

|| WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

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

|| 24 SEPTEMBER –30 SEPTEMBER , 2022 ||

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

BANGLADESH MUST BE READY TO WELCOME AMERICAN BUSINESSES: PETER HAAS; PM HASINA SEEKS LARGER US INVESTMENTS IN BANGLADESH; BANGLADESH ECONOMY TO GROW BY 6.6PC IN FY23: ADB

Referring to prime minister Sheikh Hasina's speech at the U.S.-Bangladesh Business Council in New York last week that Bangladesh is continually working to improve its physical, legal, and financial structures in order to improve the investment climate, he said, "The United States stands ready to assist these efforts in whatever way we can" The US envoy was speaking at the Annual General Meeting of International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) as the chief guest in the capital. He also said as the country is worthy of their attention the international companies will look into Bangladesh for market opportunities. And for this purpose he suggested that international companies and investors must become more aware of the opportunities Bangladesh presents and at the same time Bangladesh must be ready to welcome American businesses also.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has allowed banks to maintain accounts in China's Yuan with their corresponding branches abroad to settle cross border transactions in Chinese currency. Previously, the authorised dealers could maintain foreign currency clearing account with the Bangladesh Bank in the Chinese currency.

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the gross domestic product (GDP) of Bangladesh is expected to grow by 6.6pc in the on-going 2022-23 fiscal (FY23) because of fall in domestic consumption and demand, export and remittance income as well as the sloth global economy. ADB Bangladesh country director Edimon Ginting unveiled the forecast at a press conference at the lender's Dhaka office on Wednesday. He said investment would not be as expected amidst the uncertainty in global economy and because of fuel crisis. However, he thinks that a 6.6 per cent growth is 'good' for the economy.

<https://en.prothomalo.com/business/local/eupfr3rtmz>
<https://en.prothomalo.com/business/local/3zuknlp3f>
<https://en.prothomalo.com/business/local/qdbob17f9d>

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AFGHANISTAN: ISLAMIC EMIRATE ASKS UNSC TO EXTEND TRAVEL BAN EXEMPTIONS

Over 40 days have passed since the end of the travel ban exemption for Islamic Emirate officials instated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Kabul once more requested that the United Nations Security Council extend the travel ban exemption of the officials of the Islamic Emirate, saying

that adopting an isolationist policy would not benefit any side. However, some political analysts said that the world's political and economic sanctions are not beneficial to Afghanistan.

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-180090>

BANGLADESH: PM HASINA AGAIN SEEKS EFFECTIVE ROLE OF UN, GLOBAL LEADERS ON ROHINGYA REPATRIATION; PM HASINA SEEKS LARGER US INVESTMENTS IN BANGLADESH; SANCTIONS TO REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL ACCOUNTABILITY ENSURED: PETER HAAS

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina has once again called upon the United Nations and the global leaders to take effective measures for sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas, warning the global community that if the problem persists further, it may affect stability and security beyond its region. Since last month Bangladesh has witnessed the five years of the 2017 mass exodus of the Rohingyas to Bangladesh from their home country the prime minister said the prolonged presence of the Rohingyas in Bangladesh has caused serious ramifications on the economy, environment, security, and socio-political stability in Bangladesh. "Uncertainty over repatriation has led to widespread frustration", She said. She also warned that cross border organised crimes including human and drug trafficking are on the rise. This situation can potentially fuel radicalisation which may affect the security and stability of the entire region, and beyond. The prime minister made this call while delivering her speech at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN headquarters in New York. Alongside the Rohingya Issue, she also emphasize on the Russia-Ukraine war, the peace and stability, climate change, food insecurity, Covid-19 pandemic, Palestine and migration issues among others concerning the global as well as Bangladesh perspectives in her speech.

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday on the high-level policy roundtable which was organised by the US-Bangladesh Business Council at her palace of residence in New York, called upon the US investors to make investments in various sectors that included renewable energy, shipbuilding, automobile and pharmaceuticals in Bangladesh, saying that Bangladesh is pleased to offer a special economic zone for them. The prime minister also mentioned that Bangladesh is setting up 100 'Special Economic Zones' (SEZs) and several Hi-tech Parks in different parts of the country, adding that having more than 600,000 free-lancing IT professionals, Bangladesh is the right destination for IT investments. She also mentioned that Bangladesh is in the process of transforming "Digital Bangladesh" into a 'Smart Bangladesh', where information and communication technology (ICT) is playing a significant role. She also said that the strategic location of Bangladesh offers tremendous potential to be the economic hub of the region and she believes that US-Bangladesh Business Council can play a significant role in this direction.

