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**News brief**

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said discussions with political parties will play an important role in forming a strong Election Commission (EC). Abdul Hamid made the remarks yesterday during a discussion with an 11-member BNP delegation, led by its chairperson Khaleda Zia, at Bangabhaban.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday expressed his firm belief that Bangladesh would be able to achieve many targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) before 2030, saying the country is moving forward by overcoming all challenges. "The government is tirelessly working to achieve the SDGs . . . poverty alleviation should no more be a continuous process, rather it must be sustainable," he said while addressing the inaugural session of the media training workshop as the chief guest at Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) auditorium in the city.

Some 81 power stations with a generation capacity of 10,353 megawatts (MW) have been set up during the last eight years with a view to materializing the Vision-2021. The government has undertaken steps to make the country self-reliant in power production and now the generation capacity reached to 15,295 MW. Presently, 78 per cent people of the country have their access to electricity usage," Director General (DG) of Power Cell under Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry Engineer Mohammad Hossain said. He said the government has earmarked to bring some 465 out of 486 upazilas of the country under power coverage by 2018 to fulfill its commitment to bring all people under electricity facilities by 2021.

Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday said the government is setting up 50 technical training centers in 50 upazilas to improve the standard of migration process. "This will develop at least 5 lakh skilled manpower annually in the country," he said at a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city on the occasion of International Migrants Day-2016.

The government will soon introduce One-Stop Service (OSS) for foreign investors by enacting a law to bring together all agencies concerned for providing necessary registration procedures and utility services to new business ventures. The move is to help foreign investors get faster services such as trade licence, land registration, import procedures, clearance of financing proposals, tax measures, comfortable visa regime and work permits for overseas employees. Under the proposed law, different ministries and agencies concerned will be obliged to ensure necessary services for the foreign investors within a timeframe.

The technical glitch in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's aircraft was caused by "human factor" though it is yet to be confirmed whether it was sabotage, civil aviation minister Rashed Khan Menon said yesterday. The minister made this disclosure while speaking at a press briefing at his ministry.

Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossen yesterday said a 71-storey twin tower will be constructed at Purbachal as a symbol of independence. The minister said this while addressing a seminar organized by Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IE,B).

The government is going to set up Bangabandhu Eco Park on the bank of the Kazibachha river between Mathabhanga and Jabusa areas in Batiaghata upazila in Khulna. A five-member team, led by parliament member of Khulna-1 constituency Panchanan Biswas, visited the proposed area for the eco park on Saturday. Eco Park will be built on some 35.86 acres of land.

A move is underway to establish Bangabandhu Military Museum modernising the existing Military Museum in the capital's Bijoy Sarani area, aiming to collect, preserve and exhibit the real history of the Liberation War. The museum will be established aiming to showcase the immense courage and bravery of the people of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

The office of Prime Minister has taken step to save river Karnaphuli, the lifeline of country's economy recently. The office has formed a high powered committee headed by the Minister for Public Works and Housing Engineer Mosharraf Hossain MP to prepare a master plan to save the Karnaphuli on December 15. The committee was asked to prepare a master plan to save the river Karnaphuli within next three months and the government will take action as per the master plan.

Assuring Bangladesh's support to India on the issue of tackling terror, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said Pakistan needs to be isolated for "harbouring terrorists and supporting terror acts." He said this in an interview with Press Trust of India (PTI).

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), settled yesterday at 4,938.58.

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