

## || WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

### BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

|| Brief Highlights on Current Issues of South Asia ||

|| June 25, 2021 – July 01, 2021 ||

#### SOUTH ASIA: COVID-19 CRISIS: AT A GLANCE

Afghanistan's ministry of public health has reported 1,557 confirmed cases with 91 fatalities recorded on June 30, 2021. The new tally was recorded out of 5,051 samples, according to the ministry. During this period, 996 people were recovered. The total number of cases surpasses 12, 0216 with 4,962 deaths as of June 30, 2021. This comes as the Afghan health officials said earlier that the number of cases would be declining in the coming weeks. The officials also voiced concerns over the shortage of the oxygen balloons.

Bangladesh government has imposed a seven-day-long stricter lockdown across the country from July 1, 2021 to tackle the ongoing alarming surge in Covid-19 cases and deaths. Bangladesh, on June 30, 2021 reported 112 new death toll and 7,666 fresh cases of coronavirus. As of June 30, 2021 total cases in Bangladesh becomes 9, 04,436 and total death toll reached to 14,388. The country administered 2.62% of its population vaccinated so far.

Bhutan has reported 14 new cases on June 30, 2021 and no death toll since the country reported only one death due to Covid-19. In Bhutan, 2,076 cases of coronavirus identified so far. Bhutan administered 4, 84,751 doses of Covid-19 vaccine as of June 30, 2021. The country is trying hard to get second dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

India has reported 817 death toll and 45,951 new cases due to coronavirus. Country's total cases becomes 3, 03, 62,848 and total death toll reached to 3, 98,454. In India, 4.19% population has been fully vaccinated till June 30, 2021. India is currently running mass vaccination program all across the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people not to believe in rumors, rather believe in science and get vaccinated.

Maldives Health Protection Agency (HPA) has announced 138 additional cases, which made the number of active cases 73,660 as of July 1, 2021. 35.70% of the population has been vaccinated. The congregational prayers have resumed, restaurants have been allowed to offer dine in services and the curfew hours are shortened. National airline, Maldivian has announced its flights between Maldives and Bangladesh will remain suspended until July 15, 2021. However, work permit holders can travel back from July 7, 2021 with mandatory quarantine and PCR test within 48-72 hours of arrival.

Myanmar's number of active cases stood at 155,697 and the death toll rose to 3320 as of July 1, 2021. The country's Health Ministry has imposed stay-at-home orders on 11 townships as the country is facing the third wave of the pandemic.

Nepal's Covid-19 tally has reached to 640,662 with 1,857 new cases on July 01, 2021. The Health Ministry reports 33 new deaths including figures based on statistics from the Nepal Army. The countrywide death toll has now reached 9,145 till date. The number of active cases stands at 31,368 as of July 01, 2021. According to the ministry, 600,149 infected people have recovered from the disease so far.

Pakistan has reported total 958,408 positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic to date, while total 22,321 people lost their lives as of July 01, 2021. The positivity rate currently stands at 2.2%.

Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html> (John Hopkins University)

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## TRADE AND INVESTMENT: WEBINAR ON ‘THE NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 2021-2022: PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE.’ - “Vaccination of most adults key to saving private sector”, Experts say

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and the International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) jointly organized a webinar titled ‘The National Budget for 2021-2022: Private Sector Perspective’ on June 26, 2021. Planning Minister MA Mannan, MP and other distinguished economists, business leaders, civil society members and journalists attended the event. Presenting the keynote paper, Mr. Towfiqul Islam Khan, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) pointed out a number of areas of concerns of the economy like slow pace of public expenditure, weak private investment and emergence of new poor due to the pandemic. Experts opined in the meeting that vaccination of 70 per cent of the adult population can help save the private sector from the Covid-19 induced economic losses. Discussants also said without vaccination, it would be very difficult to protect the private sector, the main engine of growth, with stimulus packages only. They added that the stimulus packages for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the agriculture sector should be expanded and redesigned in the next budget considering the Covid-19 fallout.

