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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while talking to officials and employees at her office yesterday, on the last working day of her current tenure has said, "I don't think about how I will enjoy the post, rather it's a matter of consideration to me that how much I can engage myself in the people's welfare." The Prime Minister also said, "I'm fortunate that we came to power for the second time. So, our development projects are now visible. The living standard of the people has been changed up to the rural level during our tenure."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, "We want every political party to contest in the election. It's their right and people will give vote according to their choice, so every political party should conduct their election campaign freely and fairly." The Prime Minister said this while wrapping up the election campaign in five districts through video-conferencing from her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhaka.

The Election Commission has imposed a ban on election campaign from 8:00 AM this morning following the Representation of the People Order which prohibits holding of any procession, meeting, rally and showdown 48 hours ahead of the start of voting and subsequent 48 hours after the voting ends. The candidates have been engaged in hectic electioneering to woo voters since the election campaign officially began on December 10.

The 11th parliamentary election to be held on 30 December is going to be widely observed by the foreign observers and journalists. The Foreign Ministry said this in a press release yesterday. A total of 188 foreign observers of nine international organisations and a dozen foreign missions in Bangladesh and 56 foreign journalists are set to observe the upcoming polls, the press release added.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called upon all stakeholders to ensure an environment free of violence, intimidation and coercion before, during and after the general election in Bangladesh. The UN Chief made the urge in a tweet message.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller called on Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda at Nirbachan Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The US Envoy talking to media after the meeting said, "I have discussed with the Commission about a free, fair and peaceful election". British High Commissioner Alison Blake while visiting Sylhet yesterday called upon all to facilitate a free, fair, credible and peaceful election in Bangladesh.

The Election Commission has set up a control room at the Nirbachan Bhaban in Dhaka in order to supervise the polls throughout the country. The members of all forces have already started their work at the control room.

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday imposed restrictions on mobile banking services from 5 PM today to 5 PM Sunday, the voting day of 11th parliamentary election, to check the influence of money on voters. As per the directives of the Election Commission, the central bank asked the mobile banking service providers to halt all sorts of transactions during the timeframe.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have expressed profound shock at the death of Almas Khatun, mother of Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam. Almas Khatun died at the age of 94 in Cox'sbazar yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange added 0.68 per cent or 36.46 points to close at 5,385.64 points yesterday.

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