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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has appointed 18 additional judges at the High Court Division for two years. Appointment of the new judges would become effective after taking oath of their offices. Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain would administer the oath of office of the newly appointed judges at 3:00pm today.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the media to give highest priority to the national interest in presenting news and views being accountable to the country and its people. He said this while addressing the 'Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak-2017' distribution ceremony in the Liberation War Museum auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reaffirmed her directive for a clear-out against drug menace. Steps, however, would be taken so that no innocent people falls victim to the ongoing nationwide drive, she added. The PM said this at a press conference at her official residence Ganobhaban yesterday. The press conference was arranged to brief media on her recent visit to the West Bengal at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has encouraged implementation of Public Private Partnership projects on the basis of the government-to-government partnership with different countries. The directives came at a meeting of the Board of Governors of PPP authority at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday.

The Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase has approved a total of 10 procurement proposals including international passenger terminal at Cox's Bazar Airport to make it an international airport. The committee gave the approval at a meeting held with Finance Minister A M A Muhith in the chair yesterday.

The World Bank will provide about \$55 million additional fund to a flagship renewable energy scheme in Bangladesh to help expand clean energy use in rural areas. The Washington-based lender and Economic Relations Division signed a loan agreement in this regard at a function at ERD in Dhaka yesterday.

Newly appointed Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Bangladesh Saed Mohammed Saed Hmaid Al-Mheiri paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam at his office in Dhaka yesterday. While exchanging views, they expressed satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries.

World No Tobacco Day will be observed today in the country as elsewhere across the world highlighting the health and additional risks associated with tobacco uses, and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. This year's theme for World No Tobacco Day 2018 is 'Tobacco Attacks Heart: Stay away, Save Lives'. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day.

This year's Fitra has been fixed at minimum amount of Taka 70 per person while the maximum Taka 2,310. Islamic Foundation yesterday fixed the amounts.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, shed 0.25 per cent, or 13.94 points, to close at 5,395.75 points yesterday.

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