

# CBGA NEWS DIGEST

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**BANGLADESH | DIPLOMACY | SECURITY | CONFLICT | DEVELOPMENT | ENVIRONMENT | GLOBAL AFFAIRS**



## NO FOREIGN FUNDS USED IN BUILDING PADMA BRIDGE: FOREIGN MINISTRY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that the Padma Multipurpose Bridge was only paid for by the government of Bangladesh and that neither bilateral nor multilateral lenders helped pay for it. In a press release sent out on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made this clear.

It said that both Bangladeshi and foreign construction firms were working on the project, putting to rest rumors that the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, which will be opened on June 25 by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was built with foreign money as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. - June 18, [New Age BD](#)



## PADMA BRIDGE IS A HUGE LANDMARK FOR BANGLADESH CLAIMS RUSSIAN EMBASSY

Today, the Russian Embassy in Dhaka said that Padma Bridge is a game-changer because it opens up many new opportunities for trade, investments, connections, jobs, tourism, and many other things in the region. The Russian Federation thinks that building the Padma Bridge is a big deal that was made possible by the Bangladeshi government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's long-term thinking. The Russian Embassy said that other megaprojects, like the building of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant with the help of the Russian company Rosatom, will undoubtedly add to Bangladesh's success in developing and to the prosperity and happiness of its people. - June 20, [The Daily Star](#)

## BANGLADESH ENGAGES WITH THE WORLD ON ITS OWN TERMS: MOMEN

Bangladesh participates with the world on its "own terms," and Dhaka values economic cooperation. "No more price-takers. We interact with the environment our own" saying The foreign minister spoke at BISS's conference "Changing Global Order: Securing Bangladesh's National Interest" in the capital. Bangladesh believes in inclusive and sustainable development, and it examines world events and actors. "When considering the changing global order and Bangladesh's interests, we may picture a virtually limitless spectrum of situations and an equally uncountable collection of elements," he remarked. The foreign minister said Dhaka is willing to engage with anyone who doesn't want to utilize Bangladesh's resources for aggressive purposes. "That's how Bangladesh pursues its sovereign interests," he remarked. Dr. Momen said Bangladesh's strategic position, large demographic dividend, and strong domestic market made it a key chess player. He said Bangladesh has the profound dictum of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the windshield, "Friendship to all, malice to none," while the country has the fluidity and essence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in declaring the goal of resurrecting 'Sonar Bangla' (the Golden Bangladesh) as sole targeting mechanism.

"How and when remain unknown. Multiple, complicit, and exclusive strategic factors impact our aim of being a developed nation by 2041" saying The minister stated new regional and global alliances are thriving, including Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), APEC, QUAD, AUKUS, and "Indo-Pacific Economic Framework" (IPEF). "We acknowledge that some of these frameworks are mutually incompatible, but we foresee strong economic potential from both the frameworks and the fault lines they produce," he added. Bangladesh is the 40th biggest economy in the world and the second-largest in South Asia, behind India. It is anticipated to be the 28th largest by 2030 and the 25th by 2035. "We want to complement global organizations with our governance, economic, and environmental objectives," he stated. Bangladesh aspires to connect production variables to optimal consumption, eliminate reliance on inefficient middlemen, and exploit global and indigenous brands. "We want to link Bangladesh's young men and women to global supply chain solutions," he added. Bangladesh wants to serve global industrial and consumer markets well, according to the foreign ministry. - June 16, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shandstha](#)

## SAUDI ARABIA APPLAUDS BANGLADESH OVER PADMA BRIDGE

Saudi ambassador Essa Yousef Essa Al Duhailan called Sheikh Hasina's choice to build the Padma Bridge with her own money "revolutionary." "I appreciate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for self-financing the Padma Bridge," he said. The ambassador said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proved she is the competent daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Hasina by lifting Bangladesh's economy. - June 20, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shandstha](#)

## MANGO DIPLOMACY OF SHEIKH HASINA

Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal, got a gift of mango from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Around noon today, 1,000 kg worth of Amrapali mangoes were given to the Indian representatives through the Benapole port in Jashore. Earlier, Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi got a gift of one metric ton of Amrapali mangoes from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. - June 20, [The Daily Star](#)

## FLOOD SITUATION WORSENS IN NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN BANGLADESH



All main rivers are steadily rising, worsening flooding in the northeast and north. "As all main rivers are rising, flood situation may worsen in northeastern, northern regions in next few days," said FFWC spokesperson Md Arifuzzaman Bhuyan. The situation is the worse since the 2004 disaster, a Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre official said.

