

WEEKLY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

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Brief Highlights on Current Issues of South Asia



NEPAL **PM RESIGNS OVER ANTI-CORRUPTION PROTESTS**

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday after days of violent unrest left at least 22 people dead and hundreds injured, marking the country's worst crisis in decades. The protests, initially sparked by a government ban on social media platforms, escalated into nationwide anti-corruption demonstrations, with angry crowds torching parliament in Kathmandu, attacking government buildings, and setting fire to the homes of senior leaders including Oli himself and Nepali Congress chief Sher Bahadur Deuba. Jail officials reported that 900 inmates escaped from two prisons in the western districts during the chaos. The army chief warned that security forces were prepared to take full control if violence continued, as curfews were imposed in several districts. In his resignation letter to President Ramchandra Paudel, Oli, 73, said he was stepping down "to facilitate a constitutional solution" to the crisis, with the presidency confirming consultations had begun to appoint a new leader. [Source: Nepal parliament set on fire after PM resigns over anti-corruption protests](#)

NEPAL GEN Z PROTESTS: DEATH COUNT REACHES 51 AMID WIDESPREAD ARSON, RIOTS AND CHAOS



Nepal has plunged into its worst turmoil in decades, with at least 51 people killed during violent anti-corruption protests this week, police confirmed on September 12, 2025. The unrest, sparked by a government ban on social media platforms and deep public anger over corruption, saw parliament set ablaze on September 9, forcing Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign as the army imposed curfews and took control of the streets. The chaos deepened with mass prison breaks that freed nearly 17,000 inmates nationwide, including jailed politician Ravi Lamichhane and hundreds of others from Nakkhu Jail, leaving nine prisoners dead. Youth-led groups behind the protests distanced themselves from looting and arson, blaming opportunists for hijacking their anti-corruption campaign, while the army reported recovering over 100 looted firearms amid fears of rising militarization. As negotiations continue between President Ramchandra Paudel, protest leaders, and the military, Nepal faces political

uncertainty, economic strain, and mounting pressure to restore order and chart a credible path to stability. **Source:** [Nepal Gen Z Protests: Death count reaches 51 amid widespread arson, riots and chaos / World News - India TV](#)



SUSHILA KARKI SWORN IN AS INTERIM PM; POLLS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2026

Four days after violent protests toppled the coalition government of K.P. Sharma Oli, Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel on September 12 appointed former chief justice Sushila Karki as interim prime minister, making her the first woman to head the government. At least 51 people were killed and more than 400 injured during the unrest on September 8–9, which erupted over a social media ban and corruption allegations before spiraling into Nepal's worst political upheaval in years. Paudel administered the oath to Karki at the Presidential Palace in Kathmandu at 9:45 pm, after which he

dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives effective 11 pm on her recommendation, setting fresh elections for March 6 next year. India welcomed the interim government, with its ambassador and envoys from China and European countries attending the ceremony. Karki, backed by Gen-Z protest leaders but opposed by major political parties, faces the immediate challenges of restoring order, reviving the battered economy, addressing rights violations, and navigating relations with India, China, and the US, while preparing to hold democratic elections under mounting domestic and international pressure. **Source:** [Nepal: Ex-Top Judge Sushila Karki Sworn In as Interim PM; Polls Scheduled For March 2026 - The Wire](#)



CHINA HOPES NEPAL CAN RESTORE SOCIAL ORDER, STABILITY SOON

China on Wednesday expressed hope that Nepal would quickly restore social order and stability following days of violent unrest that forced Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told reporters in Beijing that China and Nepal were "traditionally friendly neighbors" and urged all sides in Nepal to properly address domestic issues. Lin also advised Chinese nationals in the Himalayan country to remain cautious and pay attention to safety amid the ongoing turmoil. **Source:** [China hopes Nepal can restore social order, stability soon](#)

INDIA WELCOMES NEPAL'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT, HOPES FOR PEACE AND STABILITY India on Friday welcomed the appointment of former chief justice Sushila Karki as Nepal's interim prime minister, expressing confidence that the move would contribute to peace and stability in the country. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said India, as a close neighbor, fellow democracy and long-term development partner, would continue working with Nepal for the well-being and prosperity of both peoples. Karki, sworn in earlier in Kathmandu by President Ramchandra Paudel, became the country's first woman interim leader after KP Sharma Oli resigned earlier this week amid mass youth-led protests demanding a non-political figure to oversee the transition. **Source:** [India Welcomes Nepal's Interim Government, Hopes For Peace And Stability](#)

