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Jumatul Wida today

UNB, Dhaka

Jumatul Wida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, will be observed across the country today with due religious solemnity and reverence.

Thousands of Muslim devotees will attend the Juma prayers at different mosques, seeking divine blessings for peace and progress of Bangladesh and unity of the Muslim Ummah.

The day's biggest congregation will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital.

Special arrangements will be made to accommodate devotees at mosques in different parts of the city. The authorities at many places would put up *shamiana* outside the mosques for additional space.

Khatibs and ulemas will deliver sermons, highlighting the significance of Jumatul Wida.

The corals of St Martin's in peril



PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Around 67 percent corals of the Saint Martin's Island have been bleached to death and the rest are likely to be damaged if pollution and non-regulated navigation continues, reveals a survey finding.

"Save Our Sea" (SOS), a research and advocacy platform run by Organisation for Social Orientation, conducted several studies and surveys from November 2013 to March this year to build an ecological profile and prepare conservation management plan for the island.

Some of the key findings of the studies were presented in the "2nd Marine Conservation and Blue Economy Symposium" earlier last month at the capital's Brac Centre Inn. The event was organised by SOS in cooperation with Mangroves for the Future and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bangladesh.

According to recent data released by SOS, the number of sea turtles visiting the island to lay their eggs has drastically declined.

The island had only 17 successful nesting of sea turtles in 2015-16 nesting season. It is one of the major nesting sites in Bangladesh for sea turtles and the locals say that before tourism started the numbers were in thousands every season.

Corals occupy less than one percent of the world's

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Healthy coral colonies in the Saint Martin's Island. Inset, garbage on dead corals. A recent survey says around 67 percent corals of the island have been bleached to death due to pollution and non-regulated navigation.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ARJU / SAVE OUR SEA

PRAN UHT Milk

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
25	1		6-53
26	2	3-43	6-54
27	3	3-43	6-54



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PRAYER TIMING JULY 1

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

3-48	12-30	5-00	6-53	8-17
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JAMAAT 3-53 1-15 5-15 7-03 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Istanbul attackers came from Syria

They were nationals of former Soviet states, says Turkish official

CNN ONLINE

Turkish officials have strong evidence that the Istanbul airport attackers came to the country from the Syrian IS stronghold of Raqqa and that the group's leadership was involved in the planning of the attack, a senior Turkish government source told CNN yesterday.

Officials believe the men --

identified by another Turkish official and state media as being from Russia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan -- entered Turkey about a month ago from Raqqa, along with the suicide vests and bombs used in the attack, the source said.

They rented an apartment in the Fatih district of Istanbul, where one of the attackers left behind his passport, the Turkish government source told CNN.

The attack was "extremely well planned with IS leadership involved," the source said.

While no one has yet claimed responsibility for the airport assault, CNN contributor Michael Weiss, author of "ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror," said the nationalities revealed yesterday buttress the claim of IS involvement.

"One of the toughest battalions in IS is called the Uzbek battalion," he said. "These were the guys who were essentially on the front lines guarding Falluja, the city they just lost in Iraq."

"Ask anybody inside IS or who's fought IS. People from the former Soviet Union tend to be the most battle-hardened and willing to die," he said.

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A CCTV grab showing the attackers.

Suicide blasts kill 30 Afghan cops

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban yesterday claimed responsibility for a twin suicide attack targeting a convoy of buses transporting Afghan police cadets in Kabul, which Afghanistan's interior ministry said killed 30 and wounded 58.

The bloodshed, which was condemned as a "crime against humanity" by President Ashraf Ghani, comes little over a week after 14 Nepali security guards who were heading to work at the Canadian embassy were killed in a massive blast that left their minibus splattered with blood.

"The convoy of buses transporting newly graduated police was targeted by two suicide attackers in the limits of Kabul province. As a result 30 police were martyred and 58 more injured," a statement issued by the interior ministry said.

Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for the ministry, said the cadets were returning from a training centre in neighbouring Wardak province and were heading to the capital when targeted on Kabul's outskirts.

One attacker was on foot, and the other was in an explosive-packed car, he said.

The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the attack, the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said in a statement.

An AFP reporter said the area had been cordoned off but it appeared that five

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Internet of Things

Netherlands gets first nationwide long range network



AFP, The Hague

Dutch telecoms group KPN said yesterday that The Netherlands had become the first country in the world to implement a nationwide long range (LoRa) network for the so-called Internet of Things.

Connecting everyday objects to networks, allowing them to send and receive data, is widely seen as the next major evolution of the Internet and one that may transform how many businesses operate and people live.

The rollout of a low data rate (LoRa) mobile communications network is critical to connect objects as many may not be able to link up with home or work Wi-Fi networks to gain Internet access.

"As from today the KPN LoRa network is available

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COMMENTS ON CJ Dhaka lower court judge suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry yesterday suspended Dhaka's Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Juel Rana for "gross misconduct by making arrogant, discourteous, indecent, and unrestrained allegation" against the chief justice in a letter to the president.

ASSM Zahirul Haque, secretary to the Law and Justice Division of the law ministry, issued a gazette notification, suspending Juel Rana based on advice from the Supreme Court. Rana was also attached to the ministry.

The notification said allegations have been raised against Rana for making arrogant, discourteous, indecent, and unrestrained accusation against the chief justice and misconduct by undermining the members of General Administration (GA) committee of the SC.

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Quietly, Otobi dismantles its power plant

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Quantum Power Systems Ltd of furniture giant Otobi has recently uninstalled all machinery of its 105 megawatts Nowapara rental power plant without informing anyone.

The poorly built plant had not been generating any electricity for three to four years. Quantum Power owes the government more than \$63 million dollars as penalties for not being able to supply power as per contract.

A Power Development Board (PDB) source said the contract with Quantum, renewed in 2014, would expire within a couple of months.

Quantum has not paid the penalties. Instead, it had filed a case with the High Court, challenging the PDB's claim.

"This case is still on. But we know that Quantum power is now in shambles. Their power plant was a junk. They would not be able to pay anything to the

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Passengers having a good time chatting with each other while waiting for their train at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday. The Eid holidaymakers have started to leave the city and the rush home is expected to pick up momentum with the nine-day Eid holiday for government employees beginning today.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Malaria piles misery on the Thanchi people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaria is spreading rapidly in Thanchi, a remote hilly upazila of Bandarban that has already been affected by serious food crisis, said Brac officials yesterday.

As many as 572 people were detected with malaria in May, and the number rose to 2,341 in June, they said, citing the data of Brac's malaria control programme there.

The prevalence of malaria is usually high in the hill tracts. As people go into the jungles more frequently in search of food, more get infected, they said.

"Rapid rise in malaria is preventing many from getting involved in economic activities and jhum cultivation," said Gawher Nayeem Wahra, director of Disaster Management Climate Change (DMCC) of Brac, at a press conference in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

As a result, food crisis may turn into a long-term problem unless appropriate measures are taken to address it, he said.

Brac malaria programme is working there, but it needs to be strengthened, Gawher said.

Brac officials visited the upazila twice -- once in early June and the next in the mid-June -- to assess the situation.

According to a Brac statement, around 20,000 people, mostly in four unions -- Tindu, Remakri, Nayacharanpara and Jolupara -- were affected by food crisis that was triggered by cyclone Komen in July last year during the beginning of jhum cultivation season.

Many farmers could neither do jhum cultivation nor preserve harvest for the rest of the year. Besides, they could

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