

|| WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

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

|| August 06, 2021 – August 12, 2021 ||

SOUTH ASIA: COVID-19 CRISIS: AT A GLANCE

Afghanistan has reported total 25 fatalities on August 12, 2021 with the total death toll nearing 7000 since the beginning of the pandemic. The country is now facing the third wave of the pandemic.

Bangladesh on August 12, 2021 reported 215 fatalities and 10,126 new novel coronavirus cases. As of August 12, 2021, country's total caseload became 13,96,868 and total death toll reached to 23,613. Bangladesh as of August 12, 2021 has administered 19,785,800 doses of Covid-19 vaccine. Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen on August 05, 2021 said the government has ordered 75 million doses of Chinese Sinopharm vaccine. He added that the tentative vaccine co-production agreement with China would be signed anytime for the production of its Sinopharm vaccine with a local Bangladeshi pharmaceutical.

Bhutan reported 1 new case on August 12, 2021 and the country so far reported only 3 deaths due to Covid-19. In Bhutan, total 2,551 coronavirus cases have been identified till date. 66.20 per cent Bhutanese have received two doses Covid-19 vaccine till August 12, 2021.

India on August 12, 2021 recorded 490 fresh death tolls and 41,195 new caseload due to Covid-19. Country's total confirmed cases became 3,20,77,706 and total death toll reached to 4,29,669. In India, total 523,671,019 doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered till August 12, 2021.

Maldives reported 112 active cases as of August 12, 2021. No deaths occurred in the current month. 54.17% of the population has been vaccinated. The United States donated one lac twenty eight thousand and seven hundred doses of Pfizer vaccines to Maldives under the COVAX facility. The country has opened walk in vaccination drive of AstraZeneca shots from August 9, 2021. The schools have resumed for new academic year 2021-2022 on August 10, 2021 with strict safety protocols. Restaurants have reopened and restrictions have been lifted from public gatherings as well. President Ibrahim Solih acclaims that his country has successfully reached the 'new normal'.

Myanmar's official sources stated that the number of active cases had stood at 341,300 and the death toll rose to 12,452 as of August 12, 2021. However, there are allegations that the numbers are underrated. Myanmar's Chinese Chamber of Commerce (MCCOC) is to launch its own vaccination program, where people will be able to receive Chinese-made Sinopharm jabs for 50,000 kyats per person.

Nepal on August 12, 2021 has reported 2,473 new coronavirus cases taking the nationwide infection tally to 725,769. The country has reported 32 Covid-19-related fatalities on August 12, 2021. The number of active cases stands at 38,180. According to the Ministry, 677,377 infected people have recovered from the disease so far.

Pakistan has reported a total of 4,934 cases and 102 deaths on August 12, 2021. The confirmed coronavirus cases reached to 1,085,294 since the beginning of the pandemic. Another 102 fatalities have also been recorded on August 12, 2021, taking the death toll to 24,187. The country has received 10 million doses of Covid vaccines from China on August 12, 2021.

Sri Lanka observed a sharp spike in COVID cases. The numbers of active cases were 342,079 with number of deaths rising to 5464 and 12.74% of the population has been vaccinated according to the official reports of August 12, 2021. A consignment of 15000 Russian made Sputnik V arrived the country on August 11, 2021.

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ECNEC APPROVES TK. 22.04B PROJECT TO EXPAND, MODERNIZE 5G TELETALK NETWORK; BANGLADESH DISCOVERS 28TH GAS FIELD IN SYLHET

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on August 04, 2021 had approved Tk 22.04 billion for modernization of state-owned mobile phone operator Teletalk to expand the services across the country including 5G network service to rural areas. At the post meeting brief, Planning Minister Mr. MA Mannan stated that ten projects of Tk. 79.86 billion were approved at the meeting. He added by November 2023, Teletalk Bangladesh Limited will implement its expansion project. He mentioned that improving quality of Teletalk network to provide modern 4G based services to remote areas at cheaper cost is the main objectives of this project. The project will also develop the existing network of Teletalk for providing 5G services.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Mr. Nasrul Hamid announced that Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (BAPEX) has discovered country's twenty eighth gas field in Zakiganj of Sylhet. BAPEX discovered the gas field in June this year with 68 billion cubic feet (bcf) gas which they have formally announced after assessing prospects of the gas field.