Speaking as the chief guest, Planning Minister MA Mannan said the pandemic has badly affected the economies all over the world including Bangladesh but the economy of Bangladesh was bouncing back steadily thanks to the private sector and timely policy interventions of the government. As a result, Bangladesh topped the list of most growing economies in Asia. He also said the government wants to help boost private sector. Among others, President of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Ambassador M Humayun Kabir said in his opening remarks that the private sector was passing through tough time due to the coronavirus in the recent months as private sector credit growth keeps falling over the last few months, among other handicaps. He added that at this turning point in Bangladesh history it was necessary to keep a long view and the budget should also be a stepping stone toward development trajectory of the next 50 years.

**Source:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/expand-redesign-stimulus-smes-2118981>

## “E-COMMERCE SITES WILL GET PAYMENT AFTER DELIVERING PRODUCTS IN BANGLADESH” - COMMERCE MINISTRY

Online shoppers can now make purchases with confidence after a commerce ministry’s decision on June 24, 2021 that stipulated holding the payment of local e-commerce platforms until confirmation of safe delivery of items, adding a layer of consumer protection to the transaction. At present, the merchants’ payment is cleared within moments of the customer making the transaction with bank cards or the mobile financial services platform. Mr. Hafizur Rahman, Director General of the WTO cell under the commerce ministry, said payment will be cleared only after confirmation by the customer. He added that when the payment gateways will be controlled effectively, no e-commerce site can cheat or make an unusual delay in delivery of goods as the companies will also need to wait for the payment. The commerce ministry will work collaboratively with Bangladesh Bank to work out the logistical arrangement of the decision, including how the confirmation of receipt of items would come from the customers. The development comes after a recent Bangladesh Bank inspection report on the e-commerce juggernaut Evaly that sounded off the alarm bells.

**Source:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/e-commerce-sites-theyll-get-payment-after-delivering-items-2117565>

## AFGHANISTAN: AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT ASHRAF GHANI TO VISIT USA ON JUNE 25, 2021

US President Joe Biden has said that Afghans "are going to have to decide their future" as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani visited the White House on June 25, 2021. Mr. Biden promised continued support for the country, even though US and NATO troops are set to finish their withdrawal on September 11, 2021. It comes after Islamist Taliban fighters captured dozens of districts in a recent offensive. Earlier this week the UN expressed alarm at their gains. The meeting came the day after the US announced plans to evacuate thousands of Afghans who worked for the US military ahead of the withdrawal. Many fear reprisals from the Taliban. US and NATO officials have recently said that the Taliban have so far failed to live up to commitments to reduce violence in Afghanistan.

This White House meeting comes at a pivotal moment. There would have been a clear message that arguing Afghan leaders had to forge a united front and the worrying weaknesses in Afghan security forces, including the maintenance of helicopters, as they confront escalating Taliban attacks. President Biden emphasized it was up to Afghans now. In President Ghani's words, it's a "a new chapter"; both sides have a big stake in how it ends.

### Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/world/news/afghans-decide-their-future-2118689>

## AFGHANISTAN: ITALY, POLAND, CZECH, GEORGIA, GERMANY COMPLETE TROOPS WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN AMID ESCALATING WAR

Most European troops have already pulled out of Afghanistan, quietly withdrawing months before the U.S.-led mission was officially expected to end - part of an anti-climactic close to the "forever war" that risks leaving the country on the brink of civil war. Germany and Italy declared their missions in Afghanistan over on June 30, 2021 and Poland's last troops returned home, bringing their deployments to a low-key end nearly 20 years after the first Western soldiers were deployed there.

Announcements from several countries analyzed by The Associated Press show that a majority of European troops has now left with little ceremony - a stark contrast to the dramatic and public show of force and unity when NATO allies lined up to

back the U.S. invasion to rid the country of al-Qaida after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

### Source:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57659927>

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## BANGLADESH: PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA PUT FORWARD FIVE POINTS FOR WATER SECURITY AT UN SPECIAL SESSION

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 25, 2021 placed five point proposals to the international community to raise global awareness for a resilient and sustainable post Covid-19 world by combating water and disaster challenges. She was speaking at the Fifth UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters titled 'Building Back Better towards More Resilient and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World.' The five point proposals included taking a comprehensive, result-oriented, focused and adaptive global approach for water security; raising political awareness; share good practices, knowledge, and experiences; synergies on water management and water policies and its use by nations of the upper and lower basins; focus of the world community on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement; and mobilizing financial resources for vulnerable countries to ensure their adequate access to water.

