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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged researchers and scientists to come up with new varieties and methods in agriculture and livestock sectors to offset the adverse impact of climate change and ensure their continued advancement. The President was addressing at the first convocation of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in the port city yesterday. The President also asked the authorities concerned to reach the results of research and new invention at the doorsteps of the common people as well.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reached Rome on a four-day official visit to Italy and Vatican City. Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy Abdus Sobhan Sikder and Vice President of IFAD Claudia Richter received the Premier at the airport. In Italy, the Premier will attend the annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development at the invitation of its President Gilbert F Hougbo. At an invitation of Pope Francis, the PM will visit the Holy See (Vatican City) today and hold a meeting with the Pope and Secretary of State of Vatican City Cardinal Pietro Paroline. The Prime Minister is expected to return home on February 16.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously passed the Law and Order Disruption (Speedy Trial) (amendment) Bill, 2018 raising jail term to seven years from five years for committing crimes that disrupt law and order situation. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan piloted the bill in the House. Citing the data of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu informed the House that the total number of industries is 868,244 in the country and some 72 lakh people are engaged in the factories. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu informed the House that BTV, BTV World and the Jatiya Sangsad TV have been broadcasting programmes in 49 countries. The Minister also added, programmes of the BTV, the BTV World and private channels are being watched through the Web TV and IPTV in different countries. Replying to a query at the House, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said, some 45 power plants having 13,813 MW generation capacity have been under construction. The present government during its tenure has launched 88 power plants having 8,819 MW generation capacity, he informed the House. The government has a plan to construct more 16 power plants, the State Minister added.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has said, the government has no intention to keep anybody away from the parliament election but in terms of legal barrier if anyone can't join election, the government will have nothing to do with it. The Minister said this to media after attending a function at Judicial Administration Training Institute in Dhaka yesterday.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Narayan Chandra Chanda has said, Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in fish and meat production. Mentioning the report of Fisheries Department, the Minister said, 41.34 lakh metric tons of fish was produced in 2016-17, exceeding the year's target of 40.50 lakh metric tons with 84,000 metric tons additional production. The Minister said the press in the Secretariat yesterday, according to the national food intake guidelines, the daily per capita demand of fish is 60 grams, but as per the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data, per capita fish consumption is 62.58 grams per day. This proves the country is self-reliant in fish. Success of Bangladesh in fish production has got the global recognition, he added. As per the FAO report 2016, Bangladesh is the 4th in consuming fish from internal water bodies and 5th in fish cultivation in the world, he mentioned.

DSEX, the core index of the DSE, settled yesterday at 6,094 points.

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