

## || WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

### BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

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

|| JUNE 18 -JUNE 24, 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 June 28.

Bangladesh reported 03 new deaths and 1280 coronavirus cases on 25 June and has thus far recorded a total of 29,138 fatalities and 1,963,493 confirmed cases. Bangladesh has administered a total 274,180,436 Covid-19 vaccine doses, totaling 84.10% of the population.

Bhutan reported no new case and no death on 25 June. A total of 59,674 cases have been registered until 25 June, while 87.16 % of Bhutan's population has been vaccinated.

India reported 25 deaths and 11,739 new coronavirus cases on 25 June, bringing the total number of cases to 43,389,973 while the total number of deaths now stands at 524,999. Until 25 June, 65.66% of Indian population has been vaccinated. Myanmar has recorded 613,553 Coronavirus cases 19,434 deaths

Maldives has recorded 180,384 and 300 deaths.

Nepal reported 10,687 new coronavirus cases on June 28 taking the nationwide infection tally 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 664,065 cases and 16,521 deaths.

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

#### Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT: MCCI PROPOSES BUDGET REVISIONS, TAX-CEILING RAISE

*The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) has urged the government to amend some provisions in the new budget, including raising the tax-free income limit because of high inflation. MCCI said the tax-free income threshold should be raised to Tk. 400,000 considering the current inflation and the rise in per-capita income to US\$ 2824. It proposes that the first slab of taxable income should be above Tk 400,000 to Tk 500,000 and the tax rate should remain unchanged at 5.0 per cent. The trade chamber also said that the conditions binding the cut-down corporate tax in the new budget should be rationalized.*

*<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/mcci-proposes-budget-revisions-tax-ceiling-raise-1656038812>*

## AFGHANISTAN: UNSC SESSION DISCUSSES AFGHAN HUMAN RIGHTS, EARTHQUAKE

The UN Security Council held a session to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. In the session, many of the participants called attention to the devastating earthquake, the human rights situation, restrictions on Afghan women and girls and the overall crisis ongoing since the collapse of republic government in August 2021. Ramiz Alakbarov, UNAMA acting head, called for concerted international support for a swift humanitarian response to the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan. Pointing to the current situation within Afghanistan, Alakbarov said that the de facto authorities have increasingly restricted the exercise of basic human rights, such as freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion and

expression, quelling dissent and restricting civic space in the country. He added that UNAMA hears credible allegations of killings, ill-treatment and other violations targeting individuals associated with the former government. Despite all these challenges, he said that UNAMA will remain in Afghanistan to safeguard the rights of Afghans and the especially rights of women and girls, and that the strategy of engagement and dialogue could be the only way to benefit both the Afghan people and regional and international security.

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178629>

## BANGLADESH: NEXT ELECTION TO BE FAIR WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL: PM HASINA HOPES; PM HASINA LIKELY TO VISIT INDIA IN SEPTEMBER BEFORE UNGA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while addressing a question and answer session in parliament has hoped that the next general election will be held with spontaneous participation of all political parties in a free and fair manner. She also said that the government and the executive branch are obliged to cooperate with the election commission in carrying its duty. The prime minister said an atmosphere has been ensured for all political parties to carry out their party activities and their participation in the election. She told the parliament that the government has taken various measures to make the next parliamentary election a more credible and participatory one.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen while talking to reporters at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport has said that Bangladesh and India are in discussion to finalize a date in early September for prime minister Sheikh

Hasina's visit to New Delhi. The foreign minister, however, said that the date will be finalized soon through discussion so that the visit can take place before the beginning of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The 77th session of the UNGA will open on 13 September 2022. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already extended an invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to visit India in 2022 in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/next-election-to-be-fair-with-participation-of-all-pm-hasina-hopes>

<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/pm-hasina-likely-to-visit-india-in-sept-before-unga>

### Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## INDIA: MUTUAL COOPERATION CAN HELP GLOBAL POST-COVID RECOVERY: PM MODI AT BRICS SUMMIT; 7TH ROUND OF INDIA-BANGLADESH JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION: LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING ON NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION, SAYS JAISHANKAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that members nations of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) grouping had managed to undertake structural changes over the last few years that increased the influence of the institution. In his opening remarks at the 14th BRICS summit hosted by China, PM Modi said that cooperation among the member nations in several sectors has benefited citizens of these countries. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and top leaders of Brazil and South Africa were present at the summit.

In the meantime, the seventh round of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) was held in New Delhi where External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India is looking

forward to working on new areas of cooperation with Bangladesh, which include artificial intelligence, cyber security, start-ups and fintech. A joint statement said that the two ministers expressed satisfaction that despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, both countries have worked closer than ever before in every sector, from security and border management to mutually beneficial trade and investment flows, as well as enhanced bilateral and sub-regional multimodal connectivity, greater power and energy cooperation, developmental assistance and capacity building exchanges, cultural and closer people-to-people ties.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-bangladesh-joint-consultative-commission-looking-forward-to-working->

## MYANMAR : MYANMAR EXECUTIONS COULD BE WAR CRIMES: UN; CAMBODIA REJECTS CALLS TO BAR MYANMAR JUNTA MINISTER FROM ASEAN MEETING

The Myanmar junta's plans to execute political opponents may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, a UN official said last week. The junta said on June 3 it would execute a former lawmaker from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's party and a prominent democracy activist, both convicted of terrorism, in what would be the country's first judicial executions since 1990. Four people, including former MP Ko Phyo Zeya Thaw and democracy activist Ko Jimmy, "who were sentenced to death will be hanged according to prison procedures", junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told AFP then. Nicholas Koumjian, head of the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, said he was following this case closely.

Cambodia has ignored an appeal by Myanmar-based as well as regional and international civil society organizations not to invite the Myanmar regime's

defense minister, who is responsible for the junta's atrocities against civilians, to the upcoming ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM). The meeting, which is scheduled to be held in this week, will be joined by defense ministers from the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Cambodia currently holds the rotating chair of the bloc, of which Myanmar is a member. Since last week the letter has been signed by 677 Myanmar, regional and international civil organizations. It requests that the defense ministers of the other ASEAN countries not invite the regime's defense minister, General Mya Tun Oo, to the meeting as it could embolden the junta, which has been committing extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, lootings and torchings of civilian properties in Myanmar since the coup last year.

## NEPAL: NEW CHINESE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD HOLDS TALKS WITH OLI AND DAHAL

Liu Jianchao, the new head of the International Liaison Department of Communist Party of China, held talks with CPN (Maoist Centre) chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal and CPN-UML chair KP Oli. Liu replaced Song Tao recently. Song also maintained a close relationship with the Nepali communist leaders and used to hold frequent conversations with them. Liu was formerly the chief spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the former director-general of its Information Department.

On June 23 and 24, Liu, Minister of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, held video

calls with Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) and former prime minister Prachanda and Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) and former prime minister Oli, respectively, according to a Communist Party of China (CPC) statement. The virtual talks take place at a time when some sections of both party leaders are engaged in attempts to form a left alliance or forge some kind of agreement for the upcoming federal and parliamentary elections. Though there are attempts going on to hold talks between Oli and Dahal, there is no concrete progress yet, said party leaders.

<https://tkpo.st/3NoBuUN>

## PAKISTAN: PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF ANNOUNCES 10% 'SUPER TAX' ON LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIES; FATF DECISION ON REMOVING PAKISTAN FROM GREY LIST BY OCTOBER

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on announced that the government will be imposing a 10 percent "super tax" on large-scale industries in a bid to shore up revenues for supporting the country's poor amid rising inflation. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail later clarified that the "super tax" is a "one-time tax needed to curtail the previous four record budget deficits". He elaborated further in his speech in the National Assembly, where lawmakers had gathered to conclude the budget session. He said that the coalition government made "courageous" decisions to protect the country from "serious dangers". He recalled that the government had two options when it first came to power: call fresh elections or take tough decisions and tackle the sinking economy. He said the institutions whose job was to collect taxes should take from the rich and give to the poor. He, however, lamented that the "big ones" evade paying taxes.

The Financial Action Task Force has said that Pakistan will not be

removed from its grey list immediately but a decision will be taken after an onsite visit before October to study Islamabad's actions against groups that fund terrorism. A statement issued after its plenary in Berlin said that Pakistan had substantially completed its two action plans, but an on-site visit to verify if reforms have been implemented and sustained was needed. FATF also needs to see "necessary political commitment remains in place to sustain implementation and improvement in future," the statement said.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/fatf-decision-on-removing-pakistan-from-grey-list-by-october/articleshow/92289369.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/fatf-decision-on-removing-pakistan-from-grey-list-by-october/articleshow/92289369.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1696468/pm-shehbaz-announces-10pc-super-tax-on-large-scale-industries>

### Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## SRI LANKA: SRI LANKA'S ECONOMY HAS 'COMPLETELY COLLAPSED,' PRIME MINISTER SAYS; SRI LANKA CABINET MOVES TO CLIP PRESIDENT RAJAPAKSA'S POWERS

The Sri Lankan cabinet has approved constitutional reforms that will limit the powers of the president in a move aimed at appeasing the protesters calling for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit over the country's worst economic crisis in decades. The decision to amend the constitution to clip the president's wide-ranging powers was taken in a cabinet meeting on Monday, Dinouk Colombage, media adviser for Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, told Al Jazeera on last week.

Sri Lanka's economy has "completely collapsed," Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said last week, as the crisis-hit nation faces an increasingly dire situation that has left millions struggling with fuel,

electricity and food shortages. "Our economy has faced a complete collapse," Wickremesinghe told Sri Lanka's Parliament, adding the government was seeking help from its global partners and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stabilize the economy. But Wickremesinghe warned the island nation of 22 million was "facing a far more serious situation" beyond the shortages.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/06/23/asia/sri-lanka-economy-collapse-prime-minister-intl-hnk/index.html>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/21/sri-lanka-cabinet-moves-to-clip-president-rajapaksas-powers>

### Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## BEI HIGHLIGHTS: BEI PRESIDENT M HUMAYUN KABIR JOINED AT THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON BANGLADESH-INDIA RELATIONS ORGANIZED BY DHAKA TRIBUNE AND CFISS

BEI President M Humayun Kabir, also a former ambassador and secretary for the Bangladesh government joined at a round roundtable discussion on Bangladesh-India relations jointly organized by leading English daily Dhaka Tribune and the Central Foundation for International and Strategic Studies (CFISS) at Westin Hotel, Dhaka on 21 June 2022. High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami joined the discussion and made some remarks. Mr. Faiz Sobhan, Senior Research Director of BEI also joined this roundtable discussion.



BEI President Ambassador M Humayun Kabir discussing on the issue. PC: Dhaka Tribune

The roundtable is part of a series of discussions on important national and international issues. CFISS's Chairman and founder Commodore Mohammed Nurul Absar and Dhaka Tribune Editor Zafar Sobhan moderated the roundtable that was attended by academia, local and foreign diplomats, former and serving government officials, and journalists. Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) President M Humayun Kabir, and Prothom Alo Head of English Web Ayesha Kabir addressed the roundtable as panellists.

Panelist BEI President M Humayun Kabir stressed the need for more regional cooperation, especially within Saarc. "We are not seeing as many examples of regional cooperation as we used to. We have to think about the region as well," he said.

High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami has reassured that India continues to prioritize the friendship with Bangladesh in different aspects, and Bangladesh comes first when it comes to the country's neighborhood first policy. Both countries are in a position today that is unique, and the relationship is better than it has ever been, he said adding that: "And I think leadership on both sides have sort of publicly acknowledged the importance of doing more, and we are committed to doing."



Faiz Sobhan, Senior Research Director, BEI on the roundtable discussion session. PC: Dhaka Tribune

Highlighting a few commitments that came into reality between two countries, including enclave exchange, cross-border communication connectivity, and opening of more border points for trade, he said the relationships between India and Bangladesh have improved significantly over the time, but actual fulfilment of opportunity is not happening and it is not just for the government to do this.

### Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## BEI HIGHLIGHTS: NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON “BUILDING CAPACITY OF CSOS/NGOS AND MEDIA PERSONNEL TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNANCE AND INFLUENCE ELITE OPINION”, 11 JUNE 2022, DHAKA

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute in partnership with the Asia Foundation implemented a project titled, “Building Capacity of CSOs/NGOs and Media Personnel to Promote Accountability, Transparency in Governance and Influence Elite Opinion” from January 2021 to June 2022. Under this project, ten media personnel and ten members of civil



Mr. M. A. Mannan MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning making his remarks as Chief Guest

society have received capacity-building training on the utilization of three legal instruments – National Integrity Strategy (NIS), Right to Information Act (RTI), and Annual Performance Agreement (APA) to promote accountability and transparency across communities and institutions.



Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Member, BEI Board of Governors & Chairman, Dhaka Bank Limited giving speech as Special Guest



Amb. M Humyaun Kabir, President, BEI presenting the crest to the Chief Guest Mr. M. A. Mannan MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning

In line with this, a National Policy Dialogue held on 11 June 2022 at Hotel Lakeshore, Dhaka. Amb. M Humyaun Kabir, President, BEI started off the meeting with welcome remarks. Mr. M. A. Mannan MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning was invited as chief guest. Ms. Suraiya Begum, ndc, Information Commissioner, Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Member, BEI Board of Governors & Chairman, Dhaka Bank Limited, Mr. Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation-Bangladesh graced the event as special guests. Among others diplomats, bureaucrats, civil society members and media personnel were present. The guests shared their views on the importance of the policy instruments to ensure accountability and transparency in good governance.



Amb. M Humyaun Kabir, President, BEI presenting the crest to Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Member, BEI Board of Governors & Chairman, Dhaka Bank

### Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## BEI HIGHLIGHTS: DIALOGUE WITH THE LEADERS OF JOURNALIST COMMUNITY ON “BUILDING CAPACITY OF CSO/ NGO AND MEDIA PERSONNEL TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNANCE AND INFLUENCE ELITE OPINION”, 22 JUNE 2022, DHAKA

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute in partnership with the Asia Foundation implemented a project titled, “Building Capacity of CSOs/NGOs and Media Personnel to Promote Accountability, Transparency in Governance and Influence Elite Opinion” from January 2021 to June 2022. In line with this, BEI shared this experience with the leaders of journalist community in Dhaka on a Dialogue held on 22 June 2022 at Dhaka National Press Club. Through the implementation of this project, BEI integrated local media activists, print, electronic and online. Journalists as well as student journalists into its focus to



Amb. M Humyaun Kabir, President, BEI making his welcome remarks

understand the insights about the strength and weakness of media institutions among the three major institutions in our society.

Amb. M Humyaun Kabir, President, BEI started off the meeting with welcome remarks while the meeting was presided over by Ms Farida



Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Former President, Ex President, BFUJ, sharing his opinion

Yasmin, President, National Press Club Dhaka. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Former Media and Information Affairs advisor to Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Former President, Ex President, BFUJ, Omar Faruque, President, BFUJ, Shawkat Mahmed, Former President, National Press Club, Ruhul Amin Gazi, Former President, BFUJ attended the dialogue as guests and shared some valuable remarks.

Among others reporters, journalists and media personnel were also present.

The guests shared their views on the insights about the strength and weakness of media institutions and journalist community and importance of the policy instruments to ensure accountability and transparency in good governance.



Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Former Media and Information Affairs advisor to Prime Minister of Bangladesh giving his speech

### Inside this issue

- South Asia: Covid-19 Crisis: At a glance
- Business and Investment: mcci proposes budget revisions, tax-ceiling raise
- Afghanistan: UNSC session discusses afghan human rights, earthquake
- Bangladesh: next election to be fair with participation of all: Prime Minister hopes; Prime Minister likely to visit India in September before UNGA
- India: mutual cooperation can help global post-Covid recovery: Prime Minister at BRICS summit; 7th round of India-Bangladesh joint consultative commission: looking forward to working on new areas of cooperation, says Jaishankar
- Myanmar: Myanmar executions could be war crimes: UN; Cambodia rejects calls to bar Myanmar junta minister from asean meeting
- Nepal: new Chinese international department head holds talks with Oli and Dahal
- Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announces 10% 'super tax' on large-scale industries; FATF decision on removing Pakistan from grey list by October
- Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's economy has 'completely collapsed,' prime minister says; Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president Rajapaksa's powers;
- BEI Highlights

## About Us

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

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

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

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

## DISCLAIMER

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

## 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](mailto: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**