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News Brief

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said, Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony as people of different faiths have been living on this soil in peace from time immemorial. He said this to the opening ceremony of a nine-day Ratha Jatra, one of the major festivals of the Hindu community, at Chattogram's Probartak Sangha crossing. The Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians have been living here from time immemorial in amity and peace, he said. Religion always works for bringing peace and prosperity in the country which eliminates terrorism, extremism and fundamentalism, he added. He called upon all to avoid fundamentalists who infuse fundamentalism in the country. Indian Assistant High Commissioner in Chattogram Dr Rajib Ranzon attended the inaugural function as the special chief guest.

Visiting Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen has reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to achieve all targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 aims to 'conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development'. He made this remark while delivering the Country's statement at the plenary session of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon on Thursday. To eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the government of Bangladesh declared an area totaling about 8.8% of its Exclusive Economic Zone as the Marine Protected Areas and implemented in its National Plan of Action in 2019, he said. During his statement, he said, under the dynamic leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh settled the maritime boundary issues with both the neighbours and is poised to collaboratively utilize the resources. He attached importance to marine science for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to predict and respond to natural and anthropogenic events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas. He said Bangladesh government has amended "Bangladesh Ship Recycle Act 2018" and set a target of compliance of the Hong Kong Convention by 2023. Bangladesh also announced new actions aimed at ensuring safe ship recycling by 2023 and is the first amongst developing countries to take initiative to ban manufacture of single use plastic shopping bags, he added.

A high-level delegation of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS visited Bangladesh on a week-long mission to see the projects implemented by the UN. Led by the board's president, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to the UN (Head of Delegation), Yoka Brandt, the mission arrived in Dhaka on June 25 and left yesterday. Brandt was accompanied by Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of Guatemala, Sweden, and Bulgaria to the UN, respectively Luis Antonio Lam Padilla, Anna Karin Eneström and Lachezara Stoeva; Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN Njambi Kinyungu; International Aid Researcher at Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) Mashaël Muftah; Deputy Secretary of the Executive Board, Dalita Balassanian, Chief of the UNFPA Executive Board Branch, Samuel Choritz; and the Head of the UNOPS New York Board and External Relations Office, William Axelsson. The mission kicked off with a meeting with the UN Bangladesh Country Team headed by the UN Resident Coordinator, Gwyn Lewis. They also visited the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the second day before flying off to Cox's Bazar to see project activities. UN has a strong relationship with the Government of Bangladesh, said Brandt. The UN has been a strong development partner for Bangladesh, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said during the visit.

Foreign envoys stationed in Dhaka yesterday paid homage to 22 people who lost their lives during the Holey Artisan Bakery attack on July 1. To mark the sixth anniversary of the attack, Japan's Ambassador in Bangladesh Ito Naoki, Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami, US Ambassador Peter Haas joined the Italian embassy in Dhaka in honoring the individuals who lost their lives.

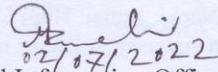
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Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has partnered with a number of international organisations to build community resilience to enhance resilience of the vulnerable communities from flooding, cyclones, storms and earthquakes in Bangladesh. In this regard, KOICA funded some projects like WFP's titled 'WFP Building Resilience to Achieve Zero Hunger (BRAZH)', IFRC's titled 'Integrated Flood Resilience Programme: Phase 2 through Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction Approach' and Oxfam Bangladesh's titled 'Resilience Boat Resident Community of Bangladesh'. It also consisted of an action plan on 'Innovation Solutions to Safe Drinking Water in the Saline-prone Coastal Belt' under KOICA-Yonsei Master's Degree Programme in Community Development in Korea. The projects apply various approaches for the affected people namely, access to Forecast-based Financing, Micro-insurance and Seasonal Livelihood support, national capacity to response emergency and risk reduction of the chronically flood affected population. These will also cover health care, community response mechanism, shelter, Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change, provision of safe drinking water and hygiene through 34 floating water and sanitation centers.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Thursday asked banks to set up booths at cattle markets ahead of Eid-Ul-Azha to detect fake notes free of cost. In a circular, the central bank also asked the banks to assign dedicated officers as coordinators of respective banks and mail the designations and mobile phone numbers of the officers to Bangladesh Bank. The scheduled banks have also been asked to coordinate with the branches of the central bank outside Dhaka to set up the booths. Meanwhile, the banks will conduct the operation under the supervision of Sonali Bank where there is no central bank branch, according to the circular. To ensure smooth transactions, the banks will be able to contact with the local authorities, including city corporations, district offices, municipalities and the law enforcement agencies. The banks will also ensure the counting of cash by setting up cash counting machine at every booth. If any fake note is found, legal steps should be taken against the people involved in circulating the fake notes, Bangladesh Bank said. The bank branches should also run videos on bigger screens highlighting the security features of banknotes until the Eid, the circular stated.

In preparation for the upcoming Holy Hajj, Nagad Islamic has come up with a variety of services for the pilgrims. Hajj pilgrims will be able to acquire all types of information regarding the Holy Hajj on this platform, which is being operated under the complete supervision of the Shariah Supervisory Committee. In addition, all inquiries or confusions about Hajj will be answered on the hotline numbers. As a part of the initiative, Nagad Islamic has been arranged with all the features and facilities necessary for a pilgrim to perform Hajj completely and purely according to Islamic guidelines. Nagad Islamic has set up a unique booth for Hajj pilgrims in Ashkona Hajj Camp on the occasion. In case of any Hajj-related emergency, anyone can call the two hotline numbers listed in the guideline: +8801786083074 (Imo) and +8801793407044. (WhatsApp). In addition to facilitating instant Shariah-compliant transactions during the Hajj journey, each Hajj pilgrim has been provided with a special handout or guideline containing a brief explanation of the holy Hajj and Umrah, Ihram, Tawaf, Hajj Fajr, and Wajib. By reading the guideline, pilgrims will be able to understand all the fundamental aspects of the holy Hajj. In addition, during the Hajj, special glycerin from Nagad Islamic is given as gifts to pilgrims in order to provide some comfort from the extreme heat. Besides, keeping in mind the convenience of Hajj and Umrah performers, the 'Nagad Islamic' app and website have been arranged with a series of contents related to Hajj. As a part of it, eight special episodes of detailed video content on Hajj have been included on the Nagad Islamic website. Each 10-minute contents contain all the guidelines for performing Hajj. Pilgrims will not face any problems or confusion if they look at the contents before Hajj at their convenience. All content in Nagad Islamic is approved by the Islamic Foundation.

The Covid-19 situation in Bangladesh is keeping worsening day by day as the country yesterday reported five casualties and 1,897 fresh cases in last 24 hours. Bangladesh reported 15.31 percent Covid-19 positive cases as 12,389 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, Directorate General of Health Services sources said.


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