DAYTIME CURFEW LIFTED, RESTRICTIONS STILL IN PLACE The Nepal Army on Friday eased security restrictions in the Kathmandu Valley, lifting the daytime curfew and announcing that it will now only remain in effect from 7 pm until 6 am on September 13. The army also relaxed the prohibitory order, limiting it to 11 am–5 pm, as daily life in the capital gradually returns to normal following days of violent "Gen-Z" protests over social media bans and corruption. More vehicles were seen on the roads compared to the previous day, reflecting the easing of restrictions. The army had assumed security command on September 9 after unrest left dozens dead, initially imposing a nationwide curfew that has since been scaled back to the Valley, while some districts outside Kathmandu continue to enforce local curfews and prohibitory orders where necessary.



Source: [Daytime curfew lifted, restrictions still in place - OnlineKhabar English News](#)

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BANGLADESH

NO ALTERNATIVE TO FEBRUARY POLLS: BANGLADESH CHIEF ADVISER YUNUS



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Thursday described Bangladesh's forthcoming national polls as a "foundational election" and said the interim government has no alternative but to hold it in the first half of February. Speaking at a meeting of the National Consensus Commission at the state guest house Jamuna, he stressed that reforms, justice and the July Charter must be pursued with equal urgency alongside preparations for the election, which he said would determine the country's future course. The two-hour meeting reviewed reform proposals from the Consensus Commission and political parties, with members stating that a formal report would soon be submitted to the government. The Commission is set to meet political parties again next Sunday to take discussions forward. Commission Vice-Chairman Prof Ali Riaz and members Justice Md Emdadul Haque, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Badiul Alam Majumder and Md Ayub Mia attended, along with Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Monir Haider, interim government advisers Muhammad Fawzul Kabir Khan, Asif Nazrul, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, and National

Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman. **Source:** [No alternative to February polls: Bangladesh Chief Adviser Yunus - Asia News Network](#)

YUNUS STRESSES DECENTRALISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CALLS FOR MORE AUTONOMY

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on Thursday stressed the urgent need to decentralise local government bodies, directing immediate measures to empower grassroots institutions with more authority, resources and decision-making capacity. Chairing a meeting of the Council of Advisers at the Chief Adviser's Office in Tejgaon, Dhaka, he called for strengthening union parishads, upazila parishads, district councils, municipalities and city corporations by expanding their functional and financial independence. At a press briefing later, Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said Yunus emphasised that "real democracy and development must begin from the grassroots" and instructed advisers to explore ways for local governments to generate revenue, manage funds independently and deliver services without excessive central control. The Council reviewed recommendations from the Local Government Reform Committee and issued directives to fast-track reforms, including improved tax collection, user fees and public-private partnerships, with transparency and accountability. The meeting also praised Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam for ensuring peaceful DUCSU elections, seen as a milestone ahead of the national polls in restoring democratic norms after a prolonged political transition. **Source:** [Yunus stresses decentralisation of local government, calls for more autonomy](#)

ARMED FORCES' MAGISTRACY POWERS AGAIN EXTENDED



The government on Thursday extended the special executive magistracy powers of commissioned Bangladesh Army officers for an additional 60 days, effective from September 12. Officers holding the rank of captain and above, as well as their counterparts in the Border Guard Bangladesh and Bangladesh Coast Guard, will exercise these powers nationwide under Sections 12(1) and 17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, according to a Public Administration Ministry notification issued Wednesday. This follows a previous extension granted on July 14, which expired on September 11.

Source: [Armed forces' magistracy powers again extended | The Daily Star](#)

HC RETURNS CONTROL OF JUDICIARY TO SC, SCRAPS PARTS OF ARTICLE 116 OF CONSTITUTION

The High Court on Tuesday declared parts of Article 116 of the Constitution, concerning judicial control, illegal and void, restoring the Supreme Court's authority over the transfer and promotion of subordinate court judges and clearing the way for a separate apex court secretariat to be established within three months. The verdict, delivered by a bench of Justice Ahmed Sohel and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury, disposed of an earlier rule on the matter. The writ petition was argued by Advocate Mohammad Shishir Monir, with Attorney General Mohammad Asaduzzaman representing the state and Advocate Ahsanul Karim appearing as intervener. Article 116, originally amended under the 4th Amendment in 1974 to vest control over judicial service in the president, had been reinstated in its current form by the 15th Amendment in 2011 after the Supreme Court struck down the Fifth Amendment. [Source: HC returns control of judiciary to SC, scraps parts of Article 116 of Constitution](#)



BANGLADESH CONDEMNS ISRAELI AGGRESSION ON QATAR

The Government of Bangladesh on Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's recent military actions against Qatar, calling them a violation of the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international law. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry affirmed Bangladesh's solidarity with Qatar, describing the attack as "unlawful and unprovoked" and highlighting Israel's disregard for regional stability and global peace. Bangladesh urged the international community, including the United Nations, to take appropriate measures to ensure accountability and uphold respect for international law and the UN Charter.

[Source: New Age | Bangladesh condemns Israeli aggression on Qatar](#)

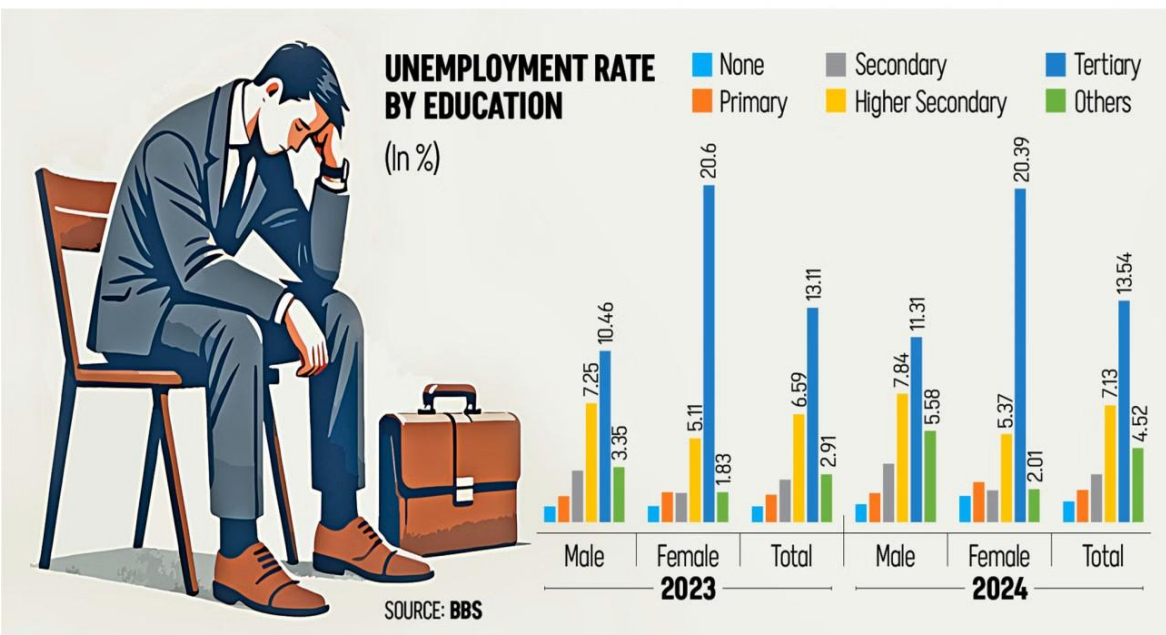
EPA WITH JAPAN MAY BE SIGNED IN TWO MONTHS

Bangladesh and Japan are expected to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) within the next one to two months, following the final round of negotiations scheduled in Tokyo tomorrow, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said. A Bangladeshi team is participating in the talks, with Rahman attending virtually due to illness. The negotiations, which began in March last year, aim to secure preferential trade benefits for Bangladesh ahead of its graduation from least developed country status by November next year. The discussions have covered trade, investment, exports, and imports, with three meetings held in Dhaka and four in Japan. Japan is a key market for Bangladeshi garments, leather goods, and footwear, having imported over \$1 billion in goods in the past decade under duty-free and quota-free access. [Source: Bangladesh-Japan Trade Deal Signing | EPA with Japan may be signed in two months](#)

US OFFICIALS TO ARRIVE IN DHAKA SUNDAY FOR TARIFF TALKS

A three-member United States trade delegation, led by Assistant US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch, will visit Bangladesh on Sunday to discuss bilateral trade, progress on trade agreements, and the 20 percent reciprocal tariff imposed by the Trump administration. Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said the talks aim to explore a potential reduction in the tariff, which came into effect on August 7, though any decision rests with the US government. The two-day visit will also review the status of the trade agreement, as Bangladesh continues negotiations with the Office of the US Trade Representative. The tariff affects Bangladesh's exports, valued at over \$8 billion annually, predominantly garments, to its largest market, the US, where it is the third-largest apparel exporter after China and Vietnam. Bangladesh has simultaneously increased imports of US goods, including aircraft, wheat, and soybeans, to reduce the \$6 billion trade gap. [Source: US Trade Delegation Visiting Dhaka | US officials to arrive in Dhaka Sunday for tariff talks](#)

BANGLADESH HAD 9 LAKH UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES IN 2024



Bangladesh had nearly 885,000 unemployed graduates in 2024, with the unemployment rate among tertiary-educated individuals rising slightly to 13.5 percent, the highest across all education levels, according to the final Labour Force Survey 2024 released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics on Wednesday. While the absolute number of unemployed graduates fell by 20,000 from the previous year, over 20 percent were women. Youth unemployment among those with education below the secondary level rose by more than

100,000 to 507,000, with the national unemployment rate at 4.48 percent. Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, described the employment situation as unsatisfactory, citing limited job creation in government and private sectors, low investment, disrupted production, high inflation, high interest rates, persistent corruption, and deteriorating law-and-order conditions as factors constraining economic growth and employment opportunities.

[Source: Jobless Graduates In Bangladesh | Bangladesh had 9 lakh unemployed graduates in 2024](#)



INDIA

US URGES G7 TO IMPOSE UP TO 100% TARIFFS ON INDIA AND CHINA OVER RUSSIAN OIL

The United States has urged G7 countries to impose tariffs of 50–100 percent on India and China for purchasing Russian oil, in an effort to pressure Moscow into peace talks over Ukraine, according to a Financial Times report. In a Friday video call, G7 finance ministers discussed the US proposal, which targets countries “enabling

and profiting” from Russian oil imports. The US has previously raised tariffs on Indian and Chinese goods linked to Russian oil, but EU officials expressed concern over potential economic fallout and retaliation, favoring alternative measures. The US also seeks sanctions on Russia’s state-owned Rosneft, tighter restrictions on Russian shipping, and sanctions on the Russian financial sector, including its Mir payment system. Meanwhile, the EU is considering accelerating a 2027 deadline to end Russian oil and gas imports and exploring sanctions on China, while dealing with pro-Russia member states like Hungary and Slovakia. Canada, holding the G7 presidency, faces a diplomatic challenge as it seeks to balance pressure on Russia with efforts to maintain relations with India and China. [Source: US urges G7 to impose up to 100% tariffs on China and India over Russian oil](#)



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi · Follow

Deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump’s sentiments and positive assessment of our ties.

India and the US have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership.

[@realDonaldTrump](#)

[@POTUS](#)



At the White House, US President Donald Trump made the following significant statements on the India-US relationship:

“I will always be friends with Modi, he is a great Prime Minister”

“India and the United States have a special relationship. There is nothing to worry about”



TEXT “POTUS” to 45470 for Updates from the Trump White House

10:15 AM · Sep 6, 2025

125.2K Reply Copy link

Read 9.2K replies

PM MODI, U.S. PRESIDENT TRUMP PRAISE EACH OTHER, HAIL BILATERAL TIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump exchanged mutual praise over India-U.S. ties on September 5–6, 2025, signaling a potential thaw after months of tension over trade, tariffs, and India’s purchase of Russian oil. Trump described India and the U.S. as having a “special relationship” and called Modi a “great Prime Minister,” while acknowledging disagreements over recent policies, including the 50 percent tariff imposed on Indian goods. Modi responded on September 6, stating he “deeply appreciated and fully reciprocated” Trump’s comments, emphasizing a “very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership.” External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar noted the leaders’ strong personal rapport and confirmed ongoing engagement, while both countries’ next steps, including rescheduled U.S. trade negotiations with India, are being closely monitored for signs of a truce in the bilateral relationship.

[Source: PM Modi, U.S. President Trump praise each other, hail bilateral ties - The Hindu](#)

US ENVOY HOPES TO RESOLVE INDIA TARIFF ROW WITHIN WEEKS

The United States expects to resolve its tariff dispute with India within weeks, a senior envoy of President Donald Trump told the Senate on Thursday, signaling efforts to maintain strong bilateral ties despite tensions over India’s purchases of Russian oil. The tariffs, reaching up to 50 percent on certain Indian exports, sparked anti-US sentiment in India and were described by envoy Sergio Gor as a “little hiccup,” with hopes for progress when India’s trade minister visits Washington next week. Gor, Trump’s nominee for ambassador to India and special envoy for South Asia, emphasized that the U.S. aims to pull India closer rather than push it away and noted Trump’s personal rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The dispute comes amid broader U.S. efforts to address trade imbalances, secure Indian cooperation on geopolitical issues, and maintain India as a strategic counterweight to China, while also navigating tensions over India’s neutrality regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict and past India-Pakistan clashes.

[Source: New Age | US envoy hopes to resolve India tariff row within weeks](#)



EAM JAISHANKAR FLAGS LINKAGE OF TRADE MEASURES TO NON-TRADE ISSUES AT BRICS SUMMIT

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, representing Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a virtual BRICS summit hosted by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, indirectly criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to link tariffs on India to non-trade issues. Emphasizing the need for a sustainable and rules-based global trade system, Jaishankar stressed that raising barriers or complicating transactions undermines fair, transparent, and inclusive trade practices. He highlighted the challenges facing the world, including the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts

in Ukraine and the Middle East, climate crises, and disruptions to global trade and investment, which have slowed progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Urging cooperative and constructive approaches, he called for resilient and diversified supply chains, democratization of manufacturing across regions, and attention to climate action and climate justice. Jaishankar also praised initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Bio-fuels Alliance as examples of innovative, multilateral approaches to shared global challenges.

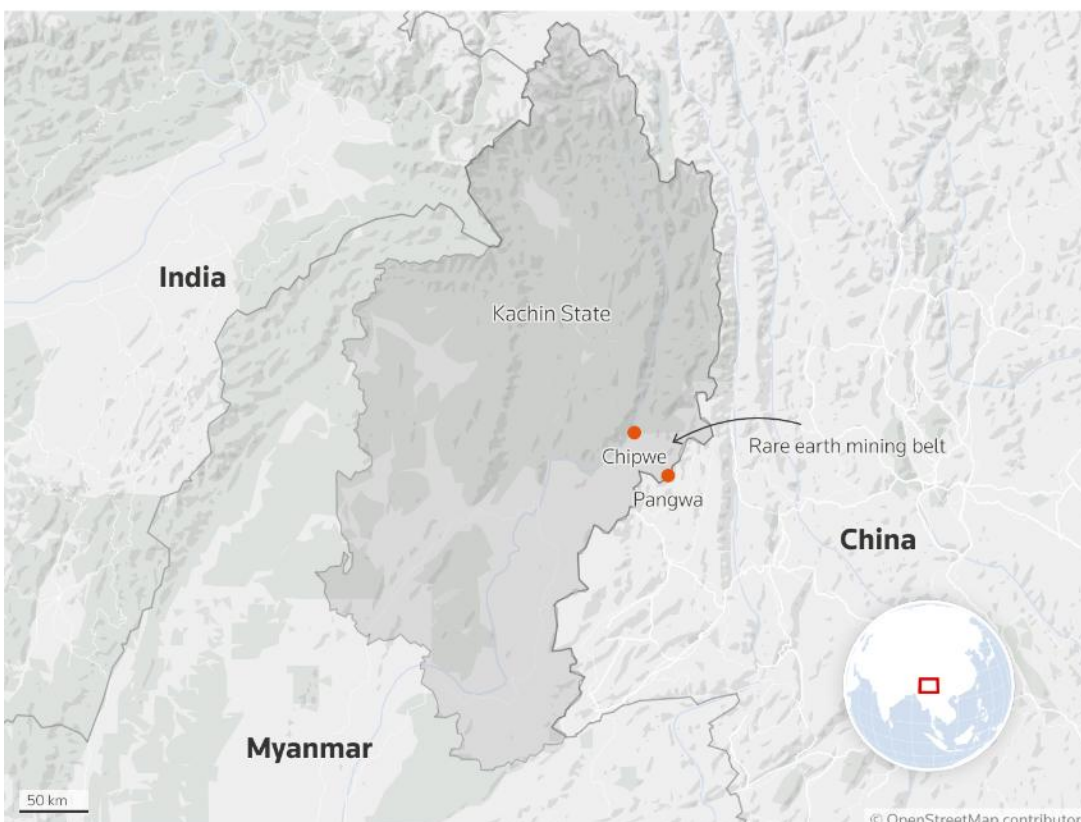
Source: [Indian EAM Jaishankar flags linkage of trade measures to non-trade issues at BRICS Summit - Asia News Network](#)

INDIA EXPLORES RARE-EARTH DEAL WITH MYANMAR REBELS

India is exploring rare-earth supplies from Myanmar in an unusual engagement with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), a powerful rebel group controlling rich mining belts, as New Delhi seeks alternatives to China's near-monopoly on the strategic resource. According to multiple sources, India's Ministry of Mines has asked state-owned IREL and private firm Midwest Advanced Materials to coordinate the collection of mineral samples from Kachin state for testing in Indian labs, a move discussed in an online meeting in July and confirmed by KIA officials, who said samples are already being prepared. The outreach underscores both the urgency and sensitivity of India's search for secure rare-earth supplies, particularly heavy rare earths like dysprosium and terbium, crucial for magnets in electric vehicles, advanced electronics, and defense applications. China, which has

Myanmar's main rare earths mines

The Chipwe-Pangwa mining belt in Myanmar's Kachin state, bordering China, contains the main deposits of heavy rare earths in the war-torn Southeast Asian country.



sharply restricted rare-earth exports amid its trade tensions with the US, maintains close ties with the KIA but has also pressed the group to temper its offensives against Myanmar's junta, straining their relationship. India, meanwhile, is weighing the feasibility of a long-term arrangement with the KIA to build a supply route, though logistical challenges across rugged terrain and the lack of domestic industrial-scale processing facilities remain major hurdles. While IREL has sought Japanese and Korean partnerships to expand processing capacity, experts note that India would still face significant delays in scaling production to commercial levels. The effort highlights India's strategic competition with China in securing critical minerals and its readiness to quietly engage non-state actors to diversify supplies, even as the political and security risks of such a partnership remain high.

Source: [Exclusive: India explores rare-earth deal with Myanmar rebels after Chinese curbs | Reuters](#)

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN TO HOST NEXT SCO SUMMIT IN 2027: SHEHBAZ SHARIF



Pakistan will host the next Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in 2027, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced, urging authorities to begin preparations in Islamabad, including improving accommodation and beautifying the city. The announcement follows the recent SCO summit in Tianjin, China, where Pakistan raised issues including the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), while SCO member states condemned terrorism in both India and Pakistan, including the Pahalgam attack and attacks in Balochistan. Founded in Shanghai in 2001, the SCO has grown from six founding members to a 26-nation grouping, including 10 full members, two observers, and 14 dialogue partners across Asia, Europe, and Africa. With major economies like China, Russia, and India as members,

the SCO represents nearly half the world's population and roughly a quarter of the global economy. Pakistan previously hosted the SCO in 2024 during the Council of Heads of Government Summit, where Sharif emphasized regional connectivity and collaboration. [Source: Pakistan to host next SCO summit in 2027: Shehbaz Sharif](#)



PAKISTAN FLOODS POSE RISKS TO RECOVERY, MAY STRAIN FISCAL ACCOUNT — CENTRAL BANK

Pakistan's central bank has warned that recent torrential rains and flooding could strain the country's fragile economic recovery by impacting public finances and weakening farmers' ability to repay loans, particularly in the agriculture sector, though agri loans constitute a small portion of overall bank lending. The State Bank of Pakistan noted that while inflation has eased and the currency stabilized, climate shocks remain a major concern, with floods in Punjab and Sindh expected to hit seasonal harvests hardest. Despite these risks, the central bank assessed the banking sector as resilient, citing stress tests showing that large banks could absorb severe shocks, supported by adequate capital cushions and improving business confidence. The floods underscore Pakistan's ongoing vulnerability to climate disasters, following the 2022 "super floods," even as the country navigates a \$7

billion IMF program demanding fiscal consolidation. [Source: Pakistan floods pose risks to recovery, may strain fiscal account — central bank](#)

PAKISTAN, IMF SET FOR SECOND REVIEW TO SECURE \$1B TRANCHE

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are set to conduct the second review under the 37-month, \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program, aiming to secure a \$1 billion tranche later this month. An IMF delegation will visit Pakistan from September 25 to October 8, beginning with technical-level discussions and followed by policy-level negotiations involving the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, Planning Commission, and the State Bank, with additional consultations planned with FBR, OGRA, NEPRA, and all four provincial governments. This review follows the successful disbursement of over \$2 billion in two previous tranches and coincides with a \$1.3 billion climate financing agreement over 28 months. Officials emphasize that the outcome of these talks is pivotal not only for the release of funds but also for restoring investor confidence, stabilizing the economy, and sustaining fiscal and structural reforms, with the Ministry of Finance expressing optimism about a positive resolution.

[Source: Pakistan, IMF set for second review to secure \\$1b tranche](#)



PAKISTAN PM VISITS QATAR AS DOHA SIGNALS REGIONAL RESPONSE TO ISRAELI STRIKE

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Doha on September 12, 2025, in a high-profile one-day trip to express Pakistan's solidarity with Qatar following Israel's unprecedented airstrike on the Gulf nation, which killed at least six people, including a Qatari security guard, and targeted Hamas negotiators engaged in ceasefire discussions. During his meetings with Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Sharif strongly condemned the attack as a blatant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and international law, lauded Doha's responsible and constructive mediation role in ongoing Gaza peace efforts, and emphasized the need for unity across the Muslim world to address escalating regional instability. The discussions

covered the continuation of diplomatic efforts to halt hostilities in Gaza, the coordination and co-sponsorship of the upcoming Arab-Islamic summit on September 15, and broader regional security concerns, including Israel's repeated provocations and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which has claimed over 64,000 lives since October 2023. Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Qatar, highlighting the historical and brotherly ties between the two nations, their shared commitment to peace, adherence to international law, and support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Accompanied by senior cabinet and military officials, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and senior aides, Sharif emphasized the importance of diplomatic collaboration, regional coordination, and humanitarian responsibility, while also recalling Pakistan's previous appeals for emergency UN Security Council meetings following the attack. The visit underscored Pakistan's proactive role in promoting regional stability, solidarity with Qatar, and support for constructive diplomatic solutions in the Middle East, reaffirming both countries' commitment to peace, security, and ongoing efforts to resolve the Gaza conflict through mediation and multilateral cooperation.



Source: [Pakistan PM visits Qatar as Doha signals regional response to Israeli strike](#)



SRI LANKA

WEAKENED UN RESOLUTION DEFERS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE ON SRI LANKA

A new draft resolution on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council has been criticized for dropping explicit calls for foreign judges and instead endorsing a domestic judicial mechanism supported by Colombo, despite the government's repeated rejection of international involvement. The draft acknowledges Sri Lanka's commitment to an independent public prosecutorial body and encourages the creation of a judicial mechanism with an independent special counsel to investigate past human rights and humanitarian law violations. While urging prompt and impartial investigations with victim participation, it avoids direct international participation, suggesting only that Colombo seek international assistance for capacity-

building and resources for exhumations, such as at Chemmani, where over 240 skeletal remains were recently discovered. The text praises Sri Lanka's engagement with the UN, including a June visit by High Commissioner Volker Türk, even as the government refuses to prosecute those accused of mass atrocities. The resolution also extends the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Sri Lanka Accountability Project (SLAP), which has collected over 100,000 pieces of evidence for potential future prosecutions, but critics note that no political or military leaders have been held accountable more than 16 years after the conflict, leaving Tamil victims and families of the disappeared calling for a fully internationalized mechanism and possible ICC referral. **Source:** <http://www.tamilguardian.com/content/weakened-un-resolution-defers-call-international-justice-sri-lanka>

SRI LANKA PARLIAMENT VOTES TO END PRIVILEGES FOR FORMER PRESIDENTS

The Sri Lankan parliament overwhelmingly passed a bill, 151-1, to end privileges for former presidents, fulfilling a key pre-election promise of the ruling National People's Power (NPP) government. The 'Presidents' Entitlement (Repeal) Act No. 18 of 2025' abolishes the 1986 law granting former heads of state perks such as state mansions, official transport, and secretarial staff, though pensions remain intact. The legislation follows a Supreme Court ruling that it could be passed with a simple majority, overruling a challenge by the Sri Lanka People's Front (SLPP), the party of former Presidents Rajapaksa, which sought to block it on constitutional grounds. Parliament's approval marks a significant shift in the treatment of former leaders, affecting five living ex-presidents and one widow, of whom three had been using the state-provided privileges before the bill's passage.

Source: [Sri Lanka Parliament Votes To End Privileges For Former Presidents](#)



SRI LANKA SECURES USD 100 MILLION FUNDING FROM WORLD BANK TO ENHANCE RURAL ECONOMY

Sri Lanka and the World Bank Group have launched a US\$100 million initiative, the Integrated "Rurban" Development and Climate Resilience Project, aimed at benefiting over 380,000 people by strengthening rural livelihoods, boosting agricultural productivity, and enhancing climate resilience in the agri-food sector. The project will support 8,000 agri-food producers, upgrade irrigation and drainage across 71,000 hectares, and help smallholder farmers—who produce 80% of the nation's food—adopt climate-smart farming practices to increase yields and reduce losses. It also seeks to generate rural employment, particularly for youth and women, by improving agribusiness value chains, expanding market access, and attracting up to US\$17 million in private investment for processing, storage, logistics, and marketing. Complementing Sri Lanka's

National Policy Framework, the project will modernize agriculture data systems, enhance food safety standards, and expand crop insurance while building climate-resilient infrastructure. Leveraging over a decade of World Bank support, which has previously boosted farmer incomes and strengthened export-oriented sectors like cinnamon and coconut, the initiative combines government, private sector, and community efforts to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and competitive rural economy.

Source: [Sri Lanka secures USD 100 million funding from World Bank to enhance rural economy](#)

PRESIDENT MUIZZU CONDEMNS ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK ON QATAR, CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

President Mohamed Muizzu has strongly condemned Israel's missile strikes on Doha, Qatar, which targeted senior Hamas leaders, describing the attacks as a blatant violation of international law and a breach of Qatar's sovereignty.

Highlighting the escalation in regional tensions, Muizzu urged the international community to take immediate action against Israel, citing a repeated pattern of unlawful behavior. The Maldivian government, a consistent advocate for Palestinian rights, reaffirmed its support for accountability measures, including backing cases filed at the International Court of Justice, and called on the United Nations and global actors to intervene decisively to halt the aggression and

uphold justice for the Palestinian people. **Source:** [*President Muizzu condemns Israeli missile attack on Qatar, calls for immediate action*](#)



MALDIVES

AFGHANISTAN



AFGHAN SURVIVORS STRUGGLE IN THE WAKE OF DEADLY EARTHQUAKE

Southeast Afghanistan is grappling with a humanitarian crisis following a devastating magnitude 6.0 earthquake in Kunar province that has claimed over 2,200 lives and destroyed more than 6,700 homes, leaving survivors like Gul Rahim, who lost 63 family members, homeless and vulnerable. Entire villages of wood and mud-brick homes along steep river valleys have been reduced to rubble, and aftershocks continue to exacerbate the danger while landslides and blocked roads hinder rescue efforts. Residents are now living in tents, facing the looming threat of winter,

food shortages, and limited medical aid, with the World Health Organization appealing for \$4 million to provide life-saving interventions and support water, sanitation, and hygiene needs. Rescue teams are working tirelessly, but with so many still missing, the death toll is expected to rise. Afghanistan's mountainous terrain and location at the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates make it particularly susceptible to deadly earthquakes, as seen in previous disasters in Herat (2023) and eastern provinces (2022). The survivors' urgent pleas for international assistance highlight the region's acute vulnerability and the pressing need for emergency aid and reconstruction.

Source: [*Afghan survivors struggle in the wake of deadly earthquake | News | Al Jazeera*](#)

ABOUT BEI

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute is a non-profit, non-political research center. 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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