

INDONESIA NEWS

Friday, May 6, 2022

FLOATING TEMPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA

A view of the Xiao Yi Shen Tang Temple or Dharma Bakti Temple floating in the middle of the sea of Muara Kakap, Kubu Raya Regency, West Kalimantan, Thursday (5/5). The Xiao Yi Shen Tang Temple, which has been established since 1969 in the middle of the sea of the Kakap River Estuary and facing the Natuna Sea, has become one of the leading tourist destinations in Kubu Raya Regency.

IDN/ANTARA



Indonesia's Soccer, Rowing Teams Depart for 31st SEA Games

Indonesia officially dispatched the national football and rowing teams on Tuesday (3/5) morning for the 31st Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Hanoi, Vietnam, whose opening ceremony is scheduled to be held on May 12, 2022.

CHEF de Mission (CdM) of the Indonesian contingent for the 31st SEA Games, Ferry J. Kono, said in a statement that the athletes from the two sports branches left early considering that the football competition will begin on May 6, while the rowing events will start on May 9.

"In the first dispatched batch of the contingent, there is an advance team, 40 people from the rowing team, as well as 20 athletes, 8 officials, and 10 extra officials from the soccer team," he informed on Tuesday (3/5).

The dispatched athletes are fit and ready to compete in the 31st SEA Games, he added.

He assured that the CdM team is ready to manage the athletes once they arrive in Vietnam.

"If God wills, when the athletes and officials arrive in Vietnam, they can be immediately facilitated by the CdM team who have been there, thus we can ensure that they will get the best service from the CdM team," he remarked.

Meanwhile, manager of the Indonesian National Football Team for the 31st SEA Games, Uden Kusuma Wijaya, said that the team is in good condition.

The team's coach, Shin Tae-yong, will

schedule a training session immediately upon their arrival in Vietnam, he added.

"The players are doing well. We also keep motivating them. We will take maximum advantage of the slightest opportunity during our competition at the SEA Games," he stated.

Indonesia will send 499 athletes to the 31st SEA Games. They will compete in 32 of the 40 sports at the competition. Earlier, the contingent only planned to dispatch 476 athletes. Later, several athletes from the futsal, swimming, and cycling branches were added to the contingent list. (*)

Saudi Arabia Determines Hajj Quota for Indonesian Pilgrims: Ministry

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs announced that the amount of regular and special hajj quota for the 1443 Hijriah pilgrimage had been determined by the Saudi Arabian government.

"The provision of hajj quotas in 1443 H is not carried out as in the previous years through the signing of the MoU between the two countries represented by Minister of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia and Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. However, the quota is given directly by the Saudi Arabia Government through e-Hajj," Director General of Hajj and Umrah Or-

ganizers at the Ministry of Religious Affairs Hilman Latief noted in a written statement here, Wednesday (4/5).

Latief later remarked that the distribution of regular and special hajj quotas was conducted according to the allocation set by the Saudi Arabian government. Systemically, through e-Hajj, the Saudi Arabia Government has divided 92,825 quotas for Indonesian regular pilgrims and 7,226 quotas for special Hajj.

Determination of the Hajj quota by the Saudi Arabian Government was only published in mid-April during the pandemic. In time, information regarding the certainty

of the hajj quota is limited, as usually, the discussion of the MoU was conducted since December of the previous year.

Latief assessed that the Hajj quota determination by the Government of Saudi Arabia was conducted on the basis of data on the percentage of Indonesian pilgrims in the previous year that was not exactly eight percent.

The quota for pilgrims this year is also less than the quota assumption discussed with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the House of Representatives (DPR) while discussing the Cost of Organizing the Hajj (BPIH) in mid-April. "However, we are still

grateful that this year, there will be Indonesian pilgrims, who can go to the Holy Land to perform Hajj," Latief remarked.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs is currently focusing on preparing services for Indonesian pilgrims at home and abroad. The ministry continues to conduct communication and coordination with partners abroad while finalizing the preparation of services for Indonesian pilgrims.

"Hopefully, the condition will return to normal soon, so that next year, the hajj quota will also return to normal, both for regular and special hajj," he concluded. (*)