

|| WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

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

|| October 08, 2021 – October 14, 2021 ||

SOUTH ASIA: COVID-19 CRISIS: AT A GLANCE

Afghanistan recorded total 156000 cases of coronavirus as of October 14, 2021 since the beginning of the pandemic. Total deaths reported 7234 as of October 14, 2021.

Bangladesh, recorded 27737 and total number of cases was 1,564,485 as of 16 October, 2021. Bangladesh has thus far administered a total 56,118,944 Covid-19 vaccine doses, totaling 11.46% of the population.

Bhutan reported 1 new case and no deaths as of 16 October, 2021. A total of 2,616 cases have been registered until 16 October, 2021, while 65.82% of Bhutan's population has been vaccinated.

India reported 379 deaths and 16,862 new corona virus cases making the total number of cases 34,037,592 while the total number of death counts 451814, 20.22% of Indians has been vaccinated until 16 October, 2021.

Maldives reported 85,932 active cases and 237 deaths as of 16 October, 2021. 65.46 percent of the population is vaccinated.

Myanmar reported a total of 484,317 cases and 18, 255 deaths as of 16 October, 2021.

Nepal on October 14, 2021 reported 691 new coronavirus cases taking the nationwide infection tally to 803,552. The countrywide death toll reached 11,257 as reported on October 14, 2021.

Pakistan recorded 1,016 new cases of coronavirus on October 14, 2021, taking the tally for confirmed cases to 1,261,685. Total 28 deaths were reported on October 14, 2021.

Sri Lanka reported 529,755 active cases and 13, 427 deaths as of 16 October, 2021. 57.85 percent of the population vaccinated. Sri Lankan youth found to be reluctant to receive covid vaccination.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Bangladesh: IMF projects 6.5 per cent growth rate for Bangladesh
- Afghanistan :U.S. and Taliban discussed aid in first direct talks; qatar diplomat emphasized engagement with taliban amid humanitarian crisis; Afghan Foreign Minister called for good ties with world; US, Taliban to hold first talks since Afghanistan withdrawal
- Afghanistan : G20 leaders agreed to step up Afghan humanitarian effort; un urged international community to inject liquidity into Afghan economy to prevent its collapse
- Bangladesh : Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen leading a Bangladesh delegation to the nam' 60th anniversary: highlights persecution of rohingya, laments vaccine nationalism
- Bangladesh : Bangladesh signs mou with united nations on operational engagement in bhasan char
- Bhutan : Bhutan demanded more proactive climate action from developed countries
- India : Boris calls modi: discusses vaccine certification and climate change
- India : India announced a \$200 line of credit for kyrgyzstan; raised concerns about the situation in Afghanistan
- India : Five Indian soldiers dead while three other gunfights ensue
- Maldives : Japan provides grant for agricultural development of maldives
- Myanmar : French senate and european parliament's recognition to national unity government
- Pakistan : IMF sees pakistan's fiscal indicators improving
- Sri lanka : Delegation of Indian army visited Sri Lanka

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Bangladesh: IMF projects 6.5 per cent growth rate for Bangladesh
- Afghanistan :U.S. and Taliban discussed aid in first direct talks; qatar diplomat emphasized engagement with taliban amid humanitarian crisis; Afghan Foreign Minister called for good ties with world; US, Taliban to hold first talks since Afghanistan withdrawal
- Afghanistan : G20 leaders agreed to step up Afghan humanitarian effort; un urged international community to inject liquidity into Afghan economy to prevent its collapse
- Bangladesh : Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen leading a Bangladesh delegation to the nam' 60th anniversary: highlights persecution of rohingya, laments vaccine nationalism
- Bangladesh : Bangladesh signs mou with united nations on operational engagement in bhasan char
- Bhutan : Bhutan demanded more proactive climate action from developed countries
- India : Boris calls modi: discusses vaccine certification and climate change
- India : India announced a \$200 line of credit for kyrgyzstan; raised concerns about the situation in Afghanistan
- India : Five Indian soldiers dead while three other gunfights ensue
- Maldives : Japan provides grant for agricultural development of maldives
- Myanmar : French senate and european parliament's recognition to national unity government
- Pakistan : IMF sees pakistan's fiscal indicators improving
- Sri lanka : Delegation of Indian army visited Sri Lanka

BANGLADESH: IMF PROJECTS 6.5 PER CENT GROWTH RATE FOR BANGLADESH

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest release World Economic Outlook titled "Recovery during a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions, and Price Pressures" on 12 October 2021 predicted a 6.5% growth rate for Bangladesh in the year 2022. IMF further forecasted that the economy of the country will grow at 7.1% in the year 2026. As the recovery from the impacts of pandemic broadens, the Global economic growth is expected to continue in the current year, however, the overall figures conceal large downgrades and continued challenges for some countries.

