The International Conference on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond — Contributing to Development, taking place in Vienna, Austria from 30 May to 1 June 2017. The conference is an opportunity for Member States, United Nations agencies and other partners to explore ways of working together even more effectively for the benefit of the people we serve.  Our Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina kindly attended in this august gathering and made a speech on the success story and progress in economy of Bangladesh in this occasion.

Hon’ble PM H.E. Sheikh Hasina said in the conference, IAEA holds a special place in Bangladesh’s development and energy security. It is one of the first intergovernmental organizations that granted membership to Bangladesh in 1972, immediately after our war of liberation. She called references to this organization from Late Dr. MA Wazed Miah, an eminent nuclear scientist who used to visit IAEA as leader of the Bangladesh Delegation in the IAEA General Conference.

Hon’ble PM H.E. Sheikh Hasina extended her felicitations to all Member States and the IAEA on the 60th anniversary of the IAEA. She thanks IAEA for its support to Bangladesh in its development over the last 45 years. She mentioned, Bangladesh today is regarded as a model country for its socio-economic achievement, with an economic growth rate of 7.24% this year. She told “Science, technology and innovation played a major role in our achievement. A group of Bangladeshi scientists deciphered the complete genetic code of jute with a great success. We have also devised “science diplomacy” to ensure partnership for sustainable economic development through knowledge generation and sharing. We aim to make full use of science, technology and innovation to achieve **‘Digital Bangladesh’**. Bangladesh has recently stepped into nuclear power generation programme. We regard nuclear energy as a safe, environment friendly and economically viable source of electricity ” generation to meet the ever increasing demand of electricity of 160 million people of the country and thus unlock our development potentials through enhanced productivity and sustained growth. The Russian supported Rooppur power plant will produce 2400Mega Watts (MW) electricity by two reactors and aim is to generate at least 4000 MW of electricity from nuclear source by 2030”.

She said, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) has developed 92 improved varieties of 13 crops using nuclear technology and other advanced techniques. BINA scientist Dr. Mirza Mofazal Islam, Chief Scientific Officer and Head, Plant Breeding Division, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), Mymensingh was one of the Speakers for Food Security program in this conference. It is noted that Dr. Mirza received "Outstanding Achievement Award" from FAO-IAEA of the United Nations in 2014 for the contribution in food security for the development of high yielding and stress tolerant crop varieties.

Hon’ble PM H.E. Sheikh Hasina told: Capacity building and transfer of technologies are much needed by the developing countries to achieve SDGs. She would also call upon the developed countries to help maintain IAEA resources assured and sufficient for the Technical Cooperation (TC) programmes and IAEA to strengthen its efforts to help member states particularly the LDGs and developing countries to implement the SDGs. In conclusion, she mentioned, Bangladesh is solidly anchored at its principled position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Bangladesh remains committed to working with IAEA and other international partners in ensuring due diligence of the peaceful use of nuclear technology.