

|| WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS ||

BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

|| Brief Highlights on Current Issues of South Asia ||
|| 14-24 June, 2024 ||

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH SEEKS INDIA'S SUPPORT TO BECOME MEMBER OF BRICS: FM

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister seeks India's support to join BRICS during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's state visit to India. Talks covered joint river management, connectivity, trade, security, border issues, and import of essentials such as onion, oil, wheat, and sugar. Bangladesh seeks India's assistance in repatriating Rohingyas, with India suggesting China's involvement. Discussions also include Indian medical visas for Bangladeshis and importing electricity from Bhutan and Nepal through India's facilitation.

<https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/196197>

INDIA, BANGLADESH VOW TO PURSUE COLLABORATION IN SPACE TECH, OCEANOGRAPHY

India will extend e-Medical Visa facility to people from Bangladesh travelling to India for medical treatment.

India and Bangladesh have agreed to collaborate in frontier technologies like nuclear, oceanography, and space technology. They will develop a small satellite for Bangladesh, extend e-Medical Visa facilities, and establish a new Assistant High Commission. India will also engage in data exchange and water resource management. The two countries also committed to strengthening trade, investment, private sector support, and power and energy collaboration. They also agreed to expedite high-capacity interconnection development.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-bangladesh-vow-to-pursue-collaboration-in-space-tech-oceanography-124062300040_1.html

MURMU PRAISES BANGLADESH'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS UNDER SHEIKH HASINA'S LEADERSHIP

Indian President Smt Droupadi Murmu praised Bangladesh's significant economic progress under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership. She noted that India and Bangladesh are accelerating cooperation in various areas and entering new sectors. The President expressed confidence that this will shape the future of the India-Bangladesh relationship. The two leaders agreed to work together to enhance economic ties, development partnerships, defense cooperation, energy security, and connectivity across all domains.

<https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/196208>

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BANGLADESH

INDIA SIGNALS INTEREST IN BANGLADESH'S TEESTA PROJECT EYED BY CHINA

PM Modi and Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina have announced initiatives to improve cooperation in trade, digital issues, and connectivity. India expressed interest in the conservation of the Teesta River, a project being pursued by China. An Indian technical team will visit Dhaka for talks on the conservation and management of the Bangladeshi section of the river. The announcement reflects India's Neighbourhood First policy and the importance of bilateral ties. The two leaders also signed a joint document to guide relations and announced initiatives to boost connectivity, trade, commerce, and people-to-people exchanges.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-signals-interest-in-bangladesh-s-teesta-project-eyed-by-china-101719061279479.html>

PM NARENDRA MODI AFTER BILATERAL MEETING WITH SHEIKH HASINA: 'FOCUS ON CONNECTIVITY, COMMERCE, COLLABORATION'

PM Modi said the neighbouring country is situated at the confluence of Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, Vision Sagar and Indo-Pacific Vision.

India and Bangladesh held bilateral talks in New Delhi, discussing defence ties, production, counter-terrorism cooperation, border management, and public welfare projects. They focused on connectivity, commerce, and collaboration, with a futuristic vision of green, digital, blue economy, and space. They value their relations and are ready to initiate talks on the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-sheikh-hasina-discuss-defence-blue-economy-terrorism-in-bilateral-meeting-in-delhi-101719046874040.html>

PM FOR REMOVING TRADE BARRIERS THROUGH DHAKA-DELHI DIALOGUE

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina currently visiting India and Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar discussed enhancing economic development, trade, logistics, energy, and connectivity partnerships. They congratulated the Awami League and urged her to take on a new role in BIMSTEC. They also discussed strengthening digital programs and addressing the Rohingya crisis. The meeting aimed to deepen cooperation between the two countries in various sectors.

<https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/196064>

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COMMERCE MINISTRY MEETING ON FTA WITH CHINA ON TUESDAY

The Commerce Ministry is set to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sent by China to enhance bilateral relations between the two nations. The meeting will primarily focus on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries. The FTA aims to enhance bilateral trade and offset post-graduation shocks for Bangladesh. Experts believe the FTA will help diversify products and increase investment in Bangladesh. Currently, annual bilateral trade is worth \$21 billion, with China's exports accounting for nearly \$19 billion.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/commerce-ministry-meeting-on-fta-with-china-on-tuesday-1719075849>

GOVT AIMS TO ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES BY 2041

Bangladesh's government aims for financial inclusion and a Smart Bangladesh by 2041, focusing on Climate and Disaster-Resilient Smart Villages and Cities. They aim to improve Bangladesh's position in the Global Cyber Security Index and introduce technology-friendly initiatives for Bengali languages, including spell checkers and conversion software.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/govt-aims-to-ensure-universal-access-to-digital-resources-by-2041-1719075008>

INDIA

INDIA BOOSTS DEFENSE TIES WITH BANGLADESH TO BECOME COUNTERWEIGHT TO CHINA

India and Bangladesh bolster ties as New Delhi tries to become a regional power.

