



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
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**News Brief**

The candidates can conduct campaign from today at their respective constituencies as the Election Commission yesterday started allocating election symbols. As per rules, the candidates will continue their campaign till midnight on December 28, ahead of 32 hours of voting day slated for December 30. The Election Commission has already directed the executive magistrates and law enforcement officers to stay alert to prevent any untoward situation centering polls during the campaign.

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda has urged the judicial magistrates to perform their duty neutrally in the upcoming general election. The CEC made the urge while addressing a three-day briefing for the judicial magistrates at Nirbachan Bhaban in the city yesterday. The CEC asked magistrates to perform electoral duties applying their merits irrespective of any party, views and individuals. He said, the Election Commission wants to hold a credible election as it is accountable to the nation, the constitution, political parties as well as the country's people.

To maintain law and order situation during the election campaign, a total of 122 Electoral Inquiry Committee will remain in the field of voting where candidates and their supporters could complain on any issues regarding the violation of electoral offences and code of conduct. Moreover, more than 600 judicial magistrates will perform their duty from December 29 to January 1 to ensure suitable atmosphere during the polls.

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will begin her election campaign from Gopalganj tomorrow through paying homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his mausoleum at Tungipara in Gopalganj. The Premier will place wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu and joined a munajat and offering of fateha at 12.30pm on the day. She will address a public rally at the Sheikh Lutfar Rahman Government Degree College ground at Kotalipara in the district at 2.30pm.

Heads of missions of different European countries, in a joint statement in Dhaka yesterday, urged all political parties to refrain from violence centering the upcoming general election. The envoys called upon all political parties to meet their democratic responsibilities. They also urged the law enforcement agencies to strictly adhere to the rule of law.

NBR has honoured the nine best VAT paying business entities at the national level and 135 companies and institutions at district level, including the 21 from the greater Dhaka. Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed over the VAT Award to the company representatives at a function marking National VAT Day and VAT Week 2018 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. Addressing the event, the Finance Minister said the government is going to backtrack from imposing 15 per cent uniform VAT rate and is likely to impose three different rates.

The electricity generation capacity reached to 20,430 MW this year bringing more than 91 per cent people under electricity coverage. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid informed this while talking to media yesterday. The present government's vision is to supply uninterrupted electricity to all citizens by 2021 with a view to turning Bangladesh into a middle income country, he added.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 0.19 per cent, or 10.53 points, to close at 5,295.69 points yesterday.

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