The US ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas came up with this disclosure on Thursday at 'meet the ambassador' event in a Gulshan Hotel, that the sanctions Imposed on the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and seven of its officials will remain effective until

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BHUTAN: EU, BHUTAN LAUNCH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOOD SYSTEMS PROGRAMME

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Finance Minister Namgay Tshering and the European Union (EU) Ambassador to Bhutan and India, Ugo Astuto launched a sustainable agriculture food program to promote inclusive, sustainable and resilient agricultural food systems. Under the program the European Union provided Euro 15 million to Bhutan for agricultural development in Thimphu on September 20. The fund is expected to help Bhutan in the promotion of sustainable food systems which are inclusive and resilient to the changes brought by climate change. It will also support Bhutan to

diversify the Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) sectors through green economic opportunities.

<https://kuenselonline.com/eu-bhutan-launch-sustainable-agriculture-food-systems-programme/>

INDIA: WANT TO MAKE SURE INDIA-UK FTA IS FIRST STEP IN CONTINUALLY EVOLVING TRADE, ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP: UK FOREIGN SECRETARY; WORLD NEEDS TO HEAR REASON, EXPERIENCE GOODWILL, INDIA WILLING & ABLE ON BOTH: EAM JAISHANKAR AT UNGA

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly has told a news agency PTI in an interview Wednesday on the margins of the high-level UN General Assembly session that the UK wants to make sure that the deal between India – UK is the first step in a continually evolving trade and economic relationship with India. He also said that the range of potential agreements also adds complexity as there are traditional areas in a free trade agreement such as exports and imports of manufactured goods, agricultural goods, technology and service industries, the mutual recognition of professional qualifications is also “incredibly important now. In January, India and the UK formally launched talks for a free trade agreement. They have set the deadline for concluding talks by Diwali.

counts,” In a message reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s message from the Red Fort this Independence Day, Jaishankar outlined the “five pledges” on the 75th year of India’s independence. After underlining the pledges, Jaishankar said India believes and advocates that this is not an era of war and conflict, and it is time for “development and cooperation.”

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/want-to-make-sure-india-uk-fta-is-first-step-in-continually-evolving-trade-economic-relationship-uk-foreign-secretary-8165707/>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/world-needs-reason-goodwill-india-willing-able-on-both-jaishankar-unga-8171026/>

In the mean while in his first speech at the United Nations General Assembly as External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar Saturday night framed India’s position as a country “prepared to take up greater responsibilities. He also said that “India is prepared to take up greater responsibilities. But it seeks at the same time to ensure that the injustice faced by the Global South is decisively addressed... In these turbulent times, it is essential that the world listens to more voices of reason. And experiences more acts of goodwill. India is willing and able on both

MALDIVES: NASHEED TRAVELS TO SRI LANKA TO ASSIST IN ECONOMIC CRISIS; MALDIVES AND KYRGYZ REPUBLIC SIGN VISA WAIVER AGREEMENT

Parliament Speaker Mohamed Nasheed departed to Sri Lanka on Monday night to attend a meeting between the CVF and the Sri Lanka Mission to seek foreign assistance to rectify the country's economic situation. Sri Lanka is facing a series of protests over the country's dire economic crisis. Sri Lanka's incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe appointed Nasheed as a special envoy to coordinate foreign aid to improve the country's economic situation.

The Governments of Maldives Kyrgyz Republic Friday signed the Agreement on Mutual Exemption of Visa Requirements, which allows for the exemption from visas for single or multiple entry, exit or transit for both countries' nationals, for a period of 30 days. The agreement was signed

on behalf of the Maldives government by Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and on behalf of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic by Kulubaev Zheenbek Moldokanovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Minister also thanked the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for their commitment towards strengthening the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

<https://avas.mv/en/122827>

<https://avas.mv/en/122675>

MYANMAR: CHINA SAYS MYANMAR'S SHELLING ACROSS BANGLADESH BORDER 'UNFORTUNATE'; MYANMAR REGIME, RUSSIA SIGN NUCLEAR COOPERATION 'ROADMAP'

DHAKA—Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming told reporters at the Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Ministry when asked about a meeting with Bangladesh's acting foreign secretary over recent shelling and airspace incursions by the Myanmar armed forces resulting in the Sept. 16 killing of a Rohingya person, as "unfortunate". He said they also discussed such issues as Rohingya repatriation and international cooperation. Bangladesh people living in border areas such as Bandarban and Cox's Bazar have been panicked by the shelling from inside Myanmar.