Heavy downpours aggravated the flood situation in northern and north-eastern Bangladesh, said FFWC executive engineer Bhuiyan. He said the tendency was intensifying as projections predicted significant rainfall in upstream Meghalaya Assam and western Himalayan areas of India and Bangladesh over the next few of days. Monsoon rains and surging waters from upstream India overnight intensified Bangladesh's flood crisis, which experts describe the worst since 2004. Officials believe that at least 6 million people are marooned. As rivers in the northeastern and northern areas rose, officials and estimates say roughly 6 million people were marooned in their homes or forced to find improvised refuge elsewhere. Many Sunamganj residents took refuge on their roofs until rescue boats came. The deluge has cut the transportation linkages of northeastern Sunamganj district from the rest of the country and caused officials to close Osmani International Airport in Sylhet after water swamped its runway. Due to the shutdowns, the whole Sunamganj area has been without electricity for two days. The power loss led individuals to use candles and kerosene lamps, which drove up prices. Bangladesh authorities sent out army soldiers to assist civil administration in evacuating people or reaching marooned persons. Navy and air force elements were also called out, especially in northeastern Sylhet, which resembled a sea. - June 19, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shandstha](#)

## ABDUL MUHITH APPOINTED AS THE UN AMBASSADOR

Muhammad Abdul Muhith will be the next ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations (UN) in New York. He was chosen by the government of Bangladesh. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Monday that he will take over for Rabab Fatima.



Muhith is the ambassador of Bangladesh to Austria and the country's permanent representative to the UN and other international organizations in Vienna. He is also an ambassador to Hungary, Slovenia, and Slovakia. He used to be the Bangladeshi ambassador to Denmark and was also accredited to Estonia and Iceland at the same time. Muhith has had a long and successful diplomatic career. He has worked in Bangladesh's missions in Kuwait, Rome, Doha, Washington, DC, and at the UN in New York. Muhammad Abdul Muhith went to the University of Dhaka and got a BSS and an MSS in sociology. - June 20, [Dhaka Tribune](#)

## PADMA BRIDGE IS THE LARGEST BRIDGE BUILT BY CHINESE COMPANIES OUTSIDE CHINA: LI JIMING



Li Jiming, the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, has talked about the Padma Multipurpose Bridge. Yesterday, June 19, 2022, a post on the verified Facebook page of the Chinese embassy said that he spoke in front of reporters from 12 Bangladeshi news agencies and TV channels. Some things to mention are: "As the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, I feel especially proud of and connected to the bridge, not only because it was built by a Chinese company, but also because it is a turning point in the relationship between China and Bangladesh." When President Xi Jinping talks about Bangladesh, he always brings up the Padma Bridge. The Padma Bridge shows how brave people can be. When the government of Bangladesh first thought of the idea for the bridge, there were some problems with how to pay for it, make it work technically, and make sure it was legal. Some partners from outside the country didn't think such a plan could ever work. But despite all the doubts, pressures, and accusations, Prime Minister Sheikh decided to build the bridge with Bangladesh's own money. This took a lot of courage and a strong sense of political responsibility.

