

|| WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

|| Brief Highlights on Current Issues of South Asia ||
|| 19 April - 06 May, 2024 ||

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH COMMITTED TO NON-PROLIFERATION, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR USE: FM

Dhaka (April 30) – Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has reiterated the country's commitment to non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear science, particularly in energy, food safety, medicine, and health sectors. He also emphasized the country's enduring commitment to nuclear disarmament and the safety and security of nuclear materials. During a meeting with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi in Vienna, Mahmud assured the Director General that Bangladesh would maintain transparency, safety, and security of its nuclear power plants. He also thanked the IAEA for its technical support in nuclear agriculture, medicine, and radiotherapy fields.

<https://www.bssnews.net/news/top-news/186546>

BANGLADESH ACHIEVES SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN MACRO PERFORMANCE: IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has praised Bangladesh for its significant improvement in macro performance, highlighting the country's proactive support for its home-grown programs. These include macroeconomic stability and addressing climate change-related structural issues. The IMF director, Krishna Srinivasan, suggested that Bangladesh should allow greater flexibility in its exchange rate to address issues in its external account, particularly the deficit in the financial account. Srinivasan believes that with exchange rate reforms and fiscal policy improvements, Bangladesh can see a sustained recovery from the crisis.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-achieves-significant-improvement-macro-performance-imf-839926>

CHINESE INVESTORS EXPRESS INTERESTS TO SHIFT INVESTMENT TO BANGLADESH

Chinese investors are increasingly considering Bangladesh as an ideal investment destination due to its favorable investment climate, particularly in the export processing zones (EPZs) and BEPZA Economic Zones. A seminar titled "Investment Opportunities in the Export Processing Zones and BEPZA Economic Zone of Bangladesh" was held in Quanzhou City, Fujian Province, China, on 30 April 2024. The event, organized by the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and the Quanzhou Maritime Silk Road Industry and Commerce Association, attracted around 100 participants from various Chinese investment organizations. BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Md Ziaur Rahman highlighted the country's economic growth, including its strategic location, demographic dividend, and stable socio-political environment. The seminar also discussed the establishment of three new EPZs and bilateral investment issues.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/chinese-investors-express-interests-shift-investment-bangladesh-841146>

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BANGLADESH

ADB TO FINANCE \$121.55M FOR PRIVATE SOLAR PLANT IN PABNA

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has secured a \$121.55 million financing package for Dynamic Sun Energy Private Limited to build and operate a 100-MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic power plant in Pabna, Bangladesh. The plant is the first private-sector utility-scale solar facility to secure global financiers. The financing package includes a \$46.75 million loan from ADB, a \$28.05 million syndicated B-loan from ILX Fund I, and a \$46.75 million syndicated parallel loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The plant will generate 193.5 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and avoid 93,654 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The project is part of the government's target to generate 10% of the total electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/first-private-sector-solar-project-bangladesh-secures-12155-million-funding-adb>

CHINA'S CONGRESS, ENERGYPAC FOCUS COOP IN EV, RENEWABLE ENERGY

A high official delegation from the Anhui Provincial People's Congress visited EnergyPac's office in Dhaka

China's delegation has engaged in discussions with Bangladesh's EnergyPac Power Generation PLC, focusing on cooperation in electric vehicles and renewable energy. The Chinese delegation visited EnergyPac's corporate office in Dhaka, highlighting significant trade and investment opportunities. EnergyPac reaffirmed its commitment to integrating advanced technologies into manufacturing, particularly showcasing partnerships with Chinese firms like JAC and Heli. The Chinese delegation also visited the Bangladesh Parliament, Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Dhaka North City Corporation. Trade between Anhui province and Bangladesh reached \$319 million in 2023, highlighting the potential for further collaboration.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/chinas-congress-energypac-focus-coop-ev-renewable-energy-840261>

BANGLADESH MOST ACTIVE IN MOBILE FREELANCING AMONG 8 ASIAN NATIONS: SURVEY

The study, titled "Telenor Asia Digital Lives Decoded 2023," surveyed over 8,000 individuals across eight Asian nations: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

