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April, is derived from the Latin word *Aprilis* or *Aphrilis*, and from the Latin verb *Aperire*, "to open." April is also associated with springtime, spring break, new beginnings, and a time to bloom.

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. James Cassel, Honorary Consul for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the State of Florida, and Senior Special Agent Jose Lopez-Jenkins, at the Miami Field Office, Protection/Airport Squad.

We also take this opportunity to celebrate Arab American Heritage Month and Scottish American Heritage Month, for their immeasurable accomplishments and contributions to our nation and to the timeless work of making sure that all people have the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

We salute all the countries celebrating their independence or national day this month. Most importantly, we celebrate National Administrative Professionals Day, observed annually on the last Wednesday of April. Administrative Professionals are essential to maintaining office decorum and seamless day-to-day operations.

As always, please be safe!

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Country Profile: The People's Republic of Bangladesh



Head of Government: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
Capital: Dhaka
Population: 170 million (2022 Census)
Independence Day: December 16, 1971 (From Pakistan)

The huge delta region formed at the confluence of the Ganges and Brahmaputra River systems - now referred to as [Bangladesh](#) - was a loosely incorporated outpost of various empires centered on the Gangetic plain for much of the first millennium A.D. Muslim conversions and settlement in the region began in the 10th century, primarily from Arab and Persian traders and preachers. Europeans established trading posts in the area in the 16th century.

Eventually the area known as [Bengal](#), primarily Hindu in the western section and mostly Muslim in the eastern half, became part of British India. Partition in 1947 resulted in an Eastern wing

of Pakistan in the Muslim-majority area, which became East Pakistan. Calls for greater autonomy and animosity between the Eastern and Western wings of Pakistan resulting from economic exploitation of the Eastern part by the country's Western part led to a Bengali independence movement. That movement, led by the [Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](#) and supported by India, won the independence war for Bangladesh in 1971.

Bangladesh is known for its vibrant history, ancient archeology, rich culture, and beautiful landscapes. Some of the oldest Islamic, Buddhist, and Hindu archeological relics can be found in Bangladesh. Being the world's largest delta, Bangladesh has the world's longest unbroken sea-beach as well as the largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans. Some of the well-known tourist attractions are situated in Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Saint Martin's Island, Sylhet, Khulna (Sundarbans), Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Rajshahi. Bangladesh has three (3) properties inscribed on the [UNESCO World Heritage list and five properties](#) on the tentative list for consideration. The 3 sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list are: Cultural - Historic Mosque City of Bagerhat (1985) and Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (1985), and Natural - The Sundarbans (1997).

Facts About Bangladesh

Longest Female-led Government

Since becoming independent in 1971, Bangladesh has been led by female leaders for 25 years (i.e., about 50 percent of the time). Two women, [Prime Minister Khaleda Zia](#) - led the country from 1991 to 1996 and from 2001 to 2006, while [Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina](#) (incumbent) ruled the country from 1996 – 2001, and from 2009 - present. Bangladesh also tops South Asia in terms of women leadership in major companies.

The Birthplace of Microfinance & Microcredit

Bangladesh is the birthplace of microcredit and microfinance. [Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh](#) made the concept hugely popular throughout the world. He started the 'Grameen Bank' by giving microcredits to women in rural areas in the late 1970s and then expanded his work into a full-fledged bank. Mr. Yunus and the bank were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Economy: 'New Asian Tiger'

[Bangladesh is considered as the New Asian Tiger for its rapid economic growth.](#) Despite being a moderate Muslim country, Bangladesh has always been known for its approach towards pluralism and secularism. Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in various sectors, including the garment industry, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, maternal and child mortality, population control and energy. Over the last 52 years, the country has experienced significant economic growth, increasing its GDP by more than 50 fold. According to the IMF, Bangladesh is the 41st largest economy in the world with real GDP of over \$400 billion. Bangladesh ranks 2nd in the world in exporting Ready Made Garments (RMGs), 1st in exporting Jute products, 2nd in producing Jute, 3rd in producing freshwater fish, 4th in producing rice, and 3rd in producing vegetables. The Country is 2nd in freelancing/outsourcing work, and 8th in receiving remittance from abroad.

We express our gratitude and appreciation to the Consulate General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Miami for their contribution to this article.

DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Meet the new Honorary Consul for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the State of Florida



Mr. James Cassel is the Honorary Consul for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the State of Florida. He is co-founder and chairman of Cassel Salpeter & Co. LLC., is an investment banker who uses his unique experience as a dealmaker, and an attorney who guides clients and helps them achieve their goals.