The Prime Minister pointed that the world is currently confronting the global health crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic which caused enormous economic and social disruption that has slowed down the progress for sustainable development. She mentioned that the growing scarcity of clean drinking water, outbreak of diseases like cholera and typhoid reminds us of the crucial need for water for peace and development. She also said Bangladesh is the lower most riparian country in South Asia, standing on the confluence of three mighty rivers- the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. She added that Bangladesh is currently facing two pronged water related problems- its surplus and shortage.

**Source:**

<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/government/pm-hasina-for-stronger-global-coop-to-mitigate-water-related-disasters>

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## BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH TO IMPORT 700 MW HYDROPOWER FROM NEPAL

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Bangladesh has decided to import around 700 megawatts (MW) of hydropower from Nepal to meet its future electricity demand. State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid on June 27, 2021 said that Bangladesh is now focusing on renewable energy. The target has been set to generate 40 percent of electricity from renewable energy by 2040. He also said that Bangladesh would sign an agreement on hydropower import with Nepal next month as the government is working on the scope to invest in hydropower projects in Nepal and import the electricity through electricity transmission line over neighboring India.

power plant in Bangladesh is located at Kaptai in Rangamati district. It is possible to generate 230 MW of electricity during the monsoon season, but it is not possible to run the plant fully during the dry season due to lack of water.

**Source:**

<https://www.businessinsiderbd.com/national/news/7219/govt-to-import-700mw-of-electricity-from-nepal-soon>

Energy and Mineral Resource State Minister also revealed a decision to scrap 10 coal fired power plants having a total generation capacity of 8,451 MW as they failed to come online during their stipulated time. The only hydro-

## BHUTAN: BHUTAN'S SECOND COVID-19 DOSE EXPECTED TO COME IN BY JULY, 2021

Dr. Tandi Dorji, the Foreign Minister of Bhutan said that as the 12 week vaccine gap dose officially ends on June 27, 2021, the government is working hard to get the vaccines for the second dose. One major source of hope for Bhutan is India which had been giving assurances of sending vaccines within the 16 weeks gap which falls within July, 2021. According to the Indian news portal The Print, depending on the scale of production of vaccines within India, New Delhi is aiming at July end or August 2021 to at least release those vaccines that have been bought by Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal and are now in pending status. The supplies to Bhutan, which received vaccines from India as grants, will be prioritized too, says The Print. The encouraging sign for Bhutan is the falling case numbers in India and record vaccinations as produc-

tion is ramped up and new facilities come online which allows India breathing space to fulfill its neighborhood commitments. However, the government is not leaving anything to chance and it is still actively trying to get vaccines from other countries.

### Source:

<https://thebhutanese.bt/bhutans-second-dose-expected-to-come-in-by-july/>

## INDIA: PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI MEETS KASHMIR LEADERS FOR THE FIRST TIME

On June 24, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir for the first time since the removal of the region's semi-autonomous status and imposing of wide-spread crackdown almost two years ago. Total 14 leaders attended the talks, including former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Farooq Abdullah; Among them many were detained in the months after autonomy was revoked. At the landmark meeting, Prime Minister Modi said he wanted to remove the barriers to bring Delhi closer to the people of that region. In a tweet, the Prime Minister described the meeting as an important step in the ongoing efforts towards a developed and progressive Jammu and Kashmir. In the meeting, Former chief minister Farooq Abdullah led National Conference (NC) demanded the restoration of statehood and the reversal of the decision taken in August, 2019 as it was not for the greater interest of people in Jammu and Kashmir. Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said the leaders kept five demands in the meeting- grant state-

hood soon, conduct Assembly elections, rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in J&K, all political detainees should be released and on domicile rules. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said the dialogue process initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Jammu and Kashmir's mainstream leadership can gain credibility by ending the era of 'oppression and suppression' in the union territory and understanding that a dissenting voice is not a criminal act.