A report from Telenor Asia has revealed that 90% of Bangladeshi respondents have used their mobile phones to acquire new skills in the past year, with 60% spending more than half their day on their phones. The primary driver for this increase is work, followed by access to essential online services. The study also highlighted the critical role mobile phones play in Bangladeshi career progression, with the highest usage rate for promotions, transitioning to new careers, or applying for new jobs. Work-life balance was also a significant benefit of mobile phone ownership. However, Bangladesh lagged in smartphone penetration compared to other South Asian countries. The survey also revealed a strong receptiveness towards new digital technologies, such as generative AI, among Bangladeshi businesses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/telecom/bangladesh-most-active-mobile-freelancing-among-8-asian-nations-survey-839581>

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BANGLADESH

'NAGORIKOTA' CIVIC FUND LAUNCHED TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY, SDGS WITH GLOBAL SUPPORT

The budget targets the disbursement of 32 grants over the next four years

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Global Affairs Canada, and Switzerland have launched a 12-year civic engagement fund called Nagorikata in Bangladesh. The fund aims to empower diverse citizens, particularly women, girls, and marginalized people, by ensuring their rights to equality, privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information. The first phase of the fund, which lasts four years, will be funded by 17.49 million Swiss Francs, equivalent to over Tk200 crore. The fund aims to increase the capabilities of civil society organizations, increase interactions and dialogue between them and government representatives, and prioritize SDG 5 and 16 implementation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/first-phase-tk200cr-nagorikota-civic-fund-launched-strengthen-civil-society-sdgs-global>

DHAKA SEEKS TO INITIATE BANKING OPERATIONS IN KSA FOR MIGRANTS

Expatriate Bangladeshis will benefit from increased banking facilities in Saudi Arabia, making it easier to send remittances through formal channels

- *More than 28 lakh Bangladeshis are working and residing in the Gulf country*
- *In fiscal 2022-23, about \$377 crore in remittances arrived from KSA.*
- *26.5% of Bangladesh's total remittance income in fiscal 2012-13 came from Saudi Arabia alone*

Bangladesh is set to request Saudi Arabia to allow the operation of bank branches or digital banking services in Saudi Arabia to facilitate expatriates sending remittances home through formal channels. The bilateral meeting is scheduled to take place on the sidelines of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) annual meeting in Saudi Arabia. The meeting will also discuss launching a program for Bangladeshi insurance companies to provide insurance benefits to Bangladeshi companies under the insurance scheme for expatriates. Bangladesh may also propose support from Saudi Arabia to build an energy hub in Bangladesh, ensure a smooth supply chain, and enhance support in diversified sectors such as readymade garments, pharmaceuticals, tourism, renewable energy, leather, and jute for sustainable economic growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dhaka-seeks-initiate-banking-operations-ksa-migrants-838791>

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INDIA

"INDIA'S PARTITION BROKE NORTHEAST'S NATURAL CONNECTIVITY": S JAISHANKAR

S Jaishankar said India's ties with the neighbouring countries like Myanmar and Taiwan, among others in the East Asia has improved in the last decade connecting it with the rest of the world

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted the impact of India's partition on the northeastern states, breaking their natural connectivity and hindering their growth. He mentioned efforts by the Central government in the last decade that have improved resources in the region, boosting economic stability. Jaishankar pointed out the importance of India's ties with neighboring countries like Myanmar and Taiwan, emphasizing the benefits of improved connectivity. He discussed the positive outcomes of the Land Boundary agreement with Bangladesh in 2015, leading to enhanced trust and cooperation. Jaishankar also mentioned challenges in dealing with Myanmar, but highlighted the potential for development and connectivity in the northeast through partnerships with countries like Japan. He emphasized India's position as a global leader, citing the country's successful management of crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and its efforts to ensure

inclusive diplomatic engagement across all states.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/indias-partition-broke-northeast-natural-connectivity-s-jaishankar-5551956>

INDIA EXPRESSES DISCONTENT OVER NEPAL GOVT'S RECENT DECISION TO FEATURE NEW MAP ON RS 100 NOTES

India has expressed dissatisfaction with Nepal's decision to feature its new map on Rs 100 notes, labeling it as unilateral. Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar stated that while maps may change, ground realities remain unchanged. He stated that Nepal made a unilateral decision during discussions at an established mechanism between the two countries. In 2020, Nepal's government released a new map incorporating territories forcibly occupied by India, including Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani.

