

|| WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

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

|| 26 March – 01 April 2022 ||

SOUTH ASIA: COVID-19 CRISIS: AT A GLANCE

Afghanistan has recorded a total of 168,550 cases of coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic. Total deaths reported stood at 7,465 as of 02 April .

Bangladesh reported no new death and 56 coronavirus cases on 02 April and has thus far recorded a total of 29,122 fatalities and 1,951,714 confirmed cases. Bangladesh has administered a total 248,319,472 Covid-19 vaccine doses, totaling 76.2 % of the population.

Bhutan reported 914 new cases and 01 death on 02 April. A total of 30,053 cases have been registered until 02 April, while 75.96 % of Bhutan's population has been vaccinated.

India reported 81 deaths and 1,096 new coronavirus cases on 02 April, bringing the total number of cases to 43,028,131 while the total number of deaths now stands at 521,345. Until 02 April, 60.83% of Indian population has been vaccinated.

Maldives has confirmed 177000 cases and recorded 298 deaths so far.

Myanmar has confirmed 611809 cases and recorded 19432 deaths so far.

Nepal reported 10,687 new coronavirus cases on 02 April taking the nationwide inflection ally to 970,462 since the beginning of the pandemic. To date, the total number of deaths stands at 11,852.

Pakistan reported 276 deaths and 31,812 positive cases in the last week.

Sri Lanka has recorded 661885 cases and 16480 deaths were recorded so far.

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

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: Sri Lanka offers Bangladesh greater use of Colombo port; govt issues export policy for fy21-24; Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at ba3 with a stable outlook
- Afghanistan: China, US, Russia, Pakistan held talks on Afghanistan; US pledged \$204m in humanitarian aid for Afghans; World Bank suspended project worth of \$600 million in reaction to ban on girls school
- Bangladesh: PM calls for rebuilding a resilient Bay of Bengal region for common benefits; Bangladesh calls for joint efforts to build smarter BIMSTEC; PM Hasina slams us for sanctions on RAB
- Bangladesh: Bangladesh, South Korea agrees to elevate comprehensive partnership
- India: Stability of international order in question: PM Modi calls for greater cooperation among BIMSTEC nations; Jaishankar says India-Maldives partnership a 'real force of stability' for Indian Ocean region; U.S. deputy NSA cautions India against trade deals with Russia; Russian FM Sergey Lavrov visits India, meet PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar's parallel government asks foreign governments to accept military defectors
- Nepal: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on three day visit to India; BRI projects in Nepal suffer amid funding challenges; China has agreed to provide duty-free treatment to goods of Nepali origin covering 98 percent tariff lines
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Imran Khan said establishment gave him three options: resignation, no-confidence vote or elections; military top brass called on Prime Minister Imran Khan
- Sri Lanka: 50 injured as protesters try to storm President's house amid economic crisis; Sri Lanka seeks another \$1bn from India; Colombo seeks another \$250 million loan

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: Sri Lanka offers Bangladesh greater use of Colombo port; govt issues export policy for fy21-24; Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at ba3 with a stable outlook
- Afghanistan: China, US, Russia, Pakistan held talks on Afghanistan; US pledged \$204m in humanitarian aid for Afghans; World Bank suspended project worth of \$600 million in reaction to ban on girls school
- Bangladesh: PM calls for rebuilding a resilient Bay of Bengal region for common benefits; Bangladesh calls for joint efforts to build smarter BIMSTEC; PM Hasina slams us for sanctions on RAB
- Bangladesh: Bangladesh, South Korea agrees to elevate comprehensive partnership
- India: Stability of international order in question: PM Modi calls for greater cooperation among BIMSTEC nations; Jaishankar says India-Maldives partnership a 'real force of stability' for Indian Ocean region; U.S. deputy NSA cautions India against trade deals with Russia; Russian FM Sergey Lavrov visits India, meet PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar's parallel government asks foreign governments to accept military defectors
- Nepal: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on three day visit to India; BRI projects in Nepal suffer amid funding challenges; China has agreed to provide duty-free treatment to goods of Nepali origin covering 98 percent tariff lines
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Imran Khan said establishment gave him three options: resignation, no-confidence vote or elections; military top brass called on Prime Minister Imran Khan
- Sri Lanka: 50 injured as protesters try to storm President's house amid economic crisis; Sri Lanka seeks another \$1bn from India; Colombo seeks another \$250 million loan

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT: SRI LANKA OFFERS BANGLADESH GREATER USE OF COLOMBO PORT; GOVT ISSUES EXPORT POLICY FOR FY21-24; MOODY'S AFFIRMS BANGLADESH'S RATING AT BA3 WITH A STABLE OUTLOOK

While Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen paid a courtesy call alongside the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the 5th BIMSTEC Summit, President of Sri Lanka Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa has offered greater use of Colombo port by Bangladesh for transportation of Bangladeshi goods. The Foreign Minister drew the attention of the Sri Lankan President to enhance trade and promote tourism by the regular commercial shipping line and cruise shipping between Chattogram and Colombo Port.

In the meantime, the government has published a gazette on the export policy for fiscal years 2021-24 aiming to encourage exploration of new markets and products as the government looks to give a much-needed boost to export earnings. The policy extended more policy and fiscal support, rationalized corporate tax and offered bonded warehouse facilities. In the new export policy, the government laid emphasis on growing an export-led economy and generation of more employment so as to offset the Covid-19 induced challenges. Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service has affirmed Bangladesh's long-term issuer and senior unsecured ratings at Ba3 and maintained a stable outlook and the short-term issuer ratings stand at Not Prime. Moody's gave the affirmation considering that the growth rebound following the pandemic will continue to anchor macroeconomic and external stability. However, weak revenue generation capacity continues to reduce debt affordability and limits Bangladesh's fiscal flexibility.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/sri-lanka-offers-bangladesh-greater-use-of-colombo-port-1648641066>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/govt-issues-export-policy-fy21-24-2992056>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/moodys-affirms-bangladeshs-rating-ba3-stable-outlook-393682>

AFGHANISTAN: CHINA, US, RUSSIA, PAKISTAN HELD TALKS ON AFGHANISTAN; US PLEDGED \$204M IN HUMANITARIAN AID FOR AFGHANS; WORLD BANK SUSPENDED PROJECT WORTH OF \$600 MILLION IN REACTION TO BAN ON GIRLS SCHOOL

The United States pledged to provide nearly \$204 million in humanitarian assistance to help the people of Afghanistan. The pledge was made at the high-level "Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan." The US Department of State said that this new funding includes nearly \$134 million from the Department of State and more than \$70 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), continuing America's commitment to the Afghan people. According to the statement, the current amount will bring the total amount to more than \$720 million since August 2021.

China held multinational meetings to discuss Afghanistan. Representatives from regional countries plus Extended Troika discussed the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. That meeting was chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and attended by Afghan acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, and diplomats from Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Indonesia and Qatar. Chinese special envoy for Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong hosted the meeting. Tom West, the US special representative for Afghanistan, attended the talks of the Extended Troika.

The World Bank has suspended four projects in Afghanistan worth \$600 million amid concerns over a decision by the Islamic Emirate to ban girls from returning to public high schools, the bank said. The projects, to be funded under the revamped Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, were being readied for implementation by United Nations agencies to support projects in agriculture, education, health, and livelihoods.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/31/un-afghans-need-4-4bn-to-have-enough-to-eat>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/30/china-holds-multinational-meetings-to-discuss-afghanistan>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-60923196>

BANGLADESH: PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR REBUILDING A RESILIENT BAY OF BENGAL REGION FOR COMMON BENEFITS; BANGLADESH CALLS FOR JOINT EFFORTS TO BUILD SMARTER BIMSTEC; PRIME MINISTER SLAMS U.S. FOR SANCTIONS ON RAB

While addressing virtually at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for collective efforts of the seven Bay of Bengal countries at tapping the full potentials of the region for the benefits of their people. The prime minister also said that the summit gives an opportunity to expedite the collective efforts and find out common solutions to the multiple challenges. On the other hand, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen called for renewing joint efforts at building a more effective and smarter BIMSTEC as an outcome-oriented regional organization. BIMSTEC of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thai-

land bringing together 1.54 billion people of the resource-rich region.

In the meantime, while speaking virtually at the 18th founding anniversary of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has slammed the USA for imposing sanctions on RAB and some of its officials saying that this has been an abominable move. She added that Bangladesh has provision of punishment if a member of a law enforcement agency gets involved in any kind of crime.

