

NEWS IN BRIEF

Google agrees to pay Italian publishers for news

Google announced on Wednesday it has signed licensing deals with numerous Italian media publishers to pay for news content, in the US tech giant's latest move to tamp down media anger over lost advertising revenue. It follows an agreement struck with some French publishers earlier in the year over "neighbouring rights", which were introduced by an EU directive two years ago and call for payment for showing snippets of news content as part of internet searches. Wednesday's deal will give the Italian publishers access to the Google News Showcase programme, which sees it pay outlets for a selection of enriched content. News outlets struggling with dwindling print subscriptions have long seethed at Google's failure to give them a cut of the millions it makes from ads displayed alongside news search results.

Actor Depp loses bid to appeal wife beater libel ruling

London's Court of Appeal yesterday refused Johnny Depp permission to challenge a verdict last year that concluded the Hollywood actor was a "wife beater", meaning his attempt to restore his reputation will shift to US legal action. In November, High Court judge Andrew Nicol ruled against Depp, star of films including "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Edward Scissorhands", after he brought a libel case against the Sun tabloid newspaper. After three weeks of hearings last summer, Nicol concluded Depp, 37, had violently assaulted his ex-wife, actress Amber Heard, 34, during a tempestuous five-year relationship, putting her in fear of her life.

NFT artwork by humanoid robot sells for \$688,888



A digital artwork by humanoid robot Sophia was sold at auction yesterday for \$688,888 in the form of a Non-Fungible Token (NFT). NFTs, a digital signature saved on blockchain ledgers that allows anyone to verify the ownership and authenticity of items, have become the latest investment craze, with one artwork selling this month for nearly \$70 million. Sophia, who was unveiled in 2016, produced her art in collaboration with 31-year-old Italian digital artist Andrea Bonaceto, known for colourful portraits, some of which depict famous people, such as Tesla's chief executive, Elon Musk. Titled "Sophia Instantiation," the digital work is a 12-second MP4 file showing the evolution of Bonaceto's portrait into Sophia's digital painting, and is accompanied by a physical artwork, painted by Sophia on a printout of her self-portrait.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A flooded area is seen at the Hawkesbury River northwest of Sydney in Wisemans Ferry, Australia, yesterday. Flood-stricken residents along Australia's east coast began a massive clean up effort yesterday as waters receded, revealing damaged homes, piles of debris and mud-caked roads. The region has been devastated by widespread flooding brought on by a torrential downpour that inundated towns, destroyed farmland and left two people dead.

PHOTO: REUTERS

South Asia braces for deadly heatwaves

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

Deadly heatwaves in South Asia are likely to become more common in the future, with the region's exposure to lethal heat stress potentially nearly tripling if global warming isn't curbed, researchers said.

But the threat could be halved if the world meets a goal set under the Paris Agreement on climate change to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, researchers said in a study published this week by the American Geophysical Union.

"The future looks bad for South Asia, but the worst can be avoided by containing warming to as low as possible," Moetasim Ashfaq, a climate scientist at the US-based Oak Ridge National Laboratory, said in a statement.

The new study used climate simulations and projected population growth to estimate the number of people who could experience dangerous levels of heat stress at warming levels of 1.5C and 2C.

It looked at the predicted "wet bulb temperature". Health experts and scientists say that at a wet bulb temperature of 32C labour becomes unsafe and at 35C the body can no longer cool itself.

If warming hits 2C, the number of South Asians exposed to unsafe temperatures could rise two-fold, and nearly three times as many people could face lethal heat, the study said.

Covid-19 cases surge globally

India marks lockdown anniversary with 54,000 cases; EU leaders meet as vaccine row escalates; Brazil deaths cross 300,000

AGENCIES

India recorded more than 50,000 new coronavirus cases yesterday for the first time since November as a new wave of infections forcing lockdowns and restrictive curbs around the world.

The European Union will look for ways to end its vaccine struggles at a summit yesterday, as a Covid-19 surge takes the death toll in Brazil past 300,000.

India, a nation of 1.3 billion people, was this month overtaken by Brazil as the second-most infected country after cases dipped in December and January from a peak of nearly 100,000 per day in September.

But recent weeks have seen an uptick, with health ministry data yesterday showing almost 54,000 new infections over the previous 24 hours.

India's strict lockdown has been steadily eased over the past year and in recent months most activity, including weddings,



religious festivals and some cricket matches, returned to normal.

Now many regions are reimposing curbs, particularly in the hard-hit western state of Maharashtra where officials have launched random virus checks in crowded areas in the local capital Mumbai.

The country's known coronavirus cases are approaching 12 million, with more than 160,000 deaths.

India meanwhile has administered more than 53 million vaccine shots. This week, it decided to allow all over-45s to be

inoculated as it attempts to vaccinate 300 million people by August.

Meanwhile, EU leaders were scheduled to meet via videoconference to discuss AstraZeneca supplies, as well as new vaccine export rules that will weigh how needy countries are in terms of infection rates, how many jabs they have, and how readily they export doses to the bloc.

The talks come as Germany, France, Belgium, Austria and the Netherlands tighten restrictions to control surges in cases.

The virus has claimed more than 2.7 million lives around the world, hammered the global economy and left much of humanity under punishing restrictions.

Where the EU vaccine rollout has stuttered, there has been huge progress in the United States -- the world's worst-hit nation. Around 70 percent of Americans aged 65 or over -- more than 38 million people -- have received at least one dose, and hospital admissions for Covid-19 in that group are down 85 percent since early January.