Cassel Salpeter & Co., LLC., headquartered in Miami, FL is a middle market investment bank focused on providing independent and objective advice to middle market and emerging growth companies. CS's Investment banking and advisory services include broad capabilities for both private and public companies: Mergers and Acquisitions; Restructurings, including 363 Sales and Plans of Reorganization; Equity, Mezzanine and Debt Capital Raises; Fairness and Solvency Opinions; Valuations; and Financial and Strategic Advisory.

Focused on representing middle-market companies, Mr. Cassel has successfully negotiated, structured, and executed a broad spectrum of transactions including mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures, corporate and transactional financings, and public offerings for clients nationwide and worldwide. Having developed a keen understanding of the issues faced and alternatives available for distressed companies, he has experience in developing financial restructuring plans, negotiating with creditors, and guiding debtors through bankruptcy proceedings.

Mr. Cassel is the Liquidating Trustee of 1 GC Collections Creditors Liquidating Trust, the successor to 1 Global Capital, LLC., debtors-in-possession. At 1 GC, he was the independent manager. He has overseen collection of over \$150 million and distributed over \$145 million to creditors. Nationally recognized for his investment banking expertise, Mr. Cassel frequently lectures on timely issues related to middle-market investment banking and is regularly quoted in national publications.

Before founding Cassel Salpeter & Co., Jim was a co-founder and chairman of Capitalink, LLC., an investment banking firm that was acquired by Ladenburg Thalmann & Co., a New York Stock Exchange member firm where Jim continued and served as vice chairman, senior managing director, and head of investment banking. He also was chairman of a company that owned psychiatric hospitals.

Mr. Cassel presently serves as a Board Member of the City of Miami Parking Authority and is chair of the finance committee. He also serves on the advisory board for the College of Arts and Sciences at American University, Washington, DC. He served as an independent director of the board of Equity One (NYSE:EQY), a publicly traded REIT, and served on the Compensation Committee, Audit Committee and Governance and Nominating Committee. Jim is a former board member and president of the South Florida Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth and is an advisory board member of the University of Miami's "The Launch Pad" business incubator program for entrepreneurs. He has served on the executive committee of Broad and Cassel, (now known as Nelson Mullins), which was one of Florida's largest law firms, and was previously a member of the American Association of Arbitrators, National Investment Banking Association and the NASD Board of Arbitrators. He wrote a column for *The Miami Herald* for over 10 years about emerging trends and strategies and tactics for middle-market business owners.

Mr. Cassel received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and Political Science in 1976 from American University, in Washington, D.C., and his Juris Doctor degree in 1979 from the University of Miami School of Law, in Miami. He is a member of the New York and Florida Bar Associations.

Meet Mr. Jose Lopez-Jenkins - New U.S. Secret Service Senior Special Agent, Miami Field Office



On January 2023 Senior Special Agent (SSA) Jose Lopez-Jenkins arrived at the Miami Field Office, Protection/Airport Squad. SSA Lopez-Jenkins began working with the U.S. Secret Service, Miami Field Office in May 1998. In 2002, SSA Lopez-Jenkins was assigned to U.S. Secret Service Headquarters in Washington D.C., and subsequently reassigned to the Presidential Protective Division with President George W. Bush. In 2008, SSA Lopez-Jenkins returned to the Miami Field Office.

SSA Lopez-Jenkins assignments have spanned the globe from Kabul, Afghanistan to Bariloche, Argentina. SSA Lopez-Jenkins was born in Jersey City, New Jersey and grew up in Florida. He graduated from Florida International University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He is proficient in English and Español.

BRIEFS & NOTES

History of the First Mobile Phone Call



In 1910, Swedish engineer [Lars Magnus Ericsson](#) was the first to use a “mobile” phone when he installed a telephone in his car. As he drove around, Ericsson used a pair of long electrical wires to connect his phone to telephone poles along the road. Although this was the first car phone, the concept did not take off. Over the next three decades, scientists and engineers continued to work and develop the cutting edge technology needed for the next step. On [June 17, 1946, Bell System Operating Companies](#) demonstrated the first truly mobile phone service. It consisted of 80-pound telephones installed in cars. The needed equipment filled most of the car’s trunk, and calls were made by using a handset to speak to a switchboard operator. Although the system was aimed at companies rather than individuals, and was only available in major cities and along highway corridors, by 1948, the service had 5,000 subscribers.