India and Bangladesh have signed agreements to strengthen their defense relationship and expand cooperation in maritime security, ocean economy, space, and telecommunication sectors. The agreements were signed during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India, marking the first foreign leader to visit New Delhi since Narendra Modi's third term. Bangladesh's garment industry heavily relies on China for raw

materials, and the two countries aim to boost river water sharing and cooperation in power and energy sectors. India has loaned Bangladesh \$8 billion in the last eight years to help expand infrastructure. The issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh to India remains a contentious issue.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/india-boosts-defense-ties-bangladesh-become-counterweight-china-111335712>

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INDIA AND BANGLADESH: A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SHAPING SOUTH ASIA'S FUTURE

Bangladesh stands as India's largest trade partner in South Asia, while India ranks as the second biggest trade partner of Bangladesh in Asia.

India and Bangladesh share a strong partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust, and understanding. They are each other's largest trade partners in South Asia and Asia respectively. Both countries cooperate on security issues like policing, anti-corruption, and drug trafficking due to their extensive border. Energy cooperation is also key, with Bangladesh importing power from India and the Friendship Pipeline transporting diesel. India has provided financial aid for infrastructure projects and cultural ties have been enhanced through various initiatives.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-india-and-bangladesh-a-strategic-partnership-shaping-south-asias-future-3531651/>

WHAT MORGAN STANLEY SAID COMPARING INDIA VS CHINA OVER INFRASTRUCTURE

In the last decade, the report said that India has significantly increased its infrastructure spending, with a strong focus on scaling up and modernizing its physical assets.

India's infrastructure has improved significantly, but competitiveness has been hindered by poor infrastructure. Initiatives like PM Gati Shakti show potential for progress. India has increased infrastructure spending, focusing on modernization and scaling up. A Morgan Stanley report compares India's infrastructure to China and predicts a steady increase in infrastructure investment, reaching 6.5% of GDP by 2029.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/what-morgan-stanley-said-comparing-india-vs-china-over-infrastructure-5951753>

BANGLADESH PM'S VISIT TO INDIA UNDERLINES OUR CLOSE TIES: S JAISHANKAR

PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina are scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks on Saturday during which both sides are likely to firm up a raft of agreements providing for cooperation in several sectors.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina are scheduled to have talks to strengthen their bilateral ties. The visit follows Hasina's recent visit to India, where various bilateral issues were discussed. This is the first incoming bilateral state visit by a foreign leader after India's new government formation. Discussions are expected to focus on enhancing bilateral relations, which have been improving in various areas such as security, trade, defense, and combating illicit activities.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/bangladesh-pms-visit-to-india-underlines-our-close-ties-s-jaishankar-5942912>

HOW ECONOMIC INEQUALITY MAGNIFIES EXPOSURE TO CRIPPLING, EXTREME HEAT

Of particular interest is semi-urban land as these are less likely to be planned areas, and thus particularly vulnerable to heat exposure

A recent heatwave in northern India has brought attention to the challenges posed by extreme temperatures in the country. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that South Asia, including India, is especially vulnerable to more frequent heatwaves, putting workers at risk. A study by Artha Global's Centre for Rapid Insights found that many Indians struggle to cope with extreme heat, with wealthier individuals better equipped to handle the effects. Urban areas with dense structures are at higher risk, emphasizing the need for infrastructure investments to protect vulnerable populations and address climate change impacts.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/how-economic-inequality-magnifies-exposure-to-crippling-extreme-heat-101719170145928.html>

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INDIA

AT 3RD FOCAL POINTS MEETING, INDIA, FRANCE & AUSTRALIA REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO FREE, OPEN & INCLUSIVE INDO-PACIFIC

Trilateral dialogue highlights need for coordinated efforts to ensure the prevention of illegal activities at sea. The India-France-Australia Trilateral Focal Points Meeting on June 19, 2024, reinforced the strong trilateral cooperation among the three nations, emphasizing their commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Discussions at the meeting centered around areas such as maritime safety and security, marine

and environmental cooperation, and multilateral engagement. New proposals were identified to further enhance trilateral cooperation, highlighting a collective effort to promote regional peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

<https://www.indianewsnetwork.com/en/20240620/at-3rd-focal-points-meeting-india-france-australia-reaffirm-commitment-to-free-open-inclusive-indo-pacific>

PAKISTAN

WILL INDIA'S MODI BREAK THE ICE WITH PAKISTAN IN HIS THIRD TERM?