According to the IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath, the outlook for low-income developing countries has dimmed considerably meanwhile advanced economies may face more difficult prospects due to supply disruptions. To mitigate the risk of long term scarring, the foremost policy priority shall be the vaccination of 40% population in every country by end-2021 and 70% by mid-2022.

<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/local-news/imf-forecasts-65pc-growth-for-bangladesh-in-2022>

AFGHANISTAN : U.S. AND TALIBAN DISCUSSED AID IN FIRST DIRECT TALKS; QATAR DIPLOMAT EMPHASIZED ENGAGEMENT WITH TALIBAN AMID HUMANITARIAN CRISIS; AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED FOR GOOD TIES WITH WORLD; US, TALIBAN TO HOLD FIRST TALKS SINCE AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL

On October 9 and 10, 2021 U.S. held talks with senior Taliban representatives in Doha, Qatar. The U.S. delegation focused on security and terrorism concerns and safe passage for U.S. citizens, other foreign nationals and our Afghan partners, as well as on human rights, including the meaningful participation of women and girls in all aspects of Afghan society. The two sides also discussed the United States' provision of robust humanitarian assistance, directly to the Afghan people. The discussions were candid and professional with the U.S. delegation reiterating that the Taliban will be judged on its actions, not only its words.

Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani, Qatar's special envoy for counterterrorism and mediation in conflict resolution, said on October 13, 2021 that countries should engage the country's new Taliban rulers, warning that isolation could lead to instability and a wide-reaching security threat, as happened when al-Qaida used the country as a base to plot the 9/11 attacks. He said he's held conversations with the Taliban about combating terrorism. The Taliban, he said, are committed to fighting the Islamic State group, which is increasingly active in Afghanistan, and ensuring the country is not used by terrorist organizations. The sides have also discussed pressing issues related to the role of women in society, girls' access to education and the importance of an inclusive government.

Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi appealed to the world for good relations on October 12, 2021 but avoided making firm commitments on girls' education despite international demands to allow all Afghan children to go back to school. Almost two months after the insurgent forces swept into Kabul, the new Taliban administration has pushed to build relations with other countries to help stave off a catastrophic economic crisis. Mr. Muttaqi repeated calls for the US to lift a block on over \$9 billion of Afghan central bank reserves held outside the country. He said Taliban forces had full control of the country and were able to control the threat from Islamic State militants.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/12/afghanistan-fm-taliban-good-ties-girls-education>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/12/qatar-taliban-afghanistan-humanitarian-crisis>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/10/taliban-delegation-concludes-talks-with-us-delegation-in-doha>

G20 LEADERS AGREED TO STEP UP AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN EFFORT; UN URGED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO INJECT LIQUIDITY INTO AFGHAN ECONOMY TO PREVENT ITS COLLAPSE

G20 leaders agreed on October 12, 2021 to work together to avoid a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan, as the EU pledged a one billion euro aid package and host Italy stressed the need to maintain contacts with the Taliban. As the Taliban held its first face-to-face talks with a U.S.-EU delegation in Qatar, US President Joe Biden, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and India's Narendra Modi joined a virtual summit on the looming economic and humanitarian crises. The European Union opened the talks by pledging one billion euros (\$1.2-billion), including money for urgent humanitarian needs and Afghanistan's neighbors. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin did not attend themselves, instead sending representatives.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on 11 October, 2021 urged the international community to inject

liquidity into the Afghanistan economy. Guterres said that in addition to humanitarian aid, the global community needs to act to prevent the economic collapse of Afghanistan. He said that the world needs to find ways to make the economy breathe again. The UN chief noted that even before the Taliban takeover in August, 2021 Afghanistan's fragile economy, which has been kept afloat by foreign aid over the past 20 years, suffered from the impact of drought and COVID-19. He explained that right now, with assets frozen and development aid paused, the economy is breaking down. Banks are closing, and essential services, such as health care, have been suspended in many places, Guterres noted.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/12/eu-announces-1-15bn-aid-package-for-afghanistan>

BANGLADESH : FOREIGN MINISTER AK ABDUL MOMEN LEADING A BANGLADESH DELEGATION TO THE NAM' 60TH ANNIVERSARY: HIGHLIGHTS PERSECUTION OF ROHINGYA, LAMENTS VACCINE NATIONALISM

A Bangladeshi delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs AK Abdul Momen attended the 60th anniversary event of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Belgrade on 11-12 October 2021. The UN Secretary-General and the president of the 76th session of the UNGA also spoke on the occasion. Addressing the event, Momen urged the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to place fewer restrictions on the mobility of capital, technology and labor within the member states to assist boost economic process. Addressing the relevance of NAM, he highlighted the uprising challenges such as climate change, violence, terrorism warrant collective actions by NAM members.