Sources:

<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/government/ecnec-approves-project-tk-2204-billion-to-expand-modernize-teletalk-network>

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-announces-discovery-of-28th-gas-field-1628521212>

BANGLADESH BANK STARTS MOPPING UP IDLE MONEY FROM BANKS; 'INTEREST RATE OF DEPOSITS WILL NOT BE LESS THAN INFLATION', SAYS CENTRAL BANK

The recent scheme announced by the UK government aims at driving trade with Bangladesh and other countries to boost jobs and economic growth. Acting British High Commissioner in Dhaka Mr. Javed Patel said that the proposed UK Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) indicates UK government's eagerness to promote global free, competitive and fair trade. By enabling Bangladeshi businesses to access the UK market more easily, the scheme demonstrates UK government's commitment to expand economic ties with Bangladesh.

The new trading rules will work in two ways; it will help trading developing countries in coming out of poverty and at the same time it will help British businesses and consumers. The scheme will mean more opportunity and less bureaucracy for developing countries by simplifying rules of origin requirements or reducing tariffs on imports.

Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bb-drains-tk2605cr-idle-money-banks-first-auction-day-285931>

TALIBAN COULD TAKE AFGHAN CAPITAL IN 90 DAYS AMID RAPID TALIBAN GAINS; US INTELLIGENCE; TURKEY DETERMINED TO RUN KABUL AIRPORT DESPITE TALIBAN ADVANCES; AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS TALIBAN 'SHARE IN POWER' IF MOVEMENT ENDS VIOLENCE

The U.S. intelligence report cited that Taliban fighters could isolate Afghanistan's capital in 30 days and possibly take over in 90 days. The new assessment of how long Kabul could stand was a result of the rapid gains the Taliban had been making around the country as U.S. led foreign forces leave. The Taliban took control 65% of Afghanistan and captured 14 provincial capitals, according to the recent reports. Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani flew to Mazar-i-Sharif to appeal for help from the old regional war lords, whom he spent years sidelining as he attempted to project the authority of his central government over wayward provinces and to the defense of the biggest city in the north as Taliban forces closed in. The speed of their advance has shocked the Afghan government and its allies. Furthermore, the Afghan government offered the Taliban a share in power if it ends violence in the country. The proposal of the Kabul administration was delivered to the Taliban via Qatar, the host of the intra-Afghan negotiations.

U.S. President Joe Biden urged Afghan leaders to fight for their homeland on August 10, 2021. He mentioned that he did not regret his decision to withdraw. He noted that the U.S. had spent more than \$1 trillion over 20 years and lost thousands of troops. The Taliban have already captured districts bordering Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Pakistan and China, heightening regional security concerns. The U.S. had been providing significant air support, food, equipment and salaries to Afghan forces, he said. Meanwhile, Heiko Maas, foreign minister of Germany said on August 12, 2021, that Germany would not provide any financial support to Afghanistan if the Taliban takes over power

in the country and introduces Sharia law, He also added that "We provide 430 million euros (\$505 million) every year, we will not give another cent if the Taliban takes over the country and introduces Sharia law, "The United Nations said more than 1,000 civilians had been killed in the past month, and the International Committee of the Red Cross said some 4,042 wounded people had been treated since August 01, 2021. However, the Taliban denied targeting or killing civilians and called for an investigation.

Hulusi Akar, Defense Minister of Turkey on August 12, 2021 said that Turkey believes it would be beneficial for Kabul airport to remain open and the issue will "take shape" in the coming days, as talks continued on Turkey running the airport. Mr. Akar said there had been suggestions that diplomatic missions would completely withdraw if the airport was closed. Turkey offered to deploy troops at Kabul airport after NATO withdrawal and held talks with the U.S. for weeks. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan asked for financial, logistical and diplomatic conditions to be met. He also said that he could meet with the leader of the Taliban as part of efforts to end the fighting in Afghanistan.

Sources: <http://www.afghanistantimes.af/us-doubles-down-on-sustained-support-biden-says-kabul-must-face-down-taliban/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58142983>
<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/turkey-says-kabul-airport-issue-take-shape-coming-days-2021-08-12/>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/11/joe-biden-afghanistan-taliban>

'TROIKA PLUS' MEETING HELD ON AFGHAN PEACE; CHINA COULD PLAY 'BIGGER ROLE' TO MEDIATE; 'STOP THE BLOODSHED, RETURN TO TALKS'- U.N. TO TALIBAN

Ned Price, U.S. State Department spokesperson said that the participants of two key meetings 'Troika Plus' and Regional Conference held in Doha pressed for a reduction in violence, a ceasefire and a commitment by the part of these regional and broader governments and multilateral and international institutions not to recognize any government that is imposed by force. Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. special representative for Afghanistan represented Washington in the Doha talks, at the Troika Plus meeting. Pakistan sent its special envoy Muhammad Sadiq and its ambassador to Kabul, Mansoor Khan. The Afghan government delegation had

been led by Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation. Zamir Kabulov, Kremlin's envoy to Afghanistan and the newly appointed Chinese envoy for Afghanistan Yue Xiao Yong represented their countries.