It's unlikely. India has little incentive to seek to improve ties with Pakistan at the moment, say analysts.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term is expected to maintain strained relations with Pakistan, as both nations focus on domestic issues to avoid electoral setbacks. Security concerns play a key role in their relationship, with specific conditions needed for any re-engagement. Tensions escalated after a recent attack in Kashmir, allegedly involving Pakistan. Both countries must work together to improve ties, with India taking the first step towards normalization.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/6/17/will-indias-modi-break-the-ice-with-pakistan-in-his-third-term>

CAN PAKISTAN'S ALLIES HELP REVIVE ITS ECONOMY THROUGH INVESTMENT DOLLARS?

Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif visited China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE recently searching for investments. But analysts say he first needs to fix things at home.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is actively promoting investment opportunities in the country, particularly from China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. However, experts warn that foreign direct investment will only come if Pakistan can provide a stable political environment and implement economic reforms. Despite signing memorandums of understanding, no concrete agreements have been reached. Pakistan's foreign investment has only increased by 8.1% due to political instability and structural issues. Some suggest focusing on domestic reforms and managing external debt instead of seeking cash support from creditors.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2024/6/18/can-pakistans-allies-help-revive-its-economy-through-investment-dollars>

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PAKISTAN

NEW PAKISTAN POLITICAL PARTY TO FOCUS ON ECONOMIC REFORM, REDUCE GOVERNMENT FOOTPRINT, FOUNDER SAYS

Awam Pakistan Party led by former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi scheduled for launch on July 6 in Islamabad

Founder Miftah Ismail says party leaders will hold workers' conventions, seminars across the country to mobilize the public

The Awam Pakistan Party, set to launch on July 6 in Islamabad, aims to focus on economic prosperity by providing tax

concessions to middle-income and salaried classes and reducing government expenditure. Led by former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and ex-finance minister Ismail, the party aims to improve governance, economy, education, and healthcare sectors through reforms and privatization. Critics argue that the current government has missed opportunities for effective reforms. The party plans to mobilize the public through social media and ground activities.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2536036/pakistan>

US SAYS IT SUPPORTS DIRECT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN INDIA, PAKISTAN, BUT...

India and Pakistan's dialogue process has been stalled since the Pulwama attack 2019. India kept asserting that New Delhi will not engage in talks with Pakistan until it takes decisive action against cross-border terrorism.

The US supports direct discussions between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope, and character of these talks should be determined by the two countries. The US values its important relationships with

both countries and partners with Pakistan on security through high-level counterterrorism dialogue and military-to-military engagements. The US is in regular communication with Pakistani leaders on CT issues and will continue to discuss regional security in detail through annual counterterrorism dialogue and other bilateral consultations.

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world/us-says-it-supports-direct-discussions-between-india-pakistan-but-two-neighbouring-countries-to-decide-nature-of-talks-2024-06-21-937983>

SRI LANKA

EAM JAISHANKAR MEETS TOP SRI LANKAN LEADERSHIP IN COLOMBO, LAUNCHES INDIA-FUNDED PROJECTS

EAM Jaishankar reiterates India's strong support to Sri Lanka through development and connectivity initiatives. India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, visited Sri Lanka on his first bilateral visit following the re-election of the Narendra Modi government for a third term, to support housing development and maritime security cooperation. He unveiled a plaque commemorating 106 houses built in Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Matale districts and handed over 48 houses from model villages in Colombo and Trincomalee. Jaishankar also

commissioned the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Sri Lanka, supported by a \$6 million grant. The visit emphasized India's "Neighbourhood First" and "SAGAR" policies, focusing on maritime security and cooperation and aimed to strengthen bilateral relations.