For the next three decades, work continued with a new goal – a device that could be carried around and used anywhere. Rivals, Bell Labs and Motorola, were on the forefront of this research. Then, on [April 3, 1973](#), the landline rang in Bell Labs. When engineer Joel Engel answered, the voice on the other end of the line said: “Hi Joel, I’m calling you on a cellphone, but a real cellphone. A personal, handheld, portable cellphone.”

[The caller was Martin ‘Marty’ Cooper, leader of the Motorola research group.](#) He placed the call from 30 miles (48km) away, using Motorola’s prototype, a beige, brick-shaped phone, with a large antenna and no screen. It cost the equivalent of \$1million in today’s money to produce and weighing a hefty 2.5 pounds, the 11inch tall, brick-like device called the DynaTAC was ready to be demonstrated to the public.

Although the United States government was supportive, it took another 10 years before all the technical and regulatory challenges were conquered, and mobile phones became available to consumers. Fifty years after that groundbreaking call, mobile phones are now extraordinarily complex and multi-functional, and have changed our lives profoundly.

Smartphones have become personal assistants, music players, banking hubs, and pocket-sized cinema screens. They also serve as barometers, thermometers, infra-red sensors, fingerprint sensors, scanners, and gyroscopes. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology allows cell phones to be used with satellite navigation, and by using the vibration capabilities of most modern smartphones, researchers have been able to create the digital equivalent of tactile maps for the visually impaired. As technology and smartphones continue to evolve, so too will the capabilities they unlock, and it all started with one call, 50 years ago.



[The Titanic Passenger Liner](#) was designed by naval architect Thomas Andrews and constructed by the Belfast shipbuilders Harland and Wolff. Upon completion, it was thought to be the world’s fastest ship. It spanned 883 feet from stern to bow, and its hull was divided into 16 compartments that were presumed to be watertight. It was one of the largest and most luxurious ocean liners built during that time. [The construction of the Titanic was completed on March 31, 1912.](#)

On April 10, it departed [Southampton, England, on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.](#) However, just before midnight on April 14, it failed to divert its course from an iceberg and ruptured at least five of its hull compartments, causing water to fill

them and ultimately leading to the sinking of the ship after it broke in half. The Titanic sank in the early morning hours of 15 April 1912 in the North Atlantic Ocean, four days into her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York City. Because of a shortage of lifeboats, and the lack of satisfactory emergency procedures, more than 1,500 people went down in the sinking ship or froze to death in the icy North Atlantic waters. Most of the 700 or so survivors were women and children. Several notable American and British citizens died in the tragedy, including the noted British journalist William Thomas Stead and heirs to the Straus, Astor, and Guggenheim fortunes.

The survivors lost everything, but the public and charities from all over the world stepped up to help. Women’s relief committees helped women by providing clothing, and private trains transported survivors to their families and next of kin, free of charge.

[Titanic By the Numbers](#)

- * Cost to build: \$7.5 million (\$200 million with inflation). Ticketed passengers aboard: 1,317. The Titanic was designed to carry up to 3,300 people. On the maiden voyage, it had about 2,200 aboard, including about 900 crew members.
- * Bottles of wine in the ship’s wine cellar: 1,000. On April 21, 1912, [The New York Times](#) reported the luxury liner was carrying cargo worth \$420,000 (\$11 million today).
- * Number of iceberg warnings received that day: 6, and miles sailed before sinking: 2,070.
- * Temperature of the water: 28 degrees. Most of the Titanic deaths were caused by [hypothermia](#) due to the low water temperature. Number of lifeboats the ship was equipped to carry: 64. However, the ship actually carried 20 lifeboats (four were collapsible).
- * Number of people who died: 1,517.
- * J. J. Astor, the Titanic’s richest passenger, had a net worth of \$87 million (\$2.21 billion, today).
- * It wasn’t until September 1, 1985 that oceanographer Robert Ballard [discovered the wreckage](#) of the Titanic, which was found at 12,000 feet or 2.3 miles below sea level. The debris field spread across 15 square miles with the hull buried under 45 feet of mud.

BRIEFS & NOTES

APRIL IS ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

During the month of April, the [Arab America Foundation](#) formally recognizes the achievements of Arab Americans through the celebration of National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM). Across the country, cultural institutions, school districts, municipalities, state legislatures, public servants, and non-profit organizations issue proclamations and engage in special events that celebrate our community's rich heritage and numerous contributions to society.

Arab America and the Arab America Foundation launched the National Arab American Heritage Month initiative in 2017, with just a handful of states recognizing the initiative. Each year, grass-roots network of over 250 Arab American volunteers in 26 states gather hundreds of proclamations from their states, counties, municipalities, and local school districts.

