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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Bangladesh would go ahead with honour and dignity which it has earned over the years and urged people to support the continued development spree of the country. The Prime Minister was addressing a mammoth election campaign meeting at Sylhet Government Alia Madrasa Ground yesterday. The PM, in her address, pointed out her government's initiatives for overall development of greater Sylhet and said development of Awami League government also touched Sylhet with people in the remote corners of the region getting access to electricity and opportunity to make their fortune.

Earlier in the morning yesterday, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after arriving in Sylhet offered ziarat at the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA), Hazrat Shah Paran (RA) and Hazrat Gazi Borhanuddin (RA). The PM recited the Holy Quran and offered Fateha and munajat seeking continued peace and progress of the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to the independent Palestine state. The Premier said, Bangladesh will continue its support to the cause of Palestine and will always stand by its people. The Prime Minister made the remarks when Grand Mufti of Al Aqsa Mosque and State of Palestine Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed Hossain paid a courtesy call on her at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is going to Rangpur today in the third leg of her election tour. The Awami League chief will address two election rallies of her party at Taraganj Degree College Ground at 10 am and Pirganj High School ground at 2 pm.

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda has asked the election officers and members of law enforcement agencies to carry out their duties with professionalism, sincerity and impartiality during the upcoming parliamentary election. The CEC made the directive while speaking at a views-exchange meeting in Mymensingh yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken many initiatives for women empowerment in all sectors. He said this while addressing a women's rally at Janata Bazar of Kabirhat upazila in Noakhali yesterday. The Minister also said, a good number of women are now holding important posts while the rural women are getting various benefits, like widow and old age allowances.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Robert Miller has hoped that all parties of Bangladesh would shun the path of violence to ensure a peaceful election. All parties should follow the peaceful process in election campaign and ensure people's rights of franchise on the Election Day, he added. The Ambassador came up with the remarks while addressing a programme held at the TSC Auditorium of Dhaka University yesterday.

The final of the countrywide Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman National Under-17 Gold Cup Football Tournament between Rajshahi Division and Rangpur Division will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka today. President Md. Abdul Hamid will attend the closing ceremony of the tournament and distribute the trophies and medals.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange closed at 5,265.32 points on Thursday.

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