However, all-party meeting has been seen as a success since Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to take some steps, including holding early assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir to end the political crisis in that region.

### Source:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/24/india-modi-meets-kashmir-leaders-for-first-time-since-autonomy-revoked>

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## INDIA: STANDOFF TALKS: INDIA, CHINA AGREE TO HOLD MILITARY TALKS SOON; INDIA SHIFTS 50,000 TROOPS TO CHINA BORDER

India and China agreed on June 25, 2021 to hold the next meeting of senior military commanders as soon as possible to discuss complete disengagement at friction points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) while working to maintain stability on the ground. The agreement of early talk came at a virtual meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on border affairs. Meanwhile, India has redirected at least 50,000 additional troops to its border with China in a historic shift toward an offensive military posture against the world's second-biggest economy.

Over the past few months, India has moved troops and fighter jet squadrons to three distinct areas along its border with China.

India now has roughly 2,00,000 troops focused on the border which is an increase of more than 40 per cent from last year. India blamed China's actions of amassing a large number of troops close to the border and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the LAC last year for the continuing military standoff in eastern Ladakh; and asserted that these acts were in violation of bilateral agreements.

**Sources:** <https://www.reportwire.in/standoff-talks-india-china-discuss-early-resolution-agree-to-hold-military-talks-soon/>  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-shifts-50000-troops-to->

## MYANMAR: CONFLICTS RESULTS MASSIVE DISPLACEMENTS IN MYANMAR

In a recently published report, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated that in the current year, about 230,000 people have been displaced and in need of help, as a result of spiraling conflict in Myanmar. The UN human rights office (OHCHR) has received credible reports that at least 568 women, children and men have been killed since the military coup, while the local monitoring agency claims the number to be 880.

The International Crisis Group (ICG) report on Myanmar argues that the violence in the country escalated as the 'self-defense' forces engaged militarily evoked to fight back the military regime. The local defense forces use hunting rifles or weapons manufactured secretly at makeshift jungle factories. The clashes mostly occur in the rural areas in between the military and defense forces added to the existing twenty ethnic rebel

groups. The ICG warned, as the economy of the country almost collapsed, it may make room for the militias to procure revenue beyond the community donations and ensure their sustenance. In the face of these rising insurgents, the Tatmadaw is assumed to use its military might to cause massive human casualties.

**Sources:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/world/news/230000-displaced-myanmar-2021-un-2117825>  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/un-humanitarian-agency-says-230000-displaced-myanmar-this-year-2021-06-24/>  
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089212>  
<https://www.newagebd.net/article/142172/myanmar-violence-escalate-as-self-defence-groups-rise-report>

## MYANMAR: TRIAL OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI ASSUMED TO BE EXTENDED

The ousted leader of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi appeared in court on June 29, 2020 and heard testimony of violating the coronavirus restrictions during the election of 2020. Her legal team head Khin Maung Zaw stated that the prosecution had entered evidence he believed was inadmissible but allowed by the judge. Her lawyer Min Min Soe told reporters that Suu Kyi was worried about the coronavirus situation in the country, requested all to be careful regarding Covid-19 and urged people to "Please stay united. Please be united".

The junta's trial of Suu Kyi is assumed to run longer than scheduled as the prosecution is yet to call 23 witnesses to the court. The Nobel laureate has been kept in house arrest since the February 1, 2021 coup and charges of bribery, illegally possessing two-way radios, flouting Covid-19 restrictions and election fraud.

**Source:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/asia/south-asia/news/stay-united-against-junta-2121017>

## MYANMAR: ROHINGYA CRISIS: MYANMAR MILITARY REGIME ORGANIZED NEW LEGAL TEAM

The Myanmar military regime has organized a new legal team led by its foreign minister, U Wunna Maung Lwin, to present the defense of the regime in the Rohingya genocide case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The announcement was made on June 24, 2021 through local dailies. The panel was previously led by former State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. The panel consists of eight members of which two former military officers i.e. U Wunna Maung Lwin, as chairman, and the junta's planning, finance and industry minister, U Win Shein and two serving lieutenant generals Yar Pyae and Adjutant General Myo Zaw Thein. Among the others are U Ko Ko Hlaing, military regime's Minister for International Cooperation, Thida Oo, Union Attorney General, U Kyaw Myo Htut Deputy Foreign Minister and Khin Oo

Hlaing, International Criminal Law Expert.