<https://www.indianewsnetwork.com/en/20240620/eam-jaishankar-meets-top-sri-lankan-leadership-in-colombo-launches-india-funded-projects>

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SRI LANKA

STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF SRI LANKA AS IT PURSUES NUCLEAR POWER

A delegation from Sri Lanka visited the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna to discuss the country's draft amended nuclear law, aiming to strengthen its nuclear legal framework and support adherence to international legal instruments. The visit included discussions on the updated draft Amendment of the Atomic Energy Act and

a visit to IAEA laboratories at Seibersdorf to gain knowledge of the IAEA's work on nuclear applications. The event was part of the IAEA Legislative Assistance Programme under the Interregional Technical Cooperation project, with financial support from the USA and the Nuclear Infrastructure Development Section.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/strengthening-the-legal-framework-of-sri-lanka-as-it-pursues-nuclear-power>

INDIA OFFERS CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING TO SRI LANKA POLICE

India is providing specialized training courses for Sri Lankan police officers in institutions like the Central Detective Training Institutes and National Security Guard. The training covers various topics such as crime scene investigation, artificial intelligence for cybercrime, and

VIP security. Over 130 officers from junior to senior ranks will benefit from these courses in 2024. Recently, 23 senior officers traveled to New Delhi for a two-week program focusing on counter-terrorism, internal security threats, and religious extremism, funded by India.

<https://www.newsfirst.lk/2024/06/22/india-offers-capacity-building-training-to-sri-lanka-police>

EAM JAISHANKAR'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA: FOCUS ON 'NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST' AND SAGAR POLICIES

Jaishankar meets Sri Lankan leaders, says India will always be a reliable friend Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Sri Lanka to discuss a range of issues with local leaders, marking his first bilateral visit since the NDA

government took office. Topics of discussion included cooperation in various sectors such as power, energy, connectivity, and tourism. The visit highlights India's important role in Sri Lanka's neighborhood policy and SAGAR Vision.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2024/06/21/eam-jaishankars-visit-to-sri-lanka-focus-on-neighbourhood-first-and-sagar-policies.html>

NEPAL

TRANSFORMING NEPAL'S AGRICULTURE: A LEGISLATIVE PATH FORWARD

Nepal's agricultural sector faces challenges like underdevelopment, legislative gaps, reliance on imports, and lack of market access for local farmers. Despite government investment, poor coordination and awareness among farmers about available facilities hinder progress. The absence of a dedicated Agriculture Act exacerbates these issues. Farmers often seek work abroad due to

low motivation and market access. The sector's potential is highlighted by increasing gross output. Implementing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and strengthening institutional mechanisms is crucial. A coordinated effort between ministries and local governments is needed to create an integrated Agriculture Act.

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/agriculture.html>

NEPAL

NEPAL'S PATH TO PROSPERITY: ADVANCING TOURISM, AGRICULTURE AND HYDROPOWER

Nepal is poised for economic growth through tourism, agriculture, and hydropower. With over one million tourists in 2023, the government is investing in infrastructure for sustainable tourism growth. Agriculture, with 62% of the population employed, can increase food security and exports through

modern technologies and agritourism. Hydropower, crucial for economic development, is being expanded for export. Diversifying into IT, education, and services can further boost the economy. Collaboration, innovation, and human capital investment are key for Nepal's journey towards prosperity.

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/nepals-path-to-prosperity.html>

AFGHANISTAN

WHAT PROMISE DO DOHA TALKS HOLD FOR AFGHANISTAN?

The Afghan Taliban will be joining the UN-sponsored Doha-III meeting of Special Envoys, marking a significant diplomatic move. The talks, set to begin on June 30, will discuss Afghanistan's independent assessment, as mandated by Resolution 2679. Despite the

Taliban boycotting the second Doha meeting, the meeting does not address critical issues like women's rights and regional security. The Afghan government faces criticism from neighboring countries for harboring different militant groups.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1841523/analysis-what-promise-do-doha-talks-hold-for-afghanistan>

OFFICIALS HIGHLIGHT MASSIVE POVERTY, HUMANITARIAN DESPAIR IN AFGHANISTAN

The humanitarian needs in Afghanistan are "alarmingly high" and the international community is in "crisis management mode", the UN Security Council heard on Friday.

The UN highlighted the devastating impact of the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan, including widespread poverty, brain drain, and restrictions on Afghan women civil servants. The Taliban's control has also led to limitations on girls'

education past the sixth grade, contributing to issues like child marriage, early childbearing, and mental health problems. Climate change has further complicated the crisis, with natural disasters affecting thousands of people. A meeting will be held in Doha to address the situation, aiming to find solutions to help the Afghan population.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/06/1151346>

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AFGHANISTAN

CSTO COUNTRIES CALL FOR MORE SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE WITH IEA: LAVROV

He said that the Taliban (IEA) government was working to eliminate these terrorist groups and that they consider it to be a matter of principle to help it in that struggle.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has emphasized the need for a more regular dialogue with the

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to address security threats. He stated that Afghanistan still has cells and combat-ready groups of Daesh, al Qaeda, and affiliated organizations. Lavrov also announced that a draft program to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border will be submitted for approval.