He highlighted the long drawn out persecution of the Rohingyas in Myanmar which call for urgent action. He further added that due to vaccine nationalism and politicization, the remarkable progress in the inculcating

failed to contain the devastating virus. Momen requested the international community to take immediate action to close the vaccine gap by considering the Covid-19 vaccine as a global public good.

<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/momen-highlights-persecution-of-rohingya-laments-vaccine-nationalism>

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Bangladesh: IMF projects 6.5 per cent growth rate for Bangladesh
- Afghanistan :U.S. and Taliban discussed aid in first direct talks; qatar diplomat emphasized engagement with taliban amid humanitarian crisis; Afghan Foreign Minister called for good ties with world; US, Taliban to hold first talks since Afghanistan withdrawal
- Afghanistan : G20 leaders agreed to step up Afghan humanitarian effort; un urged international community to inject liquidity into Afghan economy to prevent its collapse
- Bangladesh : Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen leading a Bangladesh delegation to the nam' 60th anniversary: highlights persecution of rohingya, laments vaccine nationalism
- Bangladesh : Bangladesh signs mou with united nations on operational engagement in bhasan char
- Bhutan : Bhutan demanded more proactive climate action from developed countries
- India : Boris calls modi: discusses vaccine certification and climate change
- India : India announced a \$200 line of credit for kyrgyzstan; raised concerns about the situation in Afghanistan
- India : Five Indian soldiers dead while three other gunfights ensue
- Maldives : Japan provides grant for agricultural development of maldives
- Myanmar : French senate and european parliament's recognition to national unity government
- Pakistan : IMF sees pakistan's fiscal indicators improving
- Sri lanka : Delegation of Indian army visited Sri Lanka

BANGLADESH SIGNS MOU WITH UNITED NATIONS ON OPERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN BHASAN CHAR

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Bangladesh: IMF projects 6.5 per cent growth rate for Bangladesh
- Afghanistan :U.S. and Taliban discussed aid in first direct talks; qatar diplomat emphasized engagement with taliban amid humanitarian crisis; Afghan Foreign Minister called for good ties with world; US, Taliban to hold first talks since Afghanistan withdrawal
- Afghanistan : G20 leaders agreed to step up Afghan humanitarian effort; un urged international community to inject liquidity into Afghan economy to prevent its collapse
- Bangladesh : Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen leading a Bangladesh delegation to the nam' 60th anniversary: highlights persecution of rohingya, laments vaccine nationalism
- Bangladesh : Bangladesh signs mou with united nations on operational engagement in bhasan char
- Bhutan : Bhutan demanded more proactive climate action from developed countries
- India : Boris calls modi: discusses vaccine certification and climate change
- India : India announced a \$200 line of credit for kyrgyzstan; raised concerns about the situation in Afghanistan
- India : Five Indian soldiers dead while three other gunfights ensue
- Maldives : Japan provides grant for agricultural development of maldives
- Myanmar : French senate and european parliament's recognition to national unity government
- Pakistan : IMF sees pakistan's fiscal indicators improving
- Sri lanka : Delegation of Indian army visited Sri Lanka

Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed much anticipated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 9th October 2021 which affirmed the UN humanitarian engagement in Bhasan Char to ensure better living for the Rohingyas. The agreement asserted the cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh and United Nations to support towards the Rohingya population until their safe, voluntary, dignified return to Myanmar.

The United Nations encouraged the international community to increase humanitarian aid in Bangladesh, recognizing that the Joint Rohingya Humanitarian Response Plan in Cox's Bazar currently had substantial budget deficit.

Subsequent to his visit to the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukha

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen at the press conference said that Rohingya leader Mohibullah's assassination will not affect the return of the Rohingyas to their homeland, Myanmar. A four member delegation of Foreign Ministry led by foreign secretary visited Kutupalong Lambhasia Camp met Mohibullah's family. Five suspects have already been arrested over the killing; the law enforcement agency is handling the case with grave importance. Earlier, on 29 September, 2021 Rohingya leader Mohibullah was shot dead at the Ukha Rohingya Camp in Cox's Bazar.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/mou-uns-operational-engagement-bhasan-char-signed-2194196>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/mohib-ullah-murder-wont-affect-rohingya-repatriation-foreign-secretary-2194616>

BHUTAN : BHUTAN DEMANDED MORE PROACTIVE CLIMATE ACTION FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Bhutan, being the chair of Least Developed Countries' (LDCs) group, adopted Thimphu Call for Ambition and Action on Climate Change during the ministerial meeting held on 11 October 2021, highlighting the key priorities focused on financial strategies for effective climate action.

The LDCs' Group called for increased funds and immediate action from developed countries at the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow next month.

Dr. Tandi Dorji, Chief of LDC Group at the ministerial level and National Environment Commission said that one billion people living in 46 LDCs faced the worst impact from Covid-19 as crisis of climate change, poverty, health, and economic challenges accentuated. He further added that perils of climate change cannot be curbed by vaccines as it is irreversible in nature.

The 'Call for Action and Ambition' states that LDCs will call upon particularly to the G20

countries to further enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in line with 1.5 degrees Celsius pathways and consistent with their responsibilities and capabilities to undertake climate action, in order to reduce the emissions gap to 1.5°C.

Bhutan is facing shortage of fund after setting more ambitious target without their carbon neutral stand. LDCs urgently call for developed countries to deliver USD 100 billion per year as they committed to address the needs of developing countries. Sonam P Wangdi, the chair of the LDC Group in climate negotiations, said that the COP26 must prioritize the impacts of climate change.

<https://kuenselonline.com/lDCs-demand-more-from-developed-countries-at-the-cop26/>

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/climate-crisis-heads-of-least-developed-countries-call-for-equitable-action-ahead-of-cop26-79681>

INDIA : BORIS CALLS MODI: DISCUSSES VACCINE CERTIFICATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11 October, 2021. The premiers recognized the importance of opening up the international communication; they also discussed 2030 roadmap which included trade and defense.

Boris emphasized on climate action ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) that will be held in Glasgow next month. He applauded India's leadership in renewable energy technology and hoped that the country would soon achieve its ambition of net zero carbon emissions.

They expressed their concern about the present situation in Afghanistan and

agreed on the need of a collective global approach to engage with the Taliban government. They emphasized on human rights and shared common global perspective on terrorism and extremism.

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/uk-pm-boris-johnson-calls-pm-modi-covid-recognition-of-cowin-certification-topped-agenda-4310861.html>
<https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/pm-modi-boris-johnson-connect-to-discuss-vaccine-certification/86938740>

INDIA ANNOUNCED A \$200 LINE OF CREDIT FOR KYRGYZSTAN; RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

During his two-day official visit to Kyrgyzstan, Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar on 11 October 2021 declared a 200 million dollar line of credit for the Kyrgyz Republic and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with his foreign counterpart RuslanKazakbaev to support community development projects in the Central Asian state. India will assist in the establishment of telemedicine centers in three of the Kyrgyzstan regions and install Bhabhatron, a computer-controlled radiation therapy system. RuslanKazakbaev and Jaishankar discussed cultural exchange, joint ventures concerning eco-tourism, jewelry design, pharmaceuticals, medicines, medical education, IT parks, and data banks including mechanisms to boost trade as well as diplomatic relationships of the countries. Both the countries agreed to continue cooperation in the fields of high-altitude training, biomedical research, capacity development training, and defense exchanges.

At the press conference following the meeting, Jayshankar reiterated the

United Nations Security Council resolution 2593 which illustrates that Afghanistan cannot be used to aid any form of terrorist acts. He raised concerns regarding the current situations of Afghanistan and stated that the Indian government is monitoring Taliban activities in Afghanistan as it may have a substantial impact on regional peace and security.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-announces-200-million-line-of-credit-for-kyrgyzstan-101633956906934.html>
https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/india-agrees-on-200-million-loc-support-to-kyrgyzstan-says-s-jaishankar-121101100373_1.html
<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-closely-following-developments-in-afghanistan-jaishankar-7565970/>

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Bangladesh: IMF projects 6.5 per cent growth rate for Bangladesh
- Afghanistan :U.S. and Taliban discussed aid in first direct talks; qatar diplomat emphasized engagement with taliban amid humanitarian crisis; Afghan Foreign Minister called for good ties with world; US, Taliban to hold first talks since Afghanistan withdrawal
- Afghanistan : G20 leaders agreed to step up Afghan humanitarian effort; un urged international community to inject liquidity into Afghan economy to prevent its collapse
- Bangladesh : Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen leading a Bangladesh delegation to the nam' 60th anniversary: highlights persecution of rohingya, laments vaccine nationalism
- Bangladesh : Bangladesh signs mou with united nations on operational engagement in bhasan char
- Bhutan : Bhutan demanded more proactive climate action from developed countries
- India : Boris calls modi: discusses vaccine certification and climate change
- India : India announced a \$200 line of credit for kyrgyzstan; raised concerns about the situation in Afghanistan
- India : Five Indian soldiers dead while three other gunfights ensue
- Maldives : Japan provides grant for agricultural development of maldives
- Myanmar : French senate and european parliament's recognition to national unity government
- Pakistan : IMF sees pakistan's fiscal indicators improving
- Sri lanka : Delegation of Indian army visited Sri Lanka

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Bangladesh: IMF projects 6.5 per cent growth rate for Bangladesh
- Afghanistan :U.S. and Taliban discussed aid in first direct talks; qatar diplomat emphasized engagement with taliban amid humanitarian crisis; Afghan Foreign Minister called for good ties with world; US, Taliban to hold first talks since Afghanistan withdrawal
- Afghanistan : G20 leaders agreed to step up Afghan humanitarian effort; un urged international community to inject liquidity into Afghan economy to prevent its collapse
- Bangladesh : Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen leading a Bangladesh delegation to the nam' 60th anniversary: highlights persecution of rohingya, laments vaccine nationalism
- Bangladesh : Bangladesh signs mou with united nations on operational engagement in bhasan char
- Bhutan : Bhutan demanded more proactive climate action from developed countries
- India : Boris calls modi: discusses vaccine certification and climate change
- India : India announced a \$200 line of credit for kyrgyzstan; raised concerns about the situation in Afghanistan
- India : Five Indian soldiers dead while three other gunfights ensue
- Maldives : Japan provides grant for agricultural development of maldives
- Myanmar : French senate and european parliament's recognition to national unity government
- Pakistan : IMF sees pakistan's fiscal indicators improving
- Sri lanka : Delegation of Indian army visited Sri Lanka

FIVE INDIAN SOLDIERS DEAD WHILE THREE OTHER GUNFIGHTS ENSUE

On 11 October 2021, five Indian Soldiers including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) died at Surankote in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) battling against heavily armed terrorists adjacent to the Line of Control (LoC), de facto border of India and Pakistan.

Three other gunfights in Anantnag, Bandipora and Shopian left two terrorists dead and a police officer injured on the same day. Army spokesperson Lt Col Devender Anand said that the critically injured were evacuated to the nearest treatment facility. Army also added that

the killed soldiers were identified as Jaswinder Singh, Mandeep Singh, Gajjan Singh, Saraj Singh and Vaisakh. A terrorist affiliated to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was killed in battle at Bandipora.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indian-army-s-jco-4-soldiers-killed-in-encounter-with-terrorists-in-jammu-101633940473121.html>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/5-army-personnel-injured-in-encounter-with-terrorists-in-jks-poonch/articleshow/86932826.cms>

MALDIVES : JAPAN PROVIDES GRANT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MALDIVES

Japan pledged a grant of 2.7 million US dollars to the Project for Developing Sustainable Agricultural Economy (PDSAE). The grant agreement for the UNDP-run project was signed by Japanese Ambassador to Maldives, Keiko Yanai and UNDP Resident Representative in Maldives, Enrico Gaveglia on 13th October, 2021. The Project for Developing Sustainable Agricultural Economy (PDSAE) is successive to the existing Sustainable Economic Empowerment and Development for SMEs (SEEDS) project that promotes economic diversification through empowered small and medium sized businesses to create a new generation of agri-businesses that are innovative and

productive, and to practice environmentally sustainable agriculture.