The Head of the Afghan reconciliation committee said "The Taliban has not shown seriousness in peace talks and it is clear they do not believe in a political solution" at the extended Troika Plus meeting attended by diplomats from China, Russia, Pakistan and the US, which kicked off in Doha, Qatar on August 11, 2021.

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which kicked off in Doha, Qatar on August 11, 2021. A member of the Afghan government delegation at the Doha negotiations told that having a mediator at the talks is necessary and urged the international community to pressure the Taliban to show seriousness. However, a spokesperson for the Taliban told that the Taliban is committed to the negotiations and does not want it to fall apart. US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad brought a warning to the Taliban that any government that comes to power through force in Afghanistan won't be recognized internationally. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, August 11, 2021 urged the Taliban to stop the fighting and bloodshed and return to peace talks with Afghan government following a wave of assaults over past week which have led to the fall of several cities. She called on the international community to take immediate action to prevent catastrophic conse-

quences for the Afghan people, warning that civil war could lead to the death of large numbers of civilians. The Regional Conference on Afghanistan also took place on August 12, 2021 at Doha, Qatar. The meet came even though Doha hosted the Troika Plus meet. India also participated the meeting of regional countries including the participation of countries like Turkey and Indonesia as well.

Sources:

<https://www.voanews.com/us-afghanistan-troop-withdrawal/qatar-host-international-meetings-afghan-peace>
<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/taliban-delegation-visits-china-taliban-spokesperson-2021-07-28/>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/29/afghanistan-pariah-state-taliban-blinken-china>

BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH EMPHASIZES ON ASEAN LEADERS' JOINT EFFORTS TO TACKLE REGIONAL CHALLENGES; NEWLY ELECTED IRAN PRESIDENT PRAISES BANGLADESH'S ROBUST DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen on August 06, 2021 has urged ASEAN leaders' collective efforts to face regional challenges while virtually delivering his speech at 28th meeting of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The meeting was held in Brunei, Darussalam which is the current chairman of ARF. The Foreign Minister together with other foreign ministers of ARF discussed on possible areas of collaboration and cooperation on Rohingya refugee crisis, climate change, nuclear proliferation, cyber security and other regional issues. Assuring Bangladesh's support on ASEAN initiatives, the Foreign Minister emphasized on the group's joint action on climate change and Rohingya repatriation. He also opined that Covid-19 vaccine should be regarded as a public good and vaccine making technology should be shared globally to produce it at an affordable cost.

On the other hand, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam has visited Iran to attend swear-in ceremony of the newly-

elected Iranian president. During his visit, he met with President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi who appreciated the robust economic development of Bangladesh and appreciated Bangladesh for hosting more than one million Rohingyas. Expressing his desire to closely work with Bangladesh, President Raisi wanted to visit Bangladesh in near future.

Sources:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/metro-news/iranian-president-lauds-bds-robust-development-1628268370>
<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/foreign-minister-stresses-concerted-efforts-asean-leaders-tackle-regional-challenges>

BHUTAN: BHUTAN ON TRACK TO 2023 LDC GRADUATION DESPITE COVID IMPACT: STUDY

Bhutan's department of Trade and UNDP Bhutan have recently published a study titled 'Diagnostic Trade Integration Study Update 2020' that indicates that the loss for Bhutan's LDC graduation in 2023 will be minimum even though the country will lose specific trade benefits and entitlements. According to United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP), Bhutan is on track to graduate from Least Development Countries (LDC) in 2023 despite covid-19 hit the economy of

the country badly.

With disadvantageous geographical location, Bhutan has progressed well in teams of socio-economic development. According to the study, Bhutan's economy will not be affected in accessing the market of India, Bangladesh and Nepal due to bilateral trade agreement and South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).