The Myanmar military regime and Russian state-owned nuclear corporation Rosatom have signed a roadmap for further atomic energy cooperation including the possible implementation of a modular reactor project in Myanmar. The agreement was signed on Tuesday on the side-

lines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF-2022) in Vladivostok, Russia, by director general Alexey Likhachev, and the regime's Science and Technology Minister Myo Thein Kyaw and Electric Power Minister Thaung Han in the presence of Min Aung Hlaing. The Russian atomic energy agency said the roadmap would guide cooperation in the field of "peaceful use of atomic energy" for 2022-23.

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/china-says-myanmar-s-shelling-across-bangladesh-border-unfortunate.html>

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-regime-russia-sign-nuclear-cooperation-roadmap.html>

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NEPAL: PRESIDENT REJECTS CITIZENSHIP BILL, TRAMPLES ON THE CONSTITUTION; SKIPPED UNGA SIDELINES MEETING ANOTHER NAIL IN THE SAARC COFFIN

The nascent federal democratic republic is at another turning point. For the first time since the promulgation of the new constitution in 2015, the ceremonial head of state has defied Parliament and thereby brazenly violated the constitution. President Bidya Devi Bhandari, who has been expressing her reservations against several provisions of the bill to amend the Citizenship Act-2006 despite her ceremonial role, has refused to authenticate the bill, thereby affecting at least half a million stateless people waiting for the bill's passage to get their national identity cards. With the President's refusal, the proposed amendments will now be rendered null and void.

The annual meeting of SAARC foreign ministers on the sidelines of the United

Nations General Assembly in New York used to be a key aspect of the SAARC process. The meeting usually set the tone of the regional bloc by informally discussing various issues to sort them out amicably. But officials

say, this year, just like last year, there will be no meeting of Saarc foreign ministers on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United General Assembly in New York.

<https://tkpo.st/3qSKg4D>

<https://tkpo.st/3qSKg4D>

<https://tkpo.st/3Lq1BeI>

PAKISTAN: PM SHEHBAZ VOWS TO HOLD IMRAN ACCOUNTABLE FOR 'MANIPULATING' CYPHER; ARMY CHIEF GEN BAJWA IN US ON OFFICIAL VISIT; US ANNOUNCES TO GIVE F-16

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif vowed to hold his predecessor and PTI chief Imran Khan accountable before the law for putting national security at stake by "manipulating" diplomatic cypher. In a hard-

hitting statement issued by the PM Office, PM Shehbaz accused the deposed premier of running a smear campaign against the state institutions.

Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa is in the United States on a five-day trip in yet another sign of stepped up efforts by both the sides to improve their fraught and difficult relations. Though the

military's media wing is tight-lipped over the visit, Gen Bajwa was accompanied by a high-powered delegation. The army chief is scheduled to hold a series of meetings with the US officials including a visit to the Pentagon and Langley, the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). His visit is being closely followed as some

have linked it with the expected change of command in November

in the army. There are speculations that his visit may mean that the government may extend his already extended tenure.

The US State Department has approved the potential sale of F-16 aircraft sustainment and related equipment to Pakistan, the Pentagon said in yet another move that indicates a thaw in the frosty diplomatic relations between the two countries that have seesawed over the past few years. The approval came as Pakistan has requested to consolidate prior F-16 sustainment and support cases to support the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet by reducing duplicate case activities and adding additional continued support elements.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2379865/pm-shehbaz-vows-to-hold-imran-accountable-for-manipulating-cypher>

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BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI) IN ASSOCIATION WITH NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY ORGANIZED A NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ENTITLED “SAFE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PROMOTING PEACE AND DEMOCRACY” ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2022, DHAKA

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) in association with National Endowment for Democracy organized a national policy dialogue entitled “Safe Use of Technology for Promoting Peace and Democracy” on September 24, 2022 at Dhaka. Mr. Mostafa Jabbar, Honorable Minister, Posts and Telecommunications Division, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the dialogue as Chief Guest. Mr. Mesbah Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports; H.E. Charles Whiteley, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh; Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, North South University, Mr. Minhaz Kamal Khan, member, BEI Board of Governors attended the dialogue as Special Guest.