<https://tonsouthasiafocus.com/maldives-japan-provides-mvr-42-7m-grant-for-development-of-agriculture-in-maldives/>

Sources:

<https://kathmandupost.com/politics/2021/09/12/coalition-partners-fail-to-agree-on-cabinet-expansion>

MYANMAR : FRENCH SENATE AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S RECOGNITION TO NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

Since its formation the National Unity Government (NUG) had enjoyed popular support in home and abroad, however, the shadow government was yet to receive any International recognition. On 5th October 2021, the French Senate unanimously passed a resolution to formally recognize the NUG as the official government of Myanmar. Consecutively on 7th October 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that recognized the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and the National Unity Government (NUG) as the only legitimate representatives of Myanmar. The motion was passed with 647 votes in favor, two against and 31 abstentions. Soon after the recognitions, junta-controlled Ministry of Foreign Affairs

issued a statement criticizing the international community to interfere in the domestic affairs, encourage domestic terrorism and hamper efforts to establish a multiparty democracy in Myanmar.

<https://www.ituc-csi.org/french-senate-recognises-myanmar>
<https://thediplomat.com/2021/10/eu-parliament-voices-support-for-myanmars-opposition-government/>
<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-condemns-foreign-recognition-of-civilian-government.html?>

[cf chl jschl tk =pmdbBsF2MuWIOflc2Soy_FQ0Z5.BizH242mYapPm2cWdK1634319530-0-gqNtZGzNAMWjcnBszQIR](https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-condemns-foreign-recognition-of-civilian-government.html?cfchljschltk=pmdbBsF2MuWIOflc2Soy_FQ0Z5.BizH242mYapPm2cWdK1634319530-0-gqNtZGzNAMWjcnBszQIR)

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Bangladesh: IMF projects 6.5 per cent growth rate for Bangladesh
- Afghanistan :U.S. and Taliban discussed aid in first direct talks; qatar diplomat emphasized engagement with taliban amid humanitarian crisis; Afghan Foreign Minister called for good ties with world; US, Taliban to hold first talks since Afghanistan withdrawal
- Afghanistan : G20 leaders agreed to step up Afghan humanitarian effort; un urged international community to inject liquidity into Afghan economy to prevent its collapse
- Bangladesh : Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen leading a Bangladesh delegation to the nam' 60th anniversary: highlights persecution of rohingya, laments vaccine nationalism
- Bangladesh : Bangladesh signs mou with united nations on operational engagement in bhasan char
- Bhutan : Bhutan demanded more proactive climate action from developed countries
- India : Boris calls modi: discusses vaccine certification and climate change
- India : India announced a \$200 line of credit for kyrgyzstan; raised concerns about the situation in Afghanistan
- India : Five Indian soldiers dead while three other gunfights ensue
- Maldives : Japan provides grant for agricultural development of maldives
- Myanmar : French senate and european parliament's recognition to national unity government
- Pakistan : IMF sees pakistan's fiscal indicators improving
- Sri lanka : Delegation of Indian army visited Sri Lanka

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 13, 2021 forecasted Pakistan's major fiscal indicators gradually improving this year and beyond until 2026. In one of its flagship publications - Fiscal Monitor- released on October 13, 2021, the IMF estimated the government's overall fiscal deficit at 6.2 percent of GDP, primary deficit at 0.4pc of GDP and debt levels at about 81pc of GDP during current fiscal year. This shows improvement over the last fiscal year when fiscal deficit stood at 7.1pc of GDP, primary deficit at 1.4pc of GDP and general government debt at 83.4pc. The fund projected that

all key fiscal benchmarks would maintain improving trend over the next five years, showing overall better fiscal position.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1651635>

SRI LANKA : DELEGATION OF INDIAN ARMY VISITED SRI LANKA

A delegation of Indian Army led by the Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Mukund Naravane visited the Defense Secretary of Sri Lanka, Gen. Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) on 13th October, 2021. During the meeting The Defense Secretary and the Indian Army Chief had cordial discussions on bilateral relations and military training.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on 12th October, 2021 sought information about the suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) members from Sri Lanka under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) regarding the seizure of five AK 47 rifles from a foreign vessel off the Kerala coast in March 2021.

<https://tonsouthasiafocus.com/sri-lanka-indian-army-chief-naravane-meets-sri-lankan-defence-secretary-chief-of-defence-staff-in-colombo/>
<http://cms.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2021/oct/12/arms-seizure-nia-seeks-info-from-sri-lanka-under-treaty-2370517.html>

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.

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/>

Contact Us

Phone :

+(88 02) 2222 62645
+(88 02) 2222 92662
+(88 02) 2222 96805
+(88 02) 2222 92663

Fax : +(88 02) 2222 88583

Email : bei@bol-online.com

Address 1 :

Apt.: 2B, House: 2D, Road: 73-G, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

Address 2 :

Ground Floor, House No. 3/A, Road No. 84, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh



BEI

**Bangladesh Enterprise
Institute**