- June 20, [The Daily Star](#)

## 37 MN CHILDREN ARE DISPLACED CLAIMS UNICEF, HIGHEST SINCE WWII



By the end of 2021, 36.5 million children had to leave their homes because of war, violence, and other crises. This was the highest number since World War II. A press release from Unicef today said that this number includes 13.7 million children who are refugees or are looking for asylum, as well as nearly 22.8 million children who have been moved within their own countries because of war and violence. The record number of children who have been forced to leave their homes is directly caused by crises that keep building on each other. This includes sudden and long-lasting conflicts like the one in Afghanistan, instability in places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Yemen, and shocks that are made worse by the effects of climate change. The number of displaced children around the world went up by 2.2 million in the past year, the release said. - June 17, [The Daily Star](#)

## 15 YEARS OF GAZA BLOCKADE: 80% CHILDREN SUFFERING DEPRESSION

OA report by Save the Children found that the 15-year Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip has caused depression, sadness, and fear in four out of five children there. The report, called "Trapped," is based on interviews with 488 children and 168 parents and caregivers in the Gaza Strip. It is a follow-up to similar research the organization did in 2018. The blockade of the Gaza Strip began in June 2007, hurting the economy of the area and making it very hard to get around. Children, who make up 47% of Gaza's two million people, have been hit the hardest. About 800,000 children in Gaza have never known a time when there wasn't a blockade. They have also had to deal with what the report calls six life-threatening situations, including five rises in violence and the COVID-19 pandemic. Save the Children's most recent study showed that the mental health of children, young people, and caregivers has gotten much worse since their last report four years ago, with the number of children reporting emotional distress going from 55% to 80%. The report showed that there was a big jump in the number of children who said they felt afraid (84 percent, up from 50 percent in 2018), nervous (80 percent, up from 55 percent), sad or depressed (77 percent, up from 62 percent), and sad or angry (80 percent, up from 55 percent) (78 percent compared with 55 percent). - June 15, [Al Jazeera](#)

## BANGLADESH-INDIA DECIDE TO WORK ON MULTIPLE SECTOR IN THE 7TH JCC MEETING

Bangladesh and India agreed to enhance partnership in cyber security, IT, and food security yesterday (June 19, 2022). The decision was made at the seventh Joint Commission meeting co-chaired by Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and his Indian colleague S Jaishankar. In a joint statement, the two nations emphasized the safe, quick, and sustainable repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar's Rakhine province to Bangladesh. In his opening remarks at the JCC conference, Momen said Bangladesh and India require concerted efforts to recover from economic devastations.

"We've achieved real accomplishments in several sectors, including land and marine border delineation, security, connectivity, development cooperation, cultural exchange, power and energy, trade and commerce, blue economy, and defense," he said. The ministers expressed satisfaction that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the two countries have worked closer than ever in every sector, from security and border management to mutually beneficial trade and investment flows, enhanced bilateral and sub-regional multimodal connectivity, greater power and energy cooperation, developmental assistance and capacity building exchanges, cultural and closer people-to-people ties. Jaishankar said India looks forward to collaborating with Bangladesh in AI, cyber security, startups, and Fintech. He said the two nations must manage and conserve 54 common rivers and share environmental responsibilities, including the Sundarbans. Covid-19 epidemic and Ukraine conflict supply chain disruptions. - June 20, [The Daily Star](#)



## BANGLADESH-JAPAN TIES TO REACH NEW HEIGHTS: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated "Japan-Bangladesh-Comprehensive Cooperation" to elevate friendly relations to a strategic partnership. "We formed the Japan-Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership to strengthen our friendship. Our broad collaboration will soon become crucial" saying, In a video message shown at an event celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh-JICA cooperation, she asked for Japanese support to help Bangladesh become a developed nation by 2041.



She said Bangladesh was appreciative for Japan's assistance and contribution during the Liberation War. Sincerity, friendliness, and mutual respect are key to long-lasting bilateral partnerships, said Sheikh Hasina. She said Bangladesh and Japan are advancing relations based on shared values and interests. She reminded that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 1973 visit to Tokyo established Bangladesh-Japan relations. The premier recalled her personal travels to Japan in 1992, 1997, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019 as well as Shinzo Abe's 2014 visit to Bangladesh to improve relations. The premier said Bangladesh considers Japan one of its most loyal allies and major development partner. JICA's financial assistance to Bangladesh has grown from USD 10.6 million in 1971-72 to USD 28 billion. Matarbari Coal-based Power Plant, Matarbari Port Development Project, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rail Bridge over the river Jamuna, Dhaka Metro-rail network, and Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project are being built with JICA's help. - June 16, [Bangladesh Shandstha](#)

## BANGLADESH URGES UN AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO CREATE SITUATION FOR REPATRIATION FOR MYANMAR

Bangladesh has urged the UN to step up its program and establish suitable conditions in Myanmar's Rakhine State for Rohingya return, stressing that Bangladesh's efforts alone won't solve the situation. "Myanmar needs steps and programs to allow these community to return home with dignity. And that's what Rohingyas want" Ambassador Rabab Fatima remarked. Ambassador Fatima said the Rohingyas are unsettled in Bangladesh and suffer in IDP camps or face forced migration in Myanmar. She urged the UN, notably the Security Council, to address the core causes of the Rohingya issue. She also called on the Security Council to monitor compliance with the temporary measures ordered by the ICJ in the case brought by Gambia on behalf of the OIC. Ambassador Fatima asked all nations to cooperate with accountability mechanisms for Rohingya justice and urged the Special Envoy to continue working with ASEAN and other regional governments to end the Rohingya catastrophe. - June 14, [The Daily Star](#)

## INDIA SAYS AT UN THAT BANGLADESH NEEDS GLOBAL SUPPORT TO COUNTER RADICALISATION IN ROHINGYA CAMPS

As the only nation with a lengthy border with both Bangladesh and Myanmar, India has a lot riding on the return of displaced people from Rakhine, an Indian official said during a UN briefing on Myanmar Monday. Noleen Heyzer, the secretary-special general's envoy to Myanmar, briefed the informal gathering. "Bangladesh is commended for housing a million refugees. We feel the international community should recognize Bangladesh's humanitarian burden and attempts to care for displaced people" R Madhu Sudan, an Indian ambassador, briefed reporters. "The international community must increase its financial and other assistance for Bangladesh's efforts to help combat radicalization in the camps and other security difficulties," he added. "Myanmar's instability affects India. Worsening humanitarian conditions and violence in Myanmar have led to a mass exodus. We prioritize peace, security, and stability" Madhu, India's UN counsellor, stated. - June 14, [The Business Standard](#)

## ADB PLEDGES \$250 MN TO BOOST SOCIAL PROTECTION IN BANGLADESH



Bangladesh and the ADB reached an agreement for a \$250 million policy-based loan to boost the country's social protection system and help the disadvantaged people against socioeconomic problems. Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division Secretary Fatima Yasmin and ADB's Country Director Edimon Ginting electronically signed the agreement, BSS says, citing a news release. The initiative seeks to increase social protection coverage and efficiency, improve the financial participation of disadvantaged persons, and boost the responsiveness to diverse protection requirements. The loan is the second subprogram of the Strengthening Social Resilience Program (SSRP) authorized in 2021. It helped execute institutional and policy reforms that reinforced Bangladesh's social protection. "ADB is dedicated to helping Bangladesh speed macroeconomic recovery and develop an integrated social protection program," stated Country Director Edimon Ginting. "The integrated social protection program will strengthen social safety net management, deepen financial inclusion, meet demographic, geographical, age, gender, and other issues, and broaden social protection coverage and efficiency," he added. - June 14, [The Financial Express](#)

## RUSSIA CLAIMS TO HAVE BLOWN A NATO-SUPPLIED ARMS DEPOT



Russia said Wednesday that its forces destroyed a NATO-supplied arms depot in western Ukraine. This came as President Volodymyr Zelensky asked Western allies to speed up the delivery of arms to Ukraine. The defense ministry said in a statement, "Near the town of Zolochiv in the region of Lviv, high-precision long-range Kalibr missiles destroyed an ammunition depot of foreign weapons sent to Ukraine by NATO countries, including 155-mm

M777 howitzers." Ukraine said on Tuesday that it had only gotten 10% of the weapons it had asked for from the West to stop Russia from getting involved militarily. As part of their plan to take over a large part of eastern Ukraine, Russian forces are focusing their firepower on Severodonetsk, which is a strategically important industrial hub. Earlier on Wednesday, Dmitry Medvedev, who used to be Russia's president, said that Ukraine might not exist in two years. "I read that Ukraine wants to get LNG (liquefied natural gas) from its foreign masters under a lend-lease agreement with payment due two years after delivery," Medvedev, who is now deputy head of the Security Council, wrote on Telegram. "Who said Ukraine won't be on the map in two years?" asked the close friend of President Vladimir Putin. - June 15, [Firstpost](#)

## BIDEN ANNOUNCES \$1BN WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE

Wednesday, President Joe Biden said that the U.S. would send another \$1 billion worth of weapons to Ukraine. These weapons include anti-ship rocket systems, artillery rockets, howitzers, and ammunition. Biden said that he told Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy about the new weapons during a phone call with Zelenskiy, who is in trouble. In a statement after the 41-minute call, Biden said, "The United States is giving Ukraine another \$1 billion in security aid. This includes more artillery and coastal defense weapons, as well as artillery ammunition and advanced rocket systems." - June 16, [Reuters](#)

## BIDEN TO VISIT KSA AND ISRAEL



On Tuesday, President Joe Biden confirmed that he will travel to Saudi Arabia next month for discussions with its officials, marking a remarkable about-face from his position on the monarchy, which he pledged to make a "pariah" while running for president as a Democrat. Biden is softening his stance on the Saudis' human rights record by scheduling this visit at the end of a Middle East trip that also includes trips in Israel and the West Bank (July 13-16). He is trying to restore relations at a time when the United States could use assistance from the oil-rich kingdom to mitigate rising gas prices for drivers everywhere. Talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto head of the kingdom, are planned for the visit, according to both the White House and Saudi authorities. The murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist living in the United States, in 2018 was most likely ordered by Prince Mohammed, according to U.S. intelligence authorities. - June 14, [Associated Press](#)

## MACRON LOSES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT

Voters denied Emmanuel Macron an outright majority in parliament, limiting his second term. Macron's centrist alliance Ensemble! won 245 of 577 seats in Sunday's legislative elections, more than any other party. It fell short of 289 seats for an absolute majority in France's National Assembly. New Ecological and Social People's Union (NUPES), led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon, finished in second with 131 seats. That would make NUPES the biggest opposition party, though the alliance is anticipated to be divided in parliament. Mélenchon remarked of preliminary findings, "The presidential party has collapsed, and there is no majority." - June 20, [CNN](#)

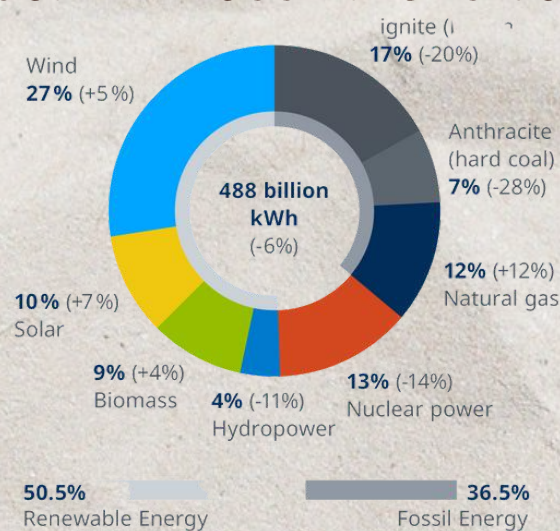
## FRANCE PULLS OUT TROOPS FROM MALI

French forces handed back a military post in northern Mali on Monday ahead of a full pullout from the Sahel nation, the army said. UN envoy warned French pullout might leave Menaka susceptible to Islamist assault. French army spokesperson General Pascal Ianni said the withdrawal was "orderly, safe, and transparent." It comes before the last evacuation from Mali "at the end of the summer," when France's main military station at Gao would be transferred to Malian forces, he added. - June 14, [The Defense Post](#)

## NATO CHIEF WARNS THAT UKRAINE WAR MIGHT LAST FOR YEARS

Nato's head warns the West to be prepared to help Ukraine for years. Jens Stoltenberg said war costs are expensive, but letting Moscow accomplish its military aims is higher. Boris Johnson warned of a longer-term battle. The chief of the British Army warned that the UK and allies must be ready to win a land battle with Russia. Gen Sir Patrick Sanders, who arrived last week, wrote in an internal memo seen by the BBC: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine strengthens the need to discourage Russian aggression with the prospect of force." Stoltenberg and Johnson said more weaponry would help Ukraine win. "We must expect years. Ukraine must be supported "Nato's leader said Bild. Even if expenditures are considerable for military support, electricity, and food. The head of the Western military alliance suggested that giving Ukraine more modern weaponry will boost its prospects of liberating the eastern Donbas region from Russian control. - June 20, [BBC](#)

## GERMANY REVIVING COAL TO COUNTER RUSSIAN GAS CUT



OSince Russia cut gas supplies, Germany has struggled to fill its storage sites. Increased coal utilization and industrial incentives to lower consumption are viable alternatives. German Economy Minister Robert Habeck has called his energy policy a "wrestling match" with Vladimir Putin. Putin has the longer arm for now, but "we can get stronger with work," he remarked. Green Party member Habeck faces a nightmare. In response to Western sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russia has slowed its gas supplies, jeopardizing German energy security. Berlin wants to fill its gas storage installations to 80% capacity by October 1 and 90% by November to fulfill winter demand. Gas stations are 57% filled. Habeck's "effort" now includes conserving gas needed to make power. - June 20, [DW](#)

## IS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY OF KABUL SIKH TEMPLE ATTACK

The Islamic State claimed credit for an attack on a Sikh temple in Afghanistan that killed one community member and a Taliban fighter. A Hindu-nationalist party spokeswoman's statements regarding the prophet's youngest wife provoked protests in various Muslim nations. IS said Saturday's attack targeted Hindus, Sikhs, and "apostates" who defended them "in defense of the Messenger of Allah." IS claims one of its militants "penetrated a temple for Hindu and Sikh polytheists in Kabul, after murdering its guard, and opened fire on the pagans within" The raid killed two and injured seven. - June 19, [France 24](#)

## TAIPEI REJECTS CHINA AND CLAIMS TAIWAN STRAIT AS AN INTERNATIONAL WATER

The Taiwan Strait is an international waterway, and Taiwan supports U.S. warships passing it, the country's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Since the defeated Republic of China government retreated to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to the communists, the strait has been a source of military concern. U.S. and NATO warships have passed through the strait in recent years, angering Beijing. China's Foreign Ministry declared Monday that the nation has sovereignty over the Taiwan Strait. Some nations designate the Taiwan Strait "international seas" to manipulate



aiwan-related problems and harm China's sovereignty and security, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said. Taiwan Foreign Ministry spokesperson Joanne Ou called the allegations "fallacious." "The Taiwan Strait is international waters, and waters outside our territorial waters are subject to 'freedom of the high seas'," she stated. Ou said Taiwan has always recognized foreign ships' harmless transit in the Taiwan Strait. Only Taiwan's people can select their own future, claims Taiwan's government, and China has never governed any portion of the island. China has never abandoned using force to govern Taiwan and considers it Chinese territory. - June 15, [Ships & Ports](#)

## FRONTEX CLAIMS THAT ILLEGAL MIGRANTS IN EUROPE ARE CROSSING 82%

Illegal migrant crossings into the EU climbed 82% from January to May, the European border agency reported Monday. Frontex reported 86,420 irregular border crossings in the first five months of the year. In May alone, 23,500 irregular migrants traveled, a 75% increase over the previous May. Ukrainians entering the EU across recognized borders were not included. Since Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, 5.5 million Ukrainians have reached the EU directly or via Moldova, Frontex stated. The Western Balkan, Central Mediterranean, and Eastern Mediterranean routes were the most active in 2022, the organization said. More than 40,000 unlawful crossings were recorded across the Western Balkans. Syrians and Afghans dominated migration. 16,000 migrants from Bangladesh, Egypt, and Tunisia took the Central Mediterranean route. More than 13,000 crossed the Eastern Mediterranean, up 116% from last year. Two-thirds of the travelers went through Cyprus, which recorded a 213% increase. Most migrants came from DRC, Nigeria, and Syria. - June 14, [Daily Prothom Alo](#)

## ANGER IN LONDON AFTER EU BLOCKS RWANDA ASYLUM PLAN

The European Commission sued Britain again yesterday, saying that by trying to change the trade deal that will be in place after Brexit, Britain is putting the peace in Northern Ireland at risk. Vice-President of the EU Commission Maros Sefcovic said, "The UK government put forward a bill that confirmed its intention to break international law by itself." "Opening the door for one country to change an international agreement on its own is also against international law. So let's call a spade a spade. This is a crime." In London, a spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that his government is "disappointed." The government had to cancel the first flight because the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) got involved. - June 16, [The Daily Star](#)

## CRISIS-HIT SRI LANKA GOES INTO LOCKDOWN

Sri Lanka suspended schools and halted non-essential government functions on Monday to conserve fuel as the IMF began bailout discussions. The 22-million-person country is in its greatest economic crisis after running out of foreign currency to finance food, gasoline, and medicines. As part of government aims to cut commuting and save fuel, schools and governmental offices were closed Monday. Record-high inflation and power shortages have led to months of rallies asking for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign. Thousands Lankan students marched through Colombo on Monday screaming "Gota go home" They accuse the president of corruption and incompetence. Student leader Wasantha Mudalige said, "Gotabaya should kneel down with respect." "We must pursue him." Police detained 21 student activists who declared Rajapaksa's 73rd birthday a "day of sorrow"- June 20, [NDTV](#)

## ISRAEL STRIKES IN GAZA AFTER ROCKET FIRE

Israeli air attacks attacked Hamas military positions in Gaza on Saturday in response to rocket firing, the army said. Israeli military aircraft hit Hamas terror sites in Gaza in response to the missile attack, the army claimed. Hamas "fired a missile... targeting Israeli citizens in southern Israel," it said, adding that Israel's air defenses intercepted it. Israeli aircraft "struck a weapons factory inside a Hamas military base and three other Hamas locations," the statement stated. After the impacts, flame balls and thick smoke rose into the air. The army stated air raid sirens were triggered in Ashkelon and near Gaza. Friday's Israeli army operation in Jenin, a hotbed of armed Palestinian groups in the occupied West Bank, killed 3 Palestinians and injured 12. - June 18, [Bangladesh Shangbad Shandstha](#)

## MODI CLAIMS INDIA WILL BE BENEFITTED WITH REFORMS AMID THE ANTI-AGNIPATH PROTESTS



In the midst of violent protests over his government's short-term military recruiting program "Agnipath," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated some actions and changes may be uncomfortable and unjust immediately but will benefit the country in the long run. He said wealth and job creators and inventors are India's actual strength. Since 2008, the government has promoted them. "Startups and innovation aren't simple, and leading the country along this path for eight years hasn't been easy. Several actions and changes may be unjust and unpleasant immediately, but the country will eventually profit "Modi didn't mention Agnipath. After launching development projects in Karnataka, he addressed a conference. "Reforms alone might lead to new goals and commitment. We opened the government-controlled space and defense sectors "Our New Delhi reporter says. Modi's comments came after the Indian army announced the start of Agnipath recruiting in July. Under it, 25% of recruits would be permanent and 75% would be de-inducted after four years with a Rs 11.71 lakh lump sum plus regular compensation. Anti-Agnipath demonstrators seek permanent, lifelong military careers. Over 500 trains were canceled today due to the "Bharat Bandh" against Agnipath recruiting. Anti-Agnipath demonstrators have burned and rioted on Indian Railways for five days. - June 20, [The Daily Star](#)


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