BEI Project team and participants from Rajshahi Sadar and Paba Upazila shared their interesting findings, learning and recommendations gathered from the field activities of the recently completed project at Rajshahi, with the national level stakeholders for promoting safe use of technology and digital security. BEI’s initiative was loudly appreciated by all for working on digital safety, security and practicing democratic norms and values on online. All the guests stressed on raising mass awareness specially at grass roots level to minimize the digital safety, security threats and promoting peace online.



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Sunday, 25 September 2022 | Today's FE | e-Paper | Beta Website

Awareness, digital literacy linked to optimum ICT use

FE REPORT | Published: September 25, 2022 10:30:58

Sunday, September 25, 2022

NEWAGE Bangladesh

6,000 gambling, 22,000 porn sites blocked: Jabbar

United News of Bangladesh, Dhaka | Published: 21:12, Sep 24, 2022 | Updated: 21:44, Sep 24, 2022

সূত্র

পুরো দেশকে উচ্চগতির ইন্টারনেট সংযোগের আওতায় আনা হচ্ছে বাসস

২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২, ০৭:২২ পিএম | অনলাইন সংরণ

সমকাল

ডিজিটাল আইন না থাকলে সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গা বাড়ত: মোস্তাফা জব্বার

সমকাল প্রতিবেদক

প্রকাশ: ২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২২ | ২২:৫৩ | আপডেট: ২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২২ | ২২:৫৩

রোববার, ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২
১০ আশ্বিন ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ

পুরো দেশকে উচ্চগতির ইন্টারনেটের আওতায় আনা হচ্ছে: মোস্তাফা জব্বার



জ্যেষ্ঠ প্রতিবেদক

প্রকাশিত: ০৫:১৬ পিএম, ২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২

The Daily Star

SUNDAY, September 25, 2022 | Journalism Without Fear or Favour

Govt permanently blocked 22,000 porn sites and 6,000 gambling sites: Mustafa Jabbar

UNB

Sat Sep 24, 2022 09:15 PM Last update on: Sat Sep 24, 2022 09:47 PM



১৭ টা ২৯ মিনিট, ২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২

উচ্চগতির ইন্টারনেটের আওতায় আসছে পুরো

দেশ: মোস্তাফা জব্বার

ডাক ও টেলিযোগাযোগ মন্ত্রী মোস্তাফা জব্বার বলেছেন, পঞ্চম শিল্প বিপ্লবের হাতিয়ার হিসেবে পুরো দেশকে উচ্চগতির ইন্টারনেট সংযোগের আওতায় আনার উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।

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বিশ্বনিষ্ঠ অন্তর্জাতক ও অনলাইন চিত্রকথা

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THE BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI) WITH THE SUPPORT FROM IRADE/SARI-EI AND USAID ORGANIZED A TWO DAY SEMINAR ON “SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CROSS BORDER ENERGY TRADE (CBET) AT THE SOUTH ASIAN SUB REGIONAL LEVEL: A BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE” AT THE LAKESHORE HOTELS IN DHAKA ON SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2022

The Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) with the support from IRADE/SARI-EI and USAID organized a two day Seminar on “**Socio-Economic Impact of Cross Border Energy Trade (CBET) At the South Asian Sub Regional Level: A Bangladesh perspective**” at the Lakeshore Hotels in Dhaka on September 21 & 22, 2022 in Dhaka.

The Seminar was organized with the objective of bringing together government officials, academics, civil society members and university students to discuss about the issues of Cross Border Energy Trade at the South Asian Sub Regional Level through regional cooperation and integration with the aim of ensuring energy security and

committing to long term and more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy transition policies in the light of current economic and political context.

The event was attended by the **Ms. Waseqa Ayesha Khan**, Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh and **Engr. Mohammad Hossain**, Director General – Power Cell, Power Division, Government of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively.



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Cross-border energy trade key for regional energy security: Experts



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