<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/pm-calls-for-rebuilding-a-resilient-bay-of-bengal-region-for-common-benefits>

BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH, SOUTH KOREA AGREES TO ELEVATE COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP

At the third Foreign Ministry Consultations (FMC), Bangladesh and South Korea have agreed to explore ways to elevate their comprehensive partnership to the next level to mark the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. The two countries also agreed to deepen cooperation in trade and investment, infrastructure development, human resources development, defence, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology, and regional and global issues of common interest and concern, including global peace, security and climate change. Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Korea Choi Jong Kun led their respec-

tive delegation at the consultations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-korea-elevate-partnership-celebrating-50th-anniversary-bilateral-relations>

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: Sri Lanka offers Bangladesh greater use of Colombo port; govt issues export policy for fy21-24; Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at ba3 with a stable outlook
- Afghanistan: China, US, Russia, Pakistan held talks on Afghanistan; US pledged \$204m in humanitarian aid for Afghans; World Bank suspended project worth of \$600 million in reaction to ban on girls school
- Bangladesh: PM calls for rebuilding a resilient Bay of Bengal region for common benefits; Bangladesh calls for joint efforts to build smarter BIMSTEC; PM Hasina slams us for sanctions on RAB
- Bangladesh: Bangladesh, South Korea agrees to elevate comprehensive partnership
- India: Stability of international order in question: PM Modi calls for greater cooperation among BIMSTEC nations; Jaishankar says India-Maldives partnership a 'real force of stability' for Indian Ocean region; U.S. deputy NSA cautions India against trade deals with Russia; Russian FM Sergey Lavrov visits India, meet PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar's parallel government asks foreign governments to accept military defectors
- Nepal: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on three day visit to India; BRI projects in Nepal suffer amid funding challenges; China has agreed to provide duty-free treatment to goods of Nepali origin covering 98 percent tariff lines
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Imran Khan said establishment gave him three options: resignation, no-confidence vote or elections; military top brass called on Prime Minister Imran Khan
- Sri Lanka: 50 injured as protesters try to storm President's house amid economic crisis; Sri Lanka seeks another \$1bn from India; Colombo seeks another \$250 million loan

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: Sri Lanka offers Bangladesh greater use of Colombo port; govt issues export policy for fy21-24; Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at ba3 with a stable outlook
- Afghanistan: China, US, Russia, Pakistan held talks on Afghanistan; US pledged \$204m in humanitarian aid for Afghans; World Bank suspended project worth of \$600 million in reaction to ban on girls school
- Bangladesh: PM calls for rebuilding a resilient Bay of Bengal region for common benefits; Bangladesh calls for joint efforts to build smarter BIMSTEC; PM Hasina slams us for sanctions on RAB
- Bangladesh: Bangladesh, South Korea agrees to elevate comprehensive partnership
- India: Stability of international order in question: PM Modi calls for greater cooperation among BIMSTEC nations; Jaishankar says India-Maldives partnership a 'real force of stability' for Indian Ocean region; U.S. deputy NSA cautions India against trade deals with Russia; Russian FM Sergey Lavrov visits India, meet PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar's parallel government asks foreign governments to accept military defectors
- Nepal: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on three day visit to India; BRI projects in Nepal suffer amid funding challenges; China has agreed to provide duty-free treatment to goods of Nepali origin covering 98 percent tariff lines
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Imran Khan said establishment gave him three options: resignation, no-confidence vote or elections; military top brass called on Prime Minister Imran Khan
- Sri Lanka: 50 injured as protesters try to storm President's house amid economic crisis; Sri Lanka seeks another \$1bn from India; Colombo seeks another \$250 million loan

INDIA: STABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN QUESTION: PM MODI CALLS FOR GREATER COOPERATION AMONG BIMSTEC NATIONS; JAISHANKAR SAYS INDIA-MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP A 'REAL FORCE OF STABILITY' FOR INDIAN OCEAN REGION; U.S. DEPUTY NSA CAUTIONS INDIA AGAINST TRADE DEALS WITH RUSSIA; RUSSIAN FM SERGEY LAVROV VISITS INDIA, MEET PM MODI, EAM JAISHANKAR

While speaking virtually at the fifth summit of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the recent developments in Ukraine have raised questions over the stability of international order and called for greater cooperation among BIMSTEC nations through prioritizing regional security. He also said that with the region facing challenges of health and economic security, unity and cooperation among these nations must be ensured now. On the other hand, while inaugurating the National College for Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPLE) in the Maldives' Addu city in the presence of Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India and the Maldives share a deep and abiding friendship and their partnership is of great consequence and a real force of stability and prosperity for the Indian Ocean region. Meanwhile, USA Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics, Mr. Daleep Singh has alarmed that there will be consequences for any country, including India, that conducts local currency transactions through Russia's central bank or constructs a payment mechanism that sub-

verts or circumvents the United States' sanctions against Russia. He made the remark hours before Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov landed. Mr. Lavrov is due to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Mr. Lavrov after holding talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, said that Moscow is ready to discuss India's requirement of crude oil, if the country wants to buy it from them. The high-level talks come in the backdrop of indications that India could buy greater volumes of discounted Russian oil and both sides were keen on having a ruble-rupee arrangement for bilateral trade.

