**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 104/2017  **Date: Sunday, 28 May 2017** | **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**  Fax: 9540553/9540026  E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  [piddhaka@yahoo.com](mailto:piddhaka@yahoo.com)  Web: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with other heads of government will attend a three-day long International Conference on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Cooperation Program "Sixty Years and Beyond - Contributing to Development Program" to be held from May 30- June 1 in Vienna, the capital of Austria . The Prime Minister will leave for Vienna tomorrow.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the uniform Value Added Tax (VAT) will remain unchanged at 15 percent on goods and services in line with the new VAT and Supplementary Duty Act-2012 to be effective from July 1.

The government would bring the entire power sector under prepaid metering system by 2021 as it would play a significant role to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of this resource.“We have a plan to introduce prepaid meter in the country against regular billing meter system, aimed at ensuring accountability and transparency in the use and distribution of power,” State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said.

Bangladesh has generated 9,358 MW of electricity yesterday night, a new milestone in country’s history of power generation. Power Development Board sources informed this.

Sri Lanka's Lakdhanavi, the power generation arm of LTL Holdings, will construct a 114 Mega Watt (mw) thermal power plant in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) awarded the contract to the company recently.  The Company says the project will require an investment of USD 100 million approximately.

The United Nations (UN) wants Bangladesh to come up with positive ideas on how the country can 'conserve' and 'sustainably use' ocean resources staying away from pollution."We're asking you to come to the conference with positive ideas about how we're going to conserve and sustainably use ocean resources," UN General Assembly President Peter Thomson told media ahead of the Ocean Conference. The high-level UN conference titled 'Ocean Conference' to sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources will be held at the UN Headquarters in New York from June 5 to June 9.

The global leaders lauded activities taken for overall disaster management of disaster-prone Bangladesh. They also praised Dhaka Declaration held in Bangladesh in 2015. The MPs of different countries including Japan, Italy, European Union, Thailand, Mexico, and Australia praised initiatives of Bangladesh taken for protecting disable people. The world leaders made the appraisal on the 2nd day session of a conference titled ‘Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction-2017’. Some 4,000 participants and delegations from over 180 countries attended this 5th edition of the Global Platform which was held in Cancun, Mexico. Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya led the Bangladesh delegation in the conference.

As part of the move to expand diplomatic activities across the world, the government is going to open a new office of the consul general in Toronto, Canada, and reopen another in Sydney, Australia. Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently gave her consent to the opening and reopening of consulates in Toronto of Canada and Sydney of Australia.

Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) has issued licenses for 14 private economic zones till date so that they can carry out economic activities, generate employment, and create investment facilities. BEZA Executive Chairman Paban Chowdhury said final licenses have been issued to four private operators of the 14 economic zones while the rest are in preliminary stages.

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