Earlier, on June 4, 2021, U Moe Zaw Oo, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Myanmar's parallel National Unity Government (NUG) at an online press conference said that Myanmar's civilian government will not defend the case, rather NUG will accept the court's decision and comply by its decision. adjuration.

### Sources:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-crisis/news/rohingya-genocide-case-icj-myanmar-military-regime-organises-new-legal-team-2118565>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/myanmar-genocide-regime-forms-legal-team-icj-2118769>

## MALDIVES: MALDIVES GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

At a press briefing on June 29, 2021, President Ibrahim Solih announced that the Ministry of Health is committed to establish 'Maldives Health Service' which may be set in motion in July, 2021. The institute will ascertain proper healthcare to the people, monitor the healthcare service providers, ambulance services and will provide primary health care services throughout the country. Initially, 108 healthcare workers, under

the health ministry will be transferred to facilitate the institution, once established. The decision comes as the island nation observes the third wave of the pandemic.

### Sources:

<https://raajje.mv/102525>

<https://en.sun.mv/67494>

## NEPAL: COURT EXPECTED TO ORDER NEPALI CONGRESS PRESIDENT SHER BAHADUR DEUBA TO BE APPOINTED AS PRIME MINISTER, LAWYERS ARGUE

Lawyers representing writ petitioners against the May 21, 2021 House dissolution have demanded that President Bidya Devi Bhandari appoint Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba as Prime Minister of the caretaker government. They asked the five-member Constitutional Bench led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana to issue a mandamus order in the name of the President to appoint Deuba as per Article 76 (5) since he had the support of 149 lawmakers of the 275-member House of Representatives. As the lawyers representing the petitioners finished their arguments on June 27, 2021, Satish Krishna Kharel, Senior Advocate said that the President failed to comply with her constitutional responsibilities. "Oli went to the President with decisions of the parties but Deuba with the signatures of 149 lawmakers. Deuba made the legitimate claim but the President didn't follow her constitutional duty to appoint the Prime Minister," Kharel said at the bench. After he failed to get a confidence vote in

Parliament on May 10, 2021, and no one made a claim on forming a coalition government as per Article 76 (2) of the constitution, the President reappointed Oli as Prime Minister as per Article 76 (3) on May 13 as he leads CPN-UML, the largest party in parliament with 121 seats. Although such a minority government needs to win a confidence vote within 30 days, Oli instead recommended to the President to call for the formation of a government as per Article 76 (5) of the constitution on May 20, 2021. While invalidating Deuba's claim, the President had said action against the lawmakers of the Nepal faction of the UML and the Yadav faction of Janata Samajbadi Party would be taken and they wouldn't remain lawmakers.

**Source:** <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2021/07/01/defendants-lawyers-argue-president-can-use-discretion-while-appointing-prime-minister>

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## PAKISTAN: PAKISTAN TO SET THE FUTURE COURSE OF TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES

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The Senate Committee on Defense and National Security on June 29, 2021 asked the government to adhere to the recommendations given in the 2012 report of Parliamentary Committee on National Security (PCNS) while setting the future course of ties with the United States. The directive was given during a meeting of the defense committee that was chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. A copy of the recommendations on US ties, which were unanimously approved by the parliament on April 12, 2012, was sent by the committee to the defense ministry with a note that these should be considered as "Pakistan's state policy guidelines". Senator Mushahid presented to the committee the copy of the terms of engagements prepared by PCNS, which was then headed by Senator Raza Rabbani.

The Rabbani-led PCNS was tasked by the government to review the terms of engagement with the US in the aftermath of the November, 2011, Salala incident in which at least 28 Pakistani troops were martyred in an attack by US forces on Pakistani mili-

tary check posts along Pak-Afghan border. The prescribed terms of engagement deal with issues like bases, foreign 'boots on the ground', and foreign intelligence operations on Pakistani territory. The Senate defense committee noted that all of these were now forbidden under the parliament's directive. The PCNS report had categorically stated that "no covert or overt operations inside Pakistan shall be permitted"; "no private security contractors and/or intelligence operatives shall be allowed"; and that "Pakistan's territory will not be provided for the establishment of foreign bases". Pakistan has been emphasizing that it intends to focus on trade and economic aspect of the bilateral relationship, but US has been demanding bases for drones on Pakistani soil for future counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan.