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/stability-of-international-order-in-question-pm-modi-calls-for-greater-cooperation-among-bimstec-nations-10501411.html>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/jaishankar-india-maldives-partnership-police-training-centre-7838967/>

MYANMAR: MYANMAR'S PARALLEL GOVERNMENT ASKS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT MILITARY DEFECTORS

Myanmar's parallel civilian National Unity Government's (NUG) foreign ministry has been lobbying the international community to offer asylum to military defectors as a means to boost the revolution. Daw Zin Mar Aung, the NUG's foreign minister, told The Irrawaddy that other countries, especially European nations, are asked in every meeting to accept personnel who abandon the junta. "We asked them, if you can't assist us with arms, please accept defectors because it's also supporting the revolution in another way. Luckily this was accepted by Australia. And there are also some countries which are welcom-

ing defectors, but not publicly," she said. Australia began granting protection to defectors seeking asylum in January. Groups assisting defectors told The Irrawaddy that the move has elicited interest, including from senior officers and others who oppose the regime.

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmars-parallel-government-asks-foreign-governments-to-accept-military-defectors.html>

NEPAL: PRIME MINISTER SHER BAHADUR DEUBA ON THREE DAY VISIT TO INDIA; BRI PROJECTS IN NEPAL SUFFER AMID FUNDING CHALLENGES; CHINA HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE DUTY-FREE TREATMENT TO GOODS OF NEPALI ORIGIN COVERING 98 PERCENT TARIFF LINES

Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is on a three-day official visit to India and is scheduled to meet his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar called on the Nepali Prime Minister after his arrival in Delhi. The two prime ministers are slated to meet and sign several bilateral agreements, and they are also scheduled to meet the press.

China's mega Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) implementation in Nepal has been rather slow due to lack of clarity on its benefits and challenges associated with funding. During a recent visit (March 25-27) of Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi to Nepal, the two countries signed nine agreements, but none was related to the BRI. The BRI plans were reportedly not discussed during Wang's visit. There is an apprehension among the Nepalese policy makers regarding the BRI, including China's strategic designs through BRI and its potential of creating a debt trap. Nepalese Prime

Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba requested Wang for additional grants.

China has agreed to provide duty-free treatment to goods of Nepali origin covering 98 per cent tariff lines. The two countries exchanged letters on the preferential treatment besides signing other deals during the recent visit to Kathmandu by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. According to the Nepal Trade Information Portal of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, China has been providing zero tariff treatment to about 8,000 goods originating in Nepal. These products account for 95 per cent of Nepal's exports to China.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/bri-projects-in-nepal-suffer-amid-funding-challenges/articleshow/90578344.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

PAKISTAN: PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN SAID ESTABLISHMENT GAVE HIM THREE OPTIONS: RESIGNATION, NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE OR ELECTIONS; MILITARY TOP BRASS CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN

Prime Minister Imran Khan revealed that the establishment had given him three options: "resignation, no-confidence vote or elections", following the filing of a no-confidence motion against him in the National Assembly. He was presented with the three options, "We said elections is the best option, I cannot even think about resigning and as far as the no-confidence vote is concerned, I believe in fighting till the end." Pointing out that several members of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf had defected to the opposition ahead of the no-trust vote, The top military brass called on Prime Minister Imran Khan and discussed agreeable options for the political parties as well as a face-saving agreement for the government and the opposition to get out of the cur-

rent political crisis. The civil and military officials who attended the meeting mulled over backdoor talks for the next general elections. It was said that the huddle considered giving such options to the government and opposition which would be acceptable to both. It was reported that the meeting also discussed the remaining tenure of Prime Minister Imran and addressed the opposition's reservations on the government's electoral reforms. The huddle also discussed the holding of the next general elections and the duration of the interim government.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2350626/establishment-gave-three-options-no-confidence-resignation-or-fresh-election-says-pm>

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: Sri Lanka offers Bangladesh greater use of Colombo port; govt issues export policy for fy21-24; Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at ba3 with a stable outlook
- Afghanistan: China, US, Russia, Pakistan held talks on Afghanistan; US pledged \$204m in humanitarian aid for Afghans; World Bank suspended project worth of \$600 million in reaction to ban on girls school
- Bangladesh: PM calls for rebuilding a resilient Bay of Bengal region for common benefits; Bangladesh calls for joint efforts to build smarter BIMSTEC; PM Hasina slams us for sanctions on RAB
- Bangladesh: Bangladesh, South Korea agrees to elevate comprehensive partnership
- India: Stability of international order in question: PM Modi calls for greater cooperation among BIMSTEC nations; Jaishankar says India-Maldives partnership a 'real force of stability' for Indian Ocean region; U.S. deputy NSA cautions India against trade deals with Russia; Russian FM Sergey Lavrov visits India, meet PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar's parallel government asks foreign governments to accept military defectors
- Nepal: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on three day visit to India; BRI projects in Nepal suffer amid funding challenges; China has agreed to provide duty-free treatment to goods of Nepali origin covering 98 percent tariff lines
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Imran Khan said establishment gave him three options: resignation, no-confidence vote or elections; military top brass called on Prime Minister Imran Khan
- Sri Lanka: 50 injured as protesters try to storm President's house amid economic crisis; Sri Lanka seeks another \$1bn from India; Colombo seeks another \$250 million loan

SRI LANKA: 50 INJURED AS PROTESTERS TRY TO STORM PRESIDENT'S HOUSE AMID ECONOMIC CRISIS; SRI LANKA SEEKS ANOTHER \$1BN FROM INDIA; COLOMBO SEEKS ANOTHER \$250 MILLION LOAN

Nearly 50 people were injured after authorities used teargas and water cannon to drive back a crowd that stormed the home of Sri Lankan president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, amid anger over the government's handling of the nation's deepening economic crisis. The crisis, the worst in living memory, has caused massive discontent, with people unable to find gas for cooking, medicines, fuel and basic items of food such as milk powder because the country has run out of foreign currency to pay for imported goods. A crowd of hundreds of people chanted for Rajapaksa and the entire cabinet to resign over his handling of the crisis. Videos circulating on social media showed the protesters shouting "lunatic go home".

Sri Lanka has sought an additional credit line of \$1bn from India to import essentials amid its worst economic crisis in decades, Reuters has reported, citing two sources, as the Indian foreign minister began talks with the government of its neighbor. The island nation is struggling to pay for essential imports of food and fuel after a 70 percent drop in foreign exchange reserves since January

2020 led to a currency devaluation and efforts to seek help from global lenders.

On similar news, Bangladesh is looking into cash-strapped Sri Lanka's request for another loan of \$250 million but no decision has been made yet, said foreign minister AK Abdul Momen in Colombo last week. "They've made another approach and we'll look into it. It'll be another loan but it's not decided yet," he said while responding to a question on the island nation's deepening financial crisis on the sidelines of the 18th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/3/28/sri-lanka-seeks-another-1-billion-from-india-report>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/166673/colombo-seeks-another-250-million-loan>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/01/sri-lanka-protesters-try-to-storm-presidents-house-as-economic-crisis-deepens>

Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: Sri Lanka offers Bangladesh greater use of Colombo port; govt issues export policy for fy21-24; Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at ba3 with a stable outlook
- Afghanistan: China, US, Russia, Pakistan held talks on Afghanistan; US pledged \$204m in humanitarian aid for Afghans; World Bank suspended project worth of \$600 million in reaction to ban on girls school
- Bangladesh: PM calls for rebuilding a resilient Bay of Bengal region for common benefits; Bangladesh calls for joint efforts to build smarter BIMSTEC; PM Hasina slams us for sanctions on RAB
- Bangladesh: Bangladesh, South Korea agrees to elevate comprehensive partnership
- India: Stability of international order in question: PM Modi calls for greater cooperation among BIMSTEC nations; Jaishankar says India-Maldives partnership a 'real force of stability' for Indian Ocean region; U.S. deputy NSA cautions India against trade deals with Russia; Russian FM Sergey Lavrov visits India, meet PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar's parallel government asks foreign governments to accept military defectors
- Nepal: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on three day visit to India; BRI projects in Nepal suffer amid funding challenges; China has agreed to provide duty-free treatment to goods of Nepali origin covering 98 percent tariff lines
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Imran Khan said establishment gave him three options: resignation, no-confidence vote or elections; military top brass called on Prime Minister Imran Khan
- Sri Lanka: 50 injured as protesters try to storm President's house amid economic crisis; Sri Lanka seeks another \$1bn from India; Colombo seeks another \$250 million loan

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/>

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