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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for Vienna today to attend the International Conference on the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Sixty Years and Beyond - Contributing to Development Program' to be held from May 30-June 1. Bangladesh will discuss how effectively the global terrorism can be fought apart from discussing trade, investment and other bilateral issues during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Austria tour.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$ 616 million to Bangladesh to implement a project for enhancing the coverage and reliability of its power system and improving the efficiency of the distribution network. A loan agreement to this end will be signed today afternoon at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The 16th session of the 10th Jatiya Sangsad (JS) is going to begin at 11am tomorrow. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith will place in parliament the national budget for the next fiscal year, 2017-'18, on June 1 (Thursday).

The International Day of United Nations Peace-keepers is being observed today in Bangladesh along with other countries across the globe in a befitting manner. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion and greeted all including the members of the armed forces and police working in the US peacekeeping mission.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday said the government is formulating a cyber law, online policy and broadcast law to give institutional protection to the all online and electronic media. The Minister said this while speaking as Chief Guest at a seminar titled 'State of Journalism in Bangladesh within the Context of Freedom of Expression' at Bangladesh Press Institute (PIB) in Dhaka.

State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid yesterday directed the Power Cell to conduct a survey on how the consumers get happy with the electricity service. The Minister was addressing a coordination meeting of the Power Division in the city.

The much-awaited 5.2-kilometre long Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Flyover in the port city is expected to be opened to traffic by 10 Ramadan. The decision was taken at a meeting with Chairman of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Abdus Salam in the chair at his office on Saturday.

Inflow of remittances is picking up again as expatriates sent home US\$807.77 million in the first 19 days of May, which is \$115.76 million up from the same period of the previous month.

Health and Family Planning Minister Mohammad Nasim on Saturday said another 500 beds will be added at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) by the June next year as part of its expansion work. The Minister also directed the NICVD authorities to conduct all types of blood tests free of cost of the patients who take admission at cost-free wards of the institute.

The implementation rate of the Revised Annual Development Programme (RADP) during the July-April period of the outgoing fiscal year far better than the last fiscal year's as it reached 54.56 percent with an expenditure of Tk 65,083 crore. The RADP implementation rate during the July-April period of the last fiscal year was 50.17 percent with an overall expenditure of Tk 47,115 crore.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnu yesterday said the government is working to create employment opportunities for the youths through enhancing their skills. "The country has a significant number of young population. We have to educate them with IT skills to ensure their better access to job markets," he told a discussion titled "Empowerment of youths for works" at CIRDAP auditorium.

The government is going to send a delegation to Sweden to identify expatriate Bangladeshis who are staying illegally in that country and to bring them back to Bangladesh. The three-member delegation, comprising officials from the foreign ministry, the Security Services Division of the home ministry and the Special Branch (SB) of police, will soon visit Sweden under a project named 'Identification Mission Project', taken up by the Swedish government.

The prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,372.86.

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