<https://kuenselonline.com/bhutans-losses-on-graduation-from-ldc-to-be-minimum/>

INDIA: PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI PUT FORTH FIVE PRINCIPALS FOR MARITIME SECURITY AT UNITED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged the removal of barriers on sea trade and stressed that any hindrance to maritime trade can affect global economy. The Prime Minister made the statement while chairing a high-level United Nations Security Council (UNSC) debate on August 09, 2021. He also said the shared maritime heritage of the world is facing challenges by state and non-state actors although seas are very important for the future of the planet. In his speech, he put forth five principles for maritime security such as free maritime trade, peaceful resolution of maritime dispute based on international law, responsible maritime connectivity, collectively combating

maritime threats posed by non-state actors as well as natural calamity and preserving maritime resources.

In the meantime, India's permanent representative at the United Nations said on August 06, 2021 that India would continue to support Kabul in ensuring peace and stability through a democratic process that is essential for long-term stability in Afghanistan and the region.

SOURCES:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/unsc-pm-puts-forward-five-principles-to-prepare-roadmap-for-maritime-security-cooperation/articleshow/85180554.cms>

INDIA: INDIA AND CHINA PULLS BACK THEIR TROOPS FROM FRICTION POINT GOGRA

The Indian Army announced on August 06, 2021 that the Indian Army and Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops have withdrawn from friction point Gogra along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after 12th round of military talks held in July 31, 2021 at Ladakh sector. This is the second disengagement between the two Armies after almost six month of Pangong Tso disengagement that happened in mid-February this year after ninth round of talks between the two Armies. According to a statement by

Indian Army, the troops of both sides have returned to their respective permanent base. India and China have been locked in border row for 15 month standoff that saw tensions between the two rival armies and sometimes led to deadly clashes.

SOURCES:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-china-pull-back-forces-from-another-part-of-border/articleshow/85100318.cms?from=mdr>

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MALDIVES: COP 26 REGIONAL AMBASSADOR, KEN O'FLAHERTY VISITED MALDIVES

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The COP26 Regional Ambassador for the Asia-Pacific and South Asia, Ken O'Flaherty was on a three day official visit to Maldives from August 9 to 11, 2021. During his visit, the diplomat met Minister of Tourism Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, the Minister of Environment and Energy Aminath Shauna, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Khaleel, Minister of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Mohamed Aslam and a number of young climate activists. The Maldives' Special Envoy for Climate Change, Ms Sabra Noordeen and British High Commissioner to the Maldives, Ms Caron Rohsler attended the meeting held at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology on August 10, 2021.

Ambassador O'Flaherty was briefed about the Government's revised Na-

tionally Determined Contributions (NDC) Plan to implement Net Zero Emissions target by 2030, the "Fifth Tourism Master Plan" aimed to reduce the carbon footprint and sustainable practices in the tourism industry of Maldives. The Maldivian officials underlined the importance of ardent and robust climate action by every country since the impacts of global warming cannot be contained by one country alone i.e. it requires collective efforts. The participants unanimously opined that urgent climate actions should be taken to turn the ambitions into actions.

SOURCES:

<https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/Article/24956>

<https://raaije.mv/104606>

MYANMAR: MYANMAR GOVERNMENT KEEPS OUT ROHINGYAS FROM VACCINATION DRIVE

The authority started inoculation in the Sittwe Township of Myanmar. The drive had begun with an aim of ten thousands vaccinations for priority groups such as the elderly, healthcare workers, government staff and Buddhist monks. The Rohingyas living in the densely packed camps of the township are barred from the vaccination opportunity. The local administrator, KyawL Win stated that they are working as per the government instructions which are dependent on the availability of vaccines; he added that there is no plan to vaccinate the Muslims of the camps for now.

About one lac forty thousand displaced Rohingya live in the Rakhine state and more than one lac lives in various camps of Sittwe. The locals in the camps reported several deaths with Covid-19 like symptoms; many are sick. However, they are skeptic about the facilities provided in the state medical system. Locals of Thet Kal Pyin camp affirmed that officials listed the names of eligible people for vaccines; however there are deem chances of getting vaccines. Fortify Rights group human rights specialist, Zaw Win said that he was not surprised by the deci-

sion since Rohingyas had always faced this partiality in their own country.

Meanwhile, under Bangladesh's national vaccination program, Bangladesh government and aid agencies collectively started inculcating Rohingya refugees against coronavirus living across thirty four camps in the Cox's Bazar district. Rohingyas aged above fifty five years, community leaders and healthcare volunteers in the camps are the prioritized groups. Sixty five thousand of the nine lac refugees is expected to be vaccinated in the first drive.