**Source:**

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1632222>

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## PAKISTAN: PAKISTAN TO REMAIN ON FATF 'GREY LIST'

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The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global dirty money watchdog said on June 25, 2021, it had kept Pakistan on the grey list despite progress on tackling terrorism financing. FATF president Marcus Pleyer said that Pakistan made substantial progress addressing everything on a 2018 action plan except a last item concerning the investigation and prosecution of senior leaders and commanders of UN-designated terrorist groups. He added that Pakistan was still failing to put global anti-money-

laundering standards into place.

**Source:**

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1631409>

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## || BEI ACTIVITIES : AT A GLANCE ||

### IBFB-BEI WEBINAR ON “THE NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 2021-22: PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE”, SATURDAY, 26 JUNE, 2021

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International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) and Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organized a webinar titled on “The National Budget for 2021-22: Private Sector Perspective” on Saturday, 26 June, 2021 at 11:00 am via ZOOM video conference.

**Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP**, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh attended the webinar as Chief Guest.

The keynote presentation was made by **Mr. Towfiqul Islam Khan**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) while the discussants were **Mr. M.S. Siddiqui**, Legal Economist & Vice President, International Business Forum of Bangla-

desh (IBFB), **Dr. M. Masrur Reaz**, Chairman, Policy Exchange of Bangladesh and **Dr. Muhammad Abdul Mazid**, Former Secretary and Ex- Chairman, NBR & Chairman, Finance Committee, IBFB and **Dr. Mohammad Mahfuz Kabir**, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

**Mr. Md Jashim Uddin**, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) attended as Guest of Honor while **Mr. Humayun Rashid**, President, IBFB, presided over the webinar. **Ambassador M Humayun Kabir**, President, BEI delivered the welcome remarks at the webinar.



Image 01: Participants discussion session in zoom conference



Image 02: Newspaper highlights of the conference

## About Us

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute is a non-profit, non-political research centre. Established in October 2000, the Institute has established for itself a reputation for excellence in its research and advocacy work focusing on the growth of private enterprise in Bangladesh. The Institute promotes issues of importance to the private sector and seeks to initiate essential measures and influence policy for the development of a market-oriented economy. Through the promotion of sustainable growth in domestic trade, commerce and industry, BEI hopes to address the enormous challenge for Bangladesh in securing a fair share of the global market.

BEI has a particular interest in the support and growth of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), which have the potential to be the engine of economic growth in Bangladesh. BEI also undertakes research and policy advocacy work focusing on the issues of foreign policy and security, particularly those of terrorism impacting Bangladesh and South Asia.

Being conscious of the enormous challenge to securing a fair share for Bangladesh in the global market as well as to address issues of trade and investment promotion, the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) was established under the initiative of some leading business personalities of the country. Salman F. Rahman, Deputy Chairman of the BEXIMCO Group, has been working as the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador, and past Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment, has been working as a Distinguished Fellow and Member of the Board of Governors of the institute and M Humayun Kabir, former Ambassador, has been working as the President and Chief Executive of the institute.

The institute is registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bangladesh, under the Societies Registration Act.

## DISCLAIMER

In compiling this weekly news update, BEI has attempted to include the most relevant news accounts from the past week concerning South Asian Region. From time to time, news beyond South Asia has also been included if it finds relevance on any issues to the region. We recognize that some developments may have been overlooked, and that some sources may not be viewed by all as credible or balanced. Inclusion of a news story and its summary does not constitute any kind of endorsement or position taken by BEI, and the text and positions included in the above are solely extracted from various news articles published in the print media in various countries in South Asia and beyond. If you have any comments or feedback for us regarding this digest, please email at [bei@bol-online.com](mailto:bei@bol-online.com). For more information about BEI and our work, please visit <https://www.bei-bd.org/>

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