wong worked there too after dropping out of college and at a construction firm in the US protectorate of Guam that his uncle also owned.
Wong later ran a T-shirt factory and a handful of restaurants in Manila, which allowed him to start developing a wide circle of sometimes influential friends.
He first entered the gambling industry as a junket operator at a casino resort at Clark, the former US airbase north of Manila.
With partners, he raised one billion pesos to build what is now known as Eastern Hawaii Leisure Company in the sleepy town of Cagayan in the northern Philippines.

Extremists getting nuke

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agenda as possible while Republican front runner Donald Trump garners attention with unorthodox calls for South Korea and Japan to be nuclear armed.
Such utterances, Obama said, "tell us the person who made the statements doesn't know much about foreign policy or nuclear policy or the Korean peninsula or the world generally."
But Obama nodded at his own failures too, saying poor relations with Russia -- the world's other major hoarder of nukes -- had hobbled his hopes to reduce conventional nuclear stockpiles.
In a characteristic power play, Russian President Vladimir Putin had pointedly boycotted the summit.
"My preference would be to bring down further our nuclear arsenal," said Obama, adding that he had approached Putin in the hopes of negotiating another arms reduction treaty.
"Because of the vision that he's been pursuing of emphasizing military might over development inside of Russia and diversifying the economy, we have not seen the kind of progress that I would have hoped for with Russia."
Instead, Obama used the summit to push for technical measures to safeguard fissile materials and limit the civilian use of the most dangerous uranium and plutonium.
He also shifted the focus on to North Korea's provocative nuclear tests, the recently agreed nuclear deal on Iran and above all the threat from the Islamic State group.
That threat has loomed large over the two-day summit, amid revelations that the Islamic State group carried out video surveillance on a top Belgian nuclear scientist.
"ISIL has already used chemical weapons, including mustard gas, in Syria and Iraq," Obama said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.
"There is no doubt that if these madmen ever got their hands on a nuclear bomb or nuclear material, they most certainly would use it to continue to kill as many innocent people as possible."

Obama said about 2,000 tons of nuclear materials are stored around the world at civilian and military facilities, but some of them are not properly secured.
"Just the smallest amount of plutonium -- about the size of an apple -- would kill and injure hundreds of thousands of innocent people," he said.
"It would be a humanitarian, political, economic and environmental catastrophe with global ramifications for decades," he added.
"It would change our world."
The nuclear security summit comes in the wake of attacks in Paris and Brussels that have killed dozens and exposed Europe's inability to thwart destabilizing attacks or track Islamic State operatives returning from Iraq and Syria.
"As ISIL is squeezed in Syria and Iraq, we can anticipate it lashing out elsewhere," he said. "We need to do even more to prevent the flow of foreign terrorist fighters."
North Korea's decision to carry out the latest in a series of missile launches during the summit, drew yet more attention to its continued testing of nuclear devices and ballistic missiles.
The summit opened Thursday with Obama trying to forge consensus among East Asian leaders on how to respond to Pyongyang.
Obama also used the summit as a chance to hold "candid" talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping over Beijing's alleged military buildup in the South China Sea.
US officials have expressed concern that China's actions in the South China Sea are inconsistent with Xi's pledge at the White House last year not to pursue militarization of the hotly contested and strategically vital waterway.
China has argued that the pledge was narrowly focused on one portion of the contested waters.
China claims virtually all the South China Sea despite conflicting claims by Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines, and has built up artificial islands in the area in recent months, including some with airstrips.

Ronaldo breaks

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Yet, Karim Benzema quickly levelled before Ronaldo fired home five minutes from time after Madrid captain Sergio Ramos had seen the 21st red card of his career.
The visitors' hopes of a famous win looked to have gone when Ramos was finally given his marching orders for a second booking after chopping down Suarez seven minutes from time.
Yet, just two minutes later Ronaldo struck the winner as he controlled Bale's cross to the far post before slotting under Bravo.
Victory reduces Barca's lead over third-placed Madrid to seven points with seven games remaining, but

Atletico Madrid closed the gap on the leaders to six points with a 5-1 thrashing of Real Betis earlier on Saturday.
There was an emotive homage to Cruyff before kick-off with over 90,000 fans holding up a display reading "Thank you Johan" alongside a Barca jersey with the number 14 the Dutch great adorned during his playing career.
Once the action got underway, Barca started by far the better and only an incredible miss by Luis Suarez let Madrid off the hook on 10 minutes.
Neymar unselfishly squared for his Uruguayan strike partner, but Suarez failed to make any connection from his low cross with the goal at his mercy