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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought enhanced International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assistance for Bangladesh and other developing nations in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through peaceful use of nuclear technology. The Premier, however, reaffirmed Bangladesh commitment to working with IAEA and other international partners in ensuring peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for taking initiatives by the developed countries to resolve the global migration and refugee problems, offering Bangladesh assistance in this regard. "The global migration and refugee problems cannot be resolved only through military power; rather it should be resolved through discussions and dialogues," she said while delivering her Joint Media Outreach statement with Austrian Federal Chancellor Christian Kern after a bilateral talks.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the expatriate Bangladeshis to extend their all-out cooperation in keeping Bangladeshis away from the twin vices of militancy and terrorism. "Making suicide attacks in the name of Islam and killing innocent people have become a fashion these days... I seek your all-out cooperation in keeping away the people of Bangladesh from this evil and sick process," she said. The Prime Minister was speaking at a civic reception accorded to her by the Austrian chapter of Awami League at Grand Hotel in Vienna on Monday.

Bangladesh and Austria yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Foreign Office Consultation (FOC). The MoU was signed after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern at the latter's office.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to make united efforts to wage anti-tobacco campaigns across the country to have healthy population to build a developed and prosperous Bangladesh. They came up with the call in separate messages issued on the eve of "World No Tobacco Day" 2017.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq yesterday told Parliament that the government will soon form 41 women and children repression prevention tribunals across the country. "A total of 158,869 (some 1.59 lakh) cases were pending with the country's women and children repression prevention tribunals on March 31, 2017," he said replying to a starred question.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in Austria, is receiving the updates about the overall situation of the cyclonic storm. He said this while talking to reporters at the Secretariat.

Bangladesh, India and Nepal are preparing to make the Motor Vehicles Agreement for regulation of passenger, personal and cargo vehicular traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN MVA) operational without Bhutan, as the Himalayan kingdom excluded itself from the sub-regional initiative after the upper chamber of its parliament refused to ratify it. Since Bhutan has officially informed all the other three countries to go ahead and that it will join later after completing its internal procedures, there is no problem for Bangladesh, India and Nepal to go ahead with the initiative.

Bangladesh and Denmark yesterday signed an agreement to set up 16 One-Stop-Crisis Centres at district-level public medical college hospitals across the country. State Minister for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki and Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Mikael Hemniti Winther signed the deal on behalf of their respective governments. Denmark has allocated Tk 27.6 core for the continuation of the project, which is part of the Denmark-Bangladesh Country Programme.

State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid yesterday said the government is actively contemplates to explore local coal by protecting the nature. "We will develop the Dhigipara coal field using underground mining method with more concentration on environment as well as welfare of local peoples," said the State Minister while addressing a deal signing programme on feasibility study of Dhigipara Coal Field at hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

Inclusive business can play a vital role for success in the country's readymade garment (RMG), said State Minister for Labour and Employment Md Mujibul Haque yesterday. He came up with the observation while addressing a seminar on inclusive business policy as the Chief Guest. Urging the country's garment owners to employ more and more inclusive workforce, the State Minister said, "Bangladesh have already enacted the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013."

The prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,373.26 points.

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