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/india-expresses-discontent-over-nepal-government-s-recent-decision-to-feature-a-new-map-on-the-rs-100-note/>

ON MYANMAR, INDIA NEEDS A RETHINK

Delhi must now begin a dialogue with Myanmar's National Unity Government comprising the democratic opposition and the ethnic armed groups. India must also engage with the local forces in control of the regions across the 1,600 km long land border with Myanmar.

Myanmar's army has claimed victory in retaking Myawaddy, a crucial trade route with Thailand. The battle has been fought by the anti-government coalition of ethnic armed groups and pro-democracy fighters, who have ousted troops from the army base. The Border Guard Force (BGF), formally aligned with the military government, has gained autonomy and is playing both sides to expand its regional dominance. The Myanmar state's collapse has led to the attraction of trans-border illegal networks. As the Myanmar crisis affects the region, external powers like China and the US are intervening to stabilize the border. India's response to the Myanmar crisis has been minimal, with little debate on how to deal with the situation. Delhi must engage with Myanmar's National Unity Government and open communication channels with local forces.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/on-myanmar-india-needs-a-rethink-9310128/>

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PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA PLEDGE TO BOOST ECONOMIC TIES

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have affirmed their commitment to enhancing economic cooperation and Saudi investments in Pakistan. This was stated during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference Banjul, The Gambia, on Saturday. Mr Dar also met with officials from Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, and Niger to discuss regional issues and strengthen bilateral ties. Discussions also took place with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar on bilateral cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, and with Niger on coordination within the OIC framework. Deputy PM Dar acknowledged Niger's support for Pakistan on various platforms and its principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1831570/pakistan-saudi-arabia-pledge-to-boost-economic-ties>

PAKISTAN, QATAR AGREE TO EXPAND TRADE, INVESTMENT TIES

Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to further expand trade and investment ties, and explore increased employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Qatar.

The commitment was expressed during a meeting today between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, on the margins of 15th OIC Islamic Summit in Banjul, the Gambia.

The two sides discussed multi-faceted bilateral cooperation especially in the energy domain.

They also exchanged views on a range of recent regional and global developments, especially in the Middle East.

The two leaders also expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine and underlined the urgency of an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza.

<https://radio.gov.pk/04-05-2024/pakistan-qatar-agree-to-expand-trade>

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MOU SIGNING VITAL FOR SRI LANKA'S DEBT RESTRUCTURING – JAPAN

Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yoko Kamikawa, has expressed expectations for the early signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the official creditors committee and Sri Lanka. Kamikawa stressed the importance of reaching a debt restructuring agreement transparently and comparably. Japan has been providing grant aid projects to Sri Lanka since the financial default two years ago and is leading international

discussions on Sri Lanka's debt restructuring. Kamikawa also expressed Japan's intention to support Sri Lanka's development by resuming existing yen loan projects and strengthening cooperation in the maritime domain.

<https://www.newsfirst.lk/2024/05/04/mou-signing-vital-for-sri-lanka-s-debt-restructuring-japan>

SRI LANKA TO BENEFIT FROM USD 5 BN ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to a \$5 billion replenishment for its Asian Development Fund (ADF) 14 and Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF) 8. The ADF is the ADB's largest source of grants for its poorest and most vulnerable developing member countries and is replenished every four years. ADF 14 will support grant operations during 2025-2028, providing eligible ADB members with the largest-ever volume of ADF grants. TASF 8 will provide grants for project preparation, capacity building, and technical or policy advice. The replenishment will be funded by contributions from donors, including

Armenia and Georgia. The remaining \$0.9 billion will come from earlier ADF cycles and liquidity investments.

<https://www.dailynews.lk/2024/05/06/business/524000/sri-lanka-to-benefit-from-usd-5-bn-asian-development-fund-14/>

NEPAL

JAPAN FOREIGN CHIEF VOWS TO SUPPORT NEPAL'S DEVELOPMENT

Tokyo (Jiji Press)—Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa has stressed Sunday that Tokyo will continue to support sustainable development of Nepal.

Kamikawa made the pledge at a meeting with Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Nepal's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Kathmandu, the capital of the South Asian country, on Sunday.

Nepal, now a least developed country, aims to climb out of the status in 2026.

