

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

### 1. 10th edition of Dhaka Literary Festival ( Jan. 2, 2023 )

After being cancelled for three consecutive years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF)**, Bangladesh's biggest international literary festival, is all set to take place on **January 5-8, 2023**.

#### Important facts

- The event will be held on the historic grounds of the **Bangla Academy in Dhaka**.
- More than 500 literary personalities across the globe including Nobel Prize Winner **Abdulrazak Gurnah** will be taking part in the festival.
- The four-day event will feature internationally acclaimed authors including Amitav Ghosh, Hanif Qureshi, Alexandra Pringle, Gitanjali Shree, Daisy Rockwell, Esther Freud, Joy Goswami, Kaiser Haque, among others.
- It will feature over **175 sessions** with discussions on science and technology, activities for children and young adults, film screenings, theatre, music and cultural performances.
- The organisers of DLF have termed it as a '**festival of ideas**'.
- Films, OTT, science and other topics of public interest will also be discussed in this programme.
- There will be performances for children as well as for women. The Dhaka Lit Fest will also host discussions on health, food and cooking, among other topics.

#### About Dhaka Lit Fest

- **Sadaf Saaz, Ahsan Akbar and Kazi Anis Ahmed** are the directors of the Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF).
- It began in **2011** with the commitment to promote Dhaka, and Bangladeshi literature and culture to the world.
- Dhaka Lit Fest has been a popular annual event in the winter calendar of Bangladesh.
- **About 30,000** people participated in the ninth Dhaka Lit Fest last held in 2019.

### 2. India, Austria to sign 5 agreements ( Jan. 2, 2023 )

External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** said that **India and Austria** will sign five agreements on January 2, 2023 and two of them are in the interest of the Indian community living in Austria.

#### Important facts

- The two agreements would be in the **interest of the Indian community**.

- There is an agreement on '**Migration and Mobility**' for people who want to work in Austria and who want to come to India for business, or who come here as students and professionals.
- Another agreement is on the '**Working Holiday**' program that will enable Indian students in Austria to work for 6 months.
- S Jaishankar is on an official visit to Austria where he held a meeting with Austrian Foreign Minister **Alexander Schallenberg**.
- This is the first India-Austria EAM-level visit in the **last 27 years** which is taking place in 2023 against the backdrop of 75 years of diplomatic relations.

### **About Austria**

- It is a largely mountainous landlocked country of **south-central Europe**.
- Chancellor: **Karl Nehammer**
- President: **Alexander Van der Bellen**
- Capital: **Vienna**
- Currency : **euro**
- Official Language : **German**

### **3. Inacio Lula da Silva sworn in as the President of Brazil for the 3rd time ( Jan. 1, 2023 )**

Inacio Lula da Silva sworn in as the President of Brazil for the 3rd time

The veteran left wing Brazilian leader **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva** was sworn in as the President of Brazil for the third time on 1 January 2023 for a four year term. The oath taking ceremony was held in the Brazilian capital city of **Brasilia**. **Geraldo Alckmin** was sworn in as the Vice President of Brazil.

Lula, who belongs to the **Worker Party**, led the country from 2003 to 2010 ,defeated the incumbent president Jair Bolsonaro in the bitterly contested [runoff Presidential election](#) held in October 2022.

His victory has politically divided the country. The supporters of f Jair Bolsonaro have protested for over two months, alleging that the election was stolen and called for a military coup to stop Lula from returning to office in a climate of vandalism and violence.

Jair Bolsonaro has already left Brazil for the United States. He has repeatedly said he does not wish to attend the inauguration of his successor, where he would be expected to hand over the presidential sash in a sign of a stable transfer of power.

### **Brazil**

It is the fifth largest country in the world area wise after Russia, Canada, China, and the United States.

It covers almost half of the South American Continent.

60% of the Amazon rainforest which is considered the lung of the earth lies in Brazil.

Capital: **Brasilia**

Currency: **Brazilian Real**

#### **4. India assume the charge of the Wassenaar Arrangement ( Jan. 1, 2023 )**

India assume the charge of the Wassenaar Arrangement Tags: International News

India has assumed the chairmanship of the plenary of the **Wassenaar Arrangement** on 1 January 2023 for one year. At the 26th annual Plenary of the WA held in **Vienna, Austria** on 30 November-01 December 2022, Ambassador Eoin O'Leary of Ireland handed over the Chairmanship to Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN and International Organizations in Vienna.

India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on 08 December 2017 as its **42nd Participating State**.

#### **Wassenaar Arrangement**

The Wassenaar Arrangement was established in July 1996 at **Wassenaar, Netherlands**. It is a voluntary export control regime of **42 member countries**. The member countries exchange information on transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies.

The main aim of the Wassenaar agreement is to discourage its member countries from exporting conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies to countries which are a threat to global peace.

The WA Plenary is the decision-making and governing body of the Arrