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**News brief**

Bangladesh and Poland yesterday agreed to establish Joint Working Group for migration of skilled workers and maritime economy. The agreement came during meetings of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam and Polish Minister for Family, Labour and Social Welfare Mrs. Elzbieta Rafalska and Deputy Minister for Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation Grzegorz Witkowski respectively. During the meetings, they discussed various issues of bilateral cooperation with especial focus on migration of Bangladeshi skilled workforce and Polish cooperation in blue economy.

The auction of the 4G spectrum will take place after the announcement of the national budget for next fiscal year, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said. The Minister spoke after a meeting with Sigve Brekke, president and CEO of Telenor Group, which owns the majority stakes in Bangladesh's largest mobile phone operator Grameenphone. The Telenor Group Chief met with the Finance Minister on a courtesy call on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings at Washington in the US.

The recognition of Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasa as equivalent to master's degree was a commitment of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which she made years before, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said journalists yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said that all political parties, including the BNP, would take part in the next general election by 2019 under the present government. He told a memorial meeting on national leader Mohiuddin Ahmed at Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium at National Museum yesterday.

Urging BNP to take preparation for the next general election, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim said the polls will be held in line with the country's constitution. He said while speaking at the national convention of Bangladesh Deshiya Chikitshak Samity (BDCS) at Engineers Institution auditorium yesterday.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday said only pro-liberation political forces would exist in country in future as days for the defeated forces had gone due to their anti-nation stances. "Razakars and their allies are enemies of the nation. So, they should not anymore get any space in the politics of independent Bangladesh," the Minister said while speaking at a human chain in the city.

Bangladesh hopes to make up through sub-regional cooperation including BIMSTEC after the failure of SAARC, Gowher Rizvi, the International Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister said. He was speaking at the opening of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) meeting in Dhaka at the Bay of Bengal grouping's headquarters.

Nearly 50 tonnes of fish have died so far in several haors (water bodies) of Sunamganj district as the oxygen level in the water fell due to formation of ammonia gas, said the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The water quality in the haors is not normal as ammonia gas has formed there due to rotten green paddy amid flashflood that killed huge fish, ducks, said Fisheries and Livestock Joint Secretary Syed Mehdi Hasan on Friday.

DSEX, The prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed the week at 5,521.66 points.

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