Self-sustaining development of Nepal, which is located between the major

powers of India and China, will contribute to the stability of the entire region, Kamikawa told reporters online after the meeting.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/politics-government/20240506-184346/>

MALDIVES

INDIA AND MALDIVES REVIEW MILITARY PERSONNEL WITHDRAWAL PROCESS AHEAD OF MAY 10 DEADLINE

The fourth crucial bilateral meeting, between the core groups who are responsible for overseeing the transition of Indian military personnel with civilian experts, took place in New Delhi.

India and the Maldives have conducted a review of the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from the Maldives, with the Maldivian

government insisting it must end by May 10. Over 80 Indian personnel were stationed in the Maldives to operate three aircraft for medical evacuations and humanitarian relief. The Indian government has committed to replacing military personnel by May 10. President Mohamed Muizzu has set a May 10 deadline for the removal of all Indian military troops.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/india/story/india-and-maldives-review-military-personnel-withdrawal-process-ahead-of-may-10-deadline-428249-2024-05-04>

MALDIVES EXPECTED TO ACCELERATE SHIFT FROM INDIA TO CHINA FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

The Maldives' recent parliamentary elections saw President Mohamed Muizzu's People's National Congress win, promoting China-focused policies and reducing dependence on India. This could hinder India's efforts to limit China's influence in the Indian Ocean region. Analysts suggest India may be concerned

about the one-party rule and pro-China policies. Muizzu's party plans to prioritize strategic ties with Beijing and Chinese-funded infrastructure projects, despite warnings of debt distress. India may need to moderate its anti-India stance due to the Maldives' reliance on India for resources.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/maldives-expected-to-accelerate-shift-from-india-to-china-following-parliamentary-polls/7591503.html>

AFGHANISTAN

THE TALIBAN ARE WORKING TO WOO TOURISTS TO AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban in Afghanistan has threatened to suppress protests against a ban on poppy cultivation in Badakhshan province, resulting in the death of two protestors. The Taliban has vowed to eradicate poppy cultivation and warns of additional

military forces if protests continue. The public uprising highlights potential obstacles for the Taliban, and the international community has not recognized the Taliban due to human rights concerns.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-face-rare-public-uprising-against-their-rule-in-northeastern-afghanistan/7598640.html>

US DEFENDS TALKING TO TALIBAN IN AFGHANISTAN

- *Dialogue works in US interests, supports Afghan people, State Department says*
- *Taliban took power in 2021 following withdrawal of US-led coalition*

The US State Department has defended its decision to engage with the Taliban, stating it supports the Afghan people and serves US interests in Afghanistan. The Taliban,

who took control in 2021, has faced international hostility for their repression, including treatment of women and girls. The US believes dialogue with the Taliban allows for direct communication, press for US nationals' release, and discuss the Taliban's counterterrorism commitments.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2503466/world>

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AFGHANISTAN

OIC SUMMIT URGES IEA TO RESPECT GIRLS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The 15th summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Gambia called on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to respect the rights of Afghan girls and women to education and work. The declaration emphasized the importance of these fundamental rights and called for better communication with the IEA

UNAMA ISSUES LATEST RIGHTS REPORT, NOTES ONGOING CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN, GIRLS AND MEDIA

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, has asked the UN Human Rights Council to prioritize the country and its people. The latest report from the UN mission in Afghanistan showed that Afghan girls were still not able to attend high schools, and women journalists were told not to attend certain events. Despite some

on these issues. Participants also highlighted the need for addressing challenges related to ethnic groups, drugs, terrorism, and social issues to ensure inclusive governance and sustainable peace in Afghanistan. Delegations from 57 OIC member states attended the conference under the theme of "Enhancing unity and solidarity through dialogue for sustainable development."

<https://www.ariananews.af/oic-summit-urges-iea-to-respect-girls-right-to-education/>

improvements in the enforcement of hijab rules, journalists and media workers face financial difficulties, restrictions from the Islamic Emirate, and the threat of detention. Islamic Emirate spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has disputed the report, claiming that Sharia rights are being protected and people have more access to their rights now.

<https://www.ariananews.af/unama-issues-latest-rights-report-notes-ongoing-challenges-for-women-girls-and-media/>

MYANMAR

A SANCTIONED STRONGMAN AND THE 'FALL' OF MYANMAR'S MYAWADDY

The key border town was 'liberated' by Myanmar's anti-coup fighters, but the story was far more complex than many realised.

