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News brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated the five-day long 136th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Conference yesterday evening at South Plaza of the Parliament building. The Premier released a commemorative postage stamp and also launched IPU TV for the first time from Bangladesh. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon IPU leaders to work together against all social disparities like poverty and malnutrition along with the vices of militancy and terrorism to make the world an abode of mutual compassion.

President Md Abdul Hamid yesterday stressed the need for exchange of technology and training at the army level between Bangladesh and India for enhancing professional standard of the forces. The President was talking to new Indian army chief General Bipin Rawat who made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban .

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have given separate messages on the eve of 10th World Autism Awareness Day hoping that the day's observation would help build further awareness on autism and improve the condition of autistic children. President in his message said autistic children have the equal rights and privileges to grow and contribute to society. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message thanked all persons involved in the cause of autism.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, also the Chair of the 136th IPU assembly, urged the Japanese lawmaker to motivate Japanese entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh's special economic zones, producing jute products, readymade garments, power and energy and leather sector. The Speaker said this while Japanese delegation headed by its House of Representative Shunchi Suzuki called on Speaker at her office. The visiting delegations of Belarus and Cuba also met Speaker separately at her office.

Speakers at the 136th assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Dhaka yesterday stressed the need for increasing women's participation in politics, empowering girls and making parliaments more gender-sensitive ones. The IPU women parliamentarians from different countries noted that some 82 percent of women MPs are being subjected to psychological violence across the world.

United Nations (UN) Under Secretary General of Department of Field Support Atul Khare has highly lauded the outstanding contribution of Bangladesh to the field of peacekeeping. He said this while inaugurating a two-day workshop at Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in New York.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Economic Adviser Dr Moshir Rahman yesterday in Chittagong said that Bangladesh is economically progressing day by day. The Adviser said If we can get 10 to 15 percent foreign investment here in Bangladesh in future, we can touch the double digit GDP growth soon.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Ambassador Masud Bin Momen at the UN Headquarters on Friday said that Bangladesh has been working tirelessly for the last eight years to ensure the rights and wellbeing of those affected by autism and other neuro-developmental disorders.

Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sharif yesterday said the authorities are giving emphasis on the maximum use of land to make land ownership safe and sustainable. The Minister said this at a discussion at BIAM auditorium in the city, marking the 'Land Service Week'.

Saima Wazed Hossain has been designated as 'WHO Champion for Autism' in South-East Asia Region. Announcing her name before the World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, the UN health agency yesterday said as WHO Champion, she will be supporting its "advocacy" for inclusion of the issue in national policies.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki has said the present government has been working for the "inclusive development" of women and ensuring their equal rights. The State Minister was delivering her keynote statement at a side event under the ongoing 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday.

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations of 2017 begins across the country today. A total of 1,183,686 examinees from 8,864 educational institutions are taking part in the examinations. Of the total candidates, 635,697 are male and 547,989 female.

DSEX, the prime index of the DSE, settled yesterday at 5719.61 points.

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