<https://www.ariananews.af/csto-countries-call-for-more-substantive-dialogue-with-iea-lavrov/>

UN REPORTS 55 PERCENT RISE IN SECURITY-RELATED INCIDENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

Attacks using improvised explosive devices caused at least 98 civilian casualties, it said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reported a 55% increase in security incidents in Afghanistan between February 1 and May 13, with narcotics-related incidents increasing from 212 to 418. The armed opposition attacked but did

not challenge the Islamic Emirate's territorial control. The UN recorded 13 robberies, 7 incidents of harassment, 2 arrests, and 8 incidents of improvised explosive device detonation. The Ministry of Interior rejected the report, stating that security in Afghanistan is nationwide and unprecedented, with limited incidents recently.

<https://www.ariananews.af/un-reports-55-percent-rise-in-security-related-incidents-in-afghanistan/>

MYANMAR

DHAKA WARNS MYANMAR MILITARY, ARAKAN ARMY OF FIRING INTO BANGLADESH: KAMAL

Bangladesh's Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has sent a warning to Myanmar's military and the Arakan army, stating that Bangladesh will retaliate if they fire

into Bangladeshi territory. He cited internal crises in Myanmar and conflicts among ethnic groups, leading to the Arakan army seizing parts of the Arakan state. The minister mentioned improvements in the situation and hopes for no further gunfire incidents.

<https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/195914>

BANGLADESH SAYS IT WON'T LET IN ANY MORE ROHINGYA FLEEING MYANMAR FIGHTING

Clashes between Myanmar junta and insurgents started in October 2023

Deadly fighting engulfs Rohingya-inhabited border areas

Bangladesh's refugee relief commissioner announced that the country will not accept more

Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, fearing a new influx due to ongoing conflict. The majority of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh come from Rakhine, fleeing violence by Myanmar's military. With over 1 million Rohingya already in Bangladesh, the UN estimates that 95% rely on humanitarian aid. The local community supports refugees with basic necessities.

<https://arab.news/nfcv9>

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MYANMAR

EU BOOSTS AID BY €15 MILLION FOR MYANMAR'S INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES ABROAD

The additional funds will provide urgently needed food, clean drinking water, emergency health aid and clear dangerous landmines for those who have fled their homes due to the armed conflict, said the EU.

The European Union (EU) has announced an additional €15 million to support Myanmar refugees fleeing armed conflicts.

"INCREASED INFLUX OF PEOPLE FROM MYANMAR INTO NORTHEAST A GRAVE CONCERN": INDIA AT UN

India supports ASEAN-led efforts to resolve the humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar, advocating for an inclusive federal democracy. They call for an end to violence, release of political detainees, humanitarian aid, and constructive dialogue. India coordinates with ASEAN to address

THE REGIME PUSHES AHEAD WITH SHAM CENSUS - MORE THAN 50% OF MYANMAR NO LONGER UNDER JUNTA CONTROL

The Junta in Myanmar is preparing for a nationwide population census by distributing awareness pamphlets and billboards in areas under its control, such as Yangon and Mandalay. However, in regions like Sagaing and ethnic states where resistance is strong, the census efforts have been limited. The Junta plans to use computer support systems and mobile tablets for data collection during the census scheduled for October 1-15, despite

The funding will provide food, clean drinking water, emergency health aid, and landmine clearance. Since the 2021 political change in Myanmar, the EU has been increasing its support to Myanmar's crisis annually, with a quota of up to 36 million euros set by 2024. The EU has been providing humanitarian aid to Myanmar since 1994.

<https://asianews.network/eu-boosts-aid-by-e15-million-for-myanmar-internally-displaced-persons-and-refugees-abroad/>

issues related to Myanmar's transition towards democracy, as the influx of people into India's northeastern states and transnational crimes like drug and human trafficking continue to remain an area of grave concern.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/increased-influx-of-people-from-myanmar-into-northeast-a-grave-concern-says-india-at-un-5932068>

facing challenges from opposition forces. Analysts predict difficulties in implementing the census effectively in conflict-affected regions.

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/ regime-pushes-ahead-sham-census-more-50-myanmar-no-longer-under-junta-control>

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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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