50 & FORWARD TOGETHER ON THE PATH OF PROGRESS

THE BEGINNING

As the first Foreign Direct Investment in Bangladesh's garment export industry, Youngone was a part of the genesis of this success story for the nation. From those beginnings to currently employing tens of thousands of people, Youngone's growth and success has mirrored that of the industry as a whole.

A SUSTAINABLE BANGLADESH

Social, environmental and ecological sustainability is the foundation on which Youngone's operations are built.

The flagship Korean EPZ (KEPZ) in Chattogram is an eco-friendly industrial zone which started with the large-scale rehabilitation of barren land in 1999. Not only is it the largest eco-friendly EPZ in Bangladesh, it is one of the largest in South Asia.

Youngone has planted over 2.4 million (24 lakh) trees in KEPZ, transforming what used to be wasteland into a flourishing natural ecosystem that has seen the reemergence of local flora and fauna. KEPZ is also home to industrial scale wastewater management processes.

HARVESTING THE SKIES

Youngone's approach to rainwater conservation has also helped surrounding village communities meet their water needs. 25 water bodies have been created over an area of 400 acres in KEPZ, which conserve over 500 million gallons of rainwater, making it the single largest private-sector rainwater harvesting project in the country.

These green developments drew the attention and appreciation of various international bodies including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Free Trade Zone Convention, Rio+20, the World Bank and others.

HARVESTING THE SUN

Youngone's most recent sustainability project

is doubtlessly one of our most ambitious: the commissioning of a massive 40-megawatt rooftop solar power generation project. Once complete, the state-of-the-art solar panel installations will cover the roofs of every single industrial building throughout the zone. It is believed that the completed project will be the single largest rooftop solar power project in the entire country.

KEPZ will harness the power of the sun itself, ensuring that its increasing energy needs are met in a sustainable manner without any negative environmental impacts.

MANMADE FIBER TEXTILE HUB

Out of 5 planned state of the art polyester product factories (each measuring 40,000 sqm), 3 factories have already been constructed and rest two are in the process of construction. Once completed, this will become a large-scale manmade fiber textile hub in Bangladesh for export and supply of high-quality fabrics to garment and apparel industries, as an import substitute and backward linkage.

PEOPLE FIRST

At the heart of Youngone's community are its people. For us, the success and wellness of our community is as important as the health of our business. Company pioneered in employing female workers in the sector in early '80s; started with 250 employees and presently employing more than 61,000 people in Bangladesh and majority of whom are female.

Our commitment to nurturing communities is visible every day, in the culture we build internally and the facilities we provide our colleagues. These include giving employees childcare support, subsidized meals (costing 2 taka only), free medical services, counselling help and more.

FOSTERING EDUCATION

An essential aspect of our focus on the growth and development of our community is education. Through a variety of different

initiatives, we continue to invest in the education of different communities to build stepping stones to their futures.

Recognizing that the lack of toilets is a reason many female students drop out of the education system, we constructed toilets for female students in rural areas. Furthermore, we have built student dormitories in Mymensingh for the Garo population, and contributed funds to the expansion of the Proyash project for the education of autistic children.

Youngone has also joined hands with Asian University for Women (AUW) in their initiative "Pathway for Promise". We are committed to the initiative to enable the female workforce of export oriented RMG to reach their full potential and utilise the unused treasure of human resources. The program aims to provide free education among Bangladeshi RMG workers to empower them by giving them expertise and knowledge not only to expand as people and leaders but also to increase work opportunities.

Youngone has also contributed for construction of modern school buildings in remote villages of North Bengal to create teaching-learning environment and increase literacy rate as well as decrease drop out rate from primary schools through enhanced infrastructural development.

PROMOTING ART & CONSERVING CULTURE

A step towards promoting creativity for the new generation includes setting up the first Computer Graphics lab in Dhaka University. Beyond this, we remain patrons of artists in Bangladesh, including supporting and sponsoring art exhibitions.

It is a point of particular pride for us that our offices around the world are adorned with art of Bangladesh artists, from celebrated masters to exciting newer talents.

Drawing on our experience of the conservation and restoration of historical

landmarks in Korea, we embarked on an ambitious restoration project in the historical area of Sonargaon. Spanning half a decade and with a multimillion-dollar budget, we engaged the finest Bangladeshi architect specialised in conservation to painstakingly restore Bara Sardar Bari. Now complete, the landmark is open to the public for people to be transported back in time as they experience firsthand the grandeur and splendour of this magnificent building as it would have been in its heyday.

PROSPERITY

Prosperity is not an individual goal. Success requires teamwork, and shared aspirations and values. For us, it is the culmination of collaborative efforts from all over the globe, with best of breed resources coming together to form a community united in its forward march.

Together, we have achieved much, and created a partnership that is achieving our shared goals. We are tremendously proud to have been a part of Bangladesh's journey, and look forward to the road ahead to be walked together.

Youngone has always chosen to elevate the community and the nation they work in. Always striving for progress, Bangladesh and Youngone have formed a partnership that celebrates a shared history and promises a prosperous future together.

On Bangladesh's Golden Jubilee, we honour the birth of this indomitable nation and pay our respects to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - the titan of history without whom we would not be in a free and independent country today.

It is with pride that we also celebrate the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and mark the incredible growth and development the country has achieved under her stewardship.

KEPZ BANGLADESH
KOREAN EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE

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YOUNGONE

BY HER EXCELLENCY SHEIKH HASINA PRIME MINISTER GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OCT 21

PHOTO: 2021