The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) claimed to have captured a 275 Light Infantry Battalion base near the Myanmar-Thai border, but it was later revealed that the base was actually taken by the Border Guard Forces (BGF), led by Colonel Saw Chit Thu. The BGF, known for its criminal activities, allowed the KNLA to enter Myawaddy, a city of strategic importance, but did not

authorize them to occupy it. The situation in Myawaddy remains delicate, with disputes within the BGF about supporting the military or the KNLA. The KNLA has captured three other military bases near Myawaddy, and the military junta is launching Operation Aung Zeya to regain control.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/1/a-sanctioned-strongman-and-the-fall-of-myanmars-myawaddy>

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MYANMAR

MYANMAR STOPS MEN FROM WORKING ABROAD AS WAR INTENSIFIES

Myanmar's military government has suspended all applications for overseas work permits for men aged 18 to 35, following an enlistment order that led to many fleeing the country. The restrictions come as the junta battles increased opposition in the country's ongoing civil war. The junta imposed the conscription order in February, prompting nearly 100,000 men to apply for work permits in the three months following. Many Myanmar citizens have gone to work in countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates. The military council's directive has left the country's youth with no work prospects.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw8q9vx93q6o>

BANGLADESH, GAMBIA HOPEFUL OF SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF MYANMAR CASE

Bangladesh and the Gambia discussed the Rohingya genocide case against Myanmar at a meeting before an OIC summit. The Gambia expressed gratitude to Bangladesh for sheltering Rohingya refugees and providing financial aid for the case. They emphasized the importance of repatriating Rohingyas to Myanmar. The Gambian minister expressed confidence in proving the allegations of genocide but mentioned a lack of funds for the case. Bangladesh assured to provide legal assistance and evidence.

<https://www.risingbd.com/english/national/news/104137>

MYANMAR: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS WILL HAVE REGIONAL FALLOUT

The Myanmar military junta has placed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest due to extreme weather conditions, indicating the regime's vulnerability amid losses to rebel groups. The country is in civil war, with international inaction allowing the crisis to worsen, posing a regional threat. The conflict has caused a humanitarian crisis, economic turmoil, and an influx of refugees into neighboring countries. International coordination and humanitarian assistance are needed to address the crisis and restore stability in the region.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/ht-insight/international-affairs/myanmar-humanitarian-crisis-will-have-regional-fallout-101714818356533.html>

MYANMAR REMAINS DANGEROUS COUNTRY FOR JOURNALISTS: RSF

Myanmar is the world's second-worst jailer of journalists after China, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The regime has raided media offices, revoked publication licenses, and arrested journalists since the 2021 coup. The International Center for Not-For-Profit Law reported that 206 journalists, including 31 females, from almost 100 media outlets in Myanmar had been detained since the coup. Three journalists have been killed in detention, while RSF claims at least five journalists have been killed since the coup.

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-remains-dangerous-country-for-journalists-rsf.html>

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MYANMAR

ARAKAN ARMY SEIZES MAJOR MYANMAR JUNTA BASE ON BANGLADESH BORDER

The Arakan Army (AA) has seized a border guard headquarters in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State, and has entered the town. The AA attacked the Kyee Kan Pyin Border Guard Police headquarters, which was defended by junta police and troops. The junta evacuated its commanders by helicopters before

the base fell. The AA is attacking junta bases in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Ann, and is preparing for bigger offensives into Sittwe and Kyaukphyu.

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/arakan-army-seizes-major-myanmar-junta-base-on-bangladesh-border.html>

INDIA DEPORTS MYANMAR IMMIGRANTS FROM VIOLENCE-HIT MANIPUR

77 illegal immigrants were deported in the first phase and one Indian national brought back during a handover ceremony

India has completed the first phase of deporting illegal immigrants from Myanmar in the Manipur border state, with 38 deported and 77 in the first phase. The action follows clashes between Hindu and Christian groups in Manipur in 2023,

resulting in 219 deaths and 60,000 displacement. The Indian government sealed the border with Myanmar in January, causing concern among indigenous tribes and the heavily Christian religious demographics in Nagaland and Mizoram.

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/india-deports-myanmar-immigrants-from-violence-hit-manipur/104980>

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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. M Humayun Kabir, former Ambassador, has been working as the President and Chief Executive of the institute.

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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