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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the newly-inducted military officers to remain always alert for safeguarding the country's hard-earned independence and sovereignty keeping in mind the cost the nation had to pay for it. The President made the instruction at the 'President's Parade 2018' of 76th BMA Long Course officers at Bangladesh Military Academy at Bhatiari in Chattogram yesterday. The President, also the armed forces supreme commander, simultaneously asked the newly commissioned officers to be the partners of common people in their "happiness-sorrow and smile-cry". Referring to Bangladesh Army's outstanding contribution in various development activities, he hoped that the newly commissioned officers would establish ideals through their works which others to follow.

Begum Rokeya Day is being observed across the country today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion. In separate messages on the eve of the day, the President and the Prime Minister recalled with respect the contribution of Begum Rokeya to the social reforms and development of women. The Prime Minister is attending a function marking the day at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital this morning.

The Election Commission yesterday started sending election materials except ballot papers to the regional and district level election offices across the country to hold the upcoming national parliamentary elections in a smooth, free and fair manner. Initially, the election materials were sent to 32 districts of Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barishal Division while the election materials for the rests of the districts of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chattogram and Sylhet Division will be sent today.

The Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, yesterday wrote an open letter to the party 'rebel candidates' requesting them to withdraw their candidature and to concentrate in all-out efforts to make AL-led grand alliance victorious in the upcoming polls. "The sacrifice, efforts, sincerity and all that you have done for the party are under my consideration," she said on the eve of the last day of withdrawal of nomination papers today.

The Election Commission yesterday turned down BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's appeals against cancellation of her nomination papers by returning officers, declaring her candidacies invalid. The five-member Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda, announced the decision after hearing on her three appeals.

Display of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) began in Khulna-2 constituency yesterday as voters of the area will cast their votes with EVM during the 11th national parliament election. Deputy Commissioner who is also the returning officer of Khulna Md. Helal Uddin at a view-exchange meeting said, EVM will be displayed everyday at four centres of ward-22 in the city.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said the government would take action against those involved in the recent feud on Tongi Biswa Ijtema ground. The Biswa Ijtema will be held after the national elections. The people of the country are now waiting for the polls, he said this while visiting the Ijtema ground and exchanging views with senior Tabligh Jamaat personnel at Tongi.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, closed at 5,332.81 points on Thursday.

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