SOURCES:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-covid-vaccination-rollout-leaves-rohingya-waiting-2021-08-11/>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/un-envoy-warns-of-myanmar-civil-war-if-no-successful-talks-myanmar-covid-united-aung-san-suukyi-gdp-b1900297.html>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/10/bangladesh-rohingya-refugees-covid-vaccine>

NEPAL: BUDGET ENFORCED THROUGH ORDINANCE WILL BE REVISED AS PER NEED AND VISION: FM JANARDAN SHARMA

Mr. Janardan Sharma, newly-appointed Finance Minister has said that the Sher Bahadur Deuba-led government will revise the budget introduced by the previous government through an ordinance as per the road map of the new government. "The annual budget for the next fiscal year will be revised as per the need and vision of the new government," said Mr. Sharma assuming his office on August 11, 2021. Finance Minister Sharma has expressed his view in his first meet-

ing with the officials of the Ministry of Finance (MoF). "As the Supreme Court in its verdict has talked about the issues related to budget enforced through ordinance and the new government also has its own vision, we will reach a conclusion after discussion," Mr. Sharma added.

SOURCES:

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2021/08/11/deuba-government-to-revise-ordinance-budget-presented-in-may-end>

PAKISTAN: EU ENVOYS MEET PAK ARMY CHIEF, ASSURED PAKISTAN'S ROLE FOR REGIONAL STABILITY; PAKISTAN IS LIKELY TO HOST REGIONAL CONFERENCES ON AFGHANISTAN, RUSSIA AND CHINA

The Ambassadors of Germany, Italy, Netherlands and France called on Qamar Javed Bajwa, the Army Chief General on August 12, 2021 and assured to play their part in strengthening bilateral ties with Pakistan. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including latest situation in Afghanistan and enhanced bilateral cooperation with European Union (EU) were discussed. The visiting dignitaries also appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability and pledged to play their part for further cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. On August 10, 2021 Turkish Defense Minister General (retired) Hulusi Akar met Army Chief of Pakistan and discussed matters of mutual interest, the military said. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including defense and security cooperation between the two countries and overall regional security situation especially the Afghan peace process were discussed.

Pakistan is planning to host a regional conference on Afghanistan as part of its diplomatic efforts to prevent a civil war in Afghanistan. Sources said Afghanistan's neighbor's foreign ministers, including other stakeholders such as Russia, China, Iran, and Turkey, would attend the meeting. The idea behind this initiative is to discuss the latest developments and develop a consensus to prevent a civil war in Afghanistan. Neighboring countries in Afghanistan are concerned that the deteriorating situation of Afghanistan will have a negative impact on the region. The Taliban surge in Afghanistan is intensifying as US and NATO troops conclude their withdrawal from the country.

SOURCES:

<https://www.newspostalk.com/global-news/pakistan-to-host-regional-conference-on-afghanistan-report/>

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SRI LANKA: COP 26 REGIONAL AMBASSADOR LAUDED SRI LANKA FOR ITS COMMITMENTS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

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The COP26 Regional Ambassador for the Asia-Pacific and South Asia, Ken O'Flaherty visited Sri Lanka last week from August 5 to 9, 2021. During the visit he held meetings with Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Environment Mahinda Amaraweera, State Minister of Regional Cooperation Tharaka Balasuriya and Foreign Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage and other relevant officials.

Ambassador O'Flaherty praised the Sri Lankan government's efforts and commitments towards climate change initiatives including the 'Net Zero Carbon by 2050' and the pledge for "no more coal". Complementing the timely submission of its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), he stated that the countries submitting their clear and credible Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) can avail a wide range of opportunities like climate financing grants and attracting foreign investors who favor the countries with clear de-carbonizing mechanisms in their policies. The government of United Kingdom offered assistance to Sri Lanka through the Blue Planet Fund's Ocean Country Partnership Program.

Foreign Minister, Dinesh Gunawardena echoed the importance of increasing collaboration between the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka. The visit was

marked by planting of a Golden Shower Tree, *Cassia fistula* at the Beddagana Wetland Park organized by the Urban Development Authority of Sri Lanka.

SOURCES:

<https://www.newsfirst.lk/2021/08/10/cop26-regional-ambassador-commends-sl-commitments-on-renewable-energy/>

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. For more information about BEI and our work, please visit <https://www.bei-bd.org/>

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