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**News Brief**

The ruling Awami League continues the sale of nomination papers among aspirant candidates for the 11th parliamentary elections amid festivity. Some 3,200 nomination forms were sold in the last two days. Jatiya Party starts selling nomination papers today. Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh will distribute nomination forms from tomorrow.

Awami League General Secretary and Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, the next parliamentary election will lead the country's democracy one step forward. The Minister said this as he was talking to media after placing wreath at Shaheed Nur Hossain Square marking Shaheed Nur Hossain Day in the capital yesterday.

The Election Commission is contemplating to deploy the army in those centres of the forthcoming parliamentary election where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be used. EC Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said this to journalists at the Nirbachan Bhaban in Agargaon yesterday. Prior to deployment, the army will be imparted training in this regard. The EC Secretary also informed, a fair on EVMs at the national level will be held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on November 12. The EC has invited the political parties to join the fair, he said adding that if any political party wants to examine the EVMs by their technical team, they can do it.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury met British Prime Minister Theresa May at the latter's office yesterday on the sidelines of the Women MPs of the World Conference organized by the House of Commons. While exchanging views, the Speaker thanked the British PM for inviting her in the conference.

The Dhakeswari National Temple Committee thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for recovering one and a half bigha land of the Dhakeswari National Temple. Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad arranged a press conference in the capital yesterday thanking the Prime Minister on the occasion.

The much-awaited direct train service on Dhaka-Panchagarh rail route has begun aiming to ease communications with country's distal Northern district. The train formally began its maiden journey from the Panchagarh Railway Station yesterday morning.

The government has set a target of installing 72.81 lakh smart prepaid metres across the country under the Seventh Five Year Plan through various power distribution companies. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid informed this while talking to media in Dhaka yesterday. The State Minister also said the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has decided to improve the load management system through reducing system loss and ensuring easier services.

About 68.3 per cent of the total young educated voters have expressed their satisfaction over the initiatives taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a research group came up with its report on a study on youngsters' political views. Researcher Dr Abul Hasnat Milton said this revealing the findings of the survey made by an organization named CallReady at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo has said his country is keen to contribute to socio-economic development of Bangladesh. The Chinese Envoy made the remarks while speaking at the Charm of Chinese Award Giving Ceremony in Dhaka yesterday. China Radio International Bangla, in association with the Daily Amader Shomoy, arranged the contest.

Ambassador of United Nations Secretary General for Rohingya Affairs Cristin S Bargner visited the Shalbagan Rohingya Camp of Cox's Bazar yesterday. During the visit, the Ambassador exchanged views with the Rohingya leaders.

**Fazle Rabbi**

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