The President of the United States recognized the month of April as National Arab American Heritage Month with a special commemorative letters to the Foundation. In 2022, Congress, the U.S. Department of State, and 45 state governors issued proclamations commemorating the initiative. Additionally, the following states have passed permanent legislation designating the month of April as NAAHM: [Illinois](#); [Oregon](#); [Virginia](#); and [Indiana](#) (Senate). [Click here to view President Biden's 2023 Proclamation on Arab American National Heritage Month.](#)



[Scottish American Heritage Month](#) or National Tartan Day is celebrated annually in the United States on April 6. This is a North American celebration of Scottish heritage, which originated in Canada in the mid-1980s and spread to other communities in the Scottish diaspora by the 1990s. The date was chosen to commemorate the [Declaration of Arbroath](#), that was signed on April 6, 1320. The Declaration, a letter written by the barons and whole community of the kingdom of Scotland, asked Pope John XXII to recognize Scotland as an independent kingdom and to acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king.



World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated annually on April 2, 2023. It is a day when individuals and organizations around the world hold special events to raise funds and awareness of autism. Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated [1 in 36 children in the United States today](#).

The effects of autism vary widely from person to person. Some people have trouble learning, some have physical difficulties, and some may have trouble communicating. Some people may even be particularly gifted in a specific area such as music, art, or math.

Autism is generally diagnosed before a child turns three years old. The earlier the diagnoses, the earlier doctors can get to work on helping the child develop. This is why awareness is so important. The more we know, and the earlier children can get help, the better.

Science is making strides in determining the various causes of autism as well as ways to treat and help people with it. However, they still have a long way to go. By reading about it and becoming more aware of what to look for, donating your time and money for research, and helping wherever you can in your schools and neighborhoods you can do a lot to help. To learn more about autism and how to help, visit: <http://www.autismspeaks.org> or <http://www.autism-society.org/>



International Mother Earth Day

Each year, April 22nd is celebrated as Earth Day. According to [Earthday.org](#) (EDO), the global organizer of earth day and largest recruiter of the environmental movement worldwide, this year's theme is: *invest in our planet*. On Earth Day, events around the world are used to teach people how they can help the planet. It has been reported that over one (1) billion people do something on or around Earth Day each year to help the environment.

Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, in 1970. It began when the Senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, suggested that April 22nd be designated as environment education day. It's estimated that around 20 million people in the United States participated that first day. Many people consider this day to mark the beginning of the modern environmental movement.

Twenty years after the first Earth Day, on April 22, 1990, the entire world joined forces when more than 200 million people from 141 different countries participated in Earth Day celebrations and activities.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the top 10 events of Earth Day 2023.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (APRIL)

April 1, 1979 – Iran: The Islamic Republic of Iran was proclaimed.

April 4, 1960 – Senegal: On this date, Senegal gained independence from France. Complete independence was achieved once the federation with Mali was dissolved on August 20, 1960.

April 9, 1991 – Georgia: On May 26, 1918, Georgia achieved independence from Soviet Russia, and on April 9, 1991, it achieved independence from the Soviet Union.

April 16, (1940) – Denmark: Queen Margrethe II's birthday is celebrated throughout the country.

April 17, 1946 – Syria: France administered Syria through a League of Nations mandate until April 17, 1946, when Syria declared full independence, and the last French troops withdrew from its territory.

April 18, 1980 – Zimbabwe: On this date, Zimbabwe gained independence from the United Kingdom.

April 25-26, (2023) – Israel: Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israeli Independence Day: On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion, publicly read Israel's Declaration of Independence, establishing the State of Israel, and ending the British Mandate. According to the Jewish calendar, this was the fifth day of Iyar, the eighth month of the civil year, in the year 5708. Since the Jewish calendar is lunar, the holiday may occur in April or May. This year marks the 75th anniversary of Israel's Independence.

April 26, 1964 –Tanzania: Union Day: On April 26, 1964 Tanganyika united with Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania on October 29, 1964.

April 27, 1960 – Togo: On the 27th of April, Togo gained independence from the French-administered United Nations trusteeship.

April 27, 1961 – Sierra Leone: On this date, Sierra Leone gained independence from the United Kingdom.

April 27, (1967) – The Netherlands: King's Day celebrates King Willem-Alexander's birthday.

April 27, 1994 – South Africa: Freedom Day, South Africa's National Day, is an annual celebration of the country's first non-racial democratic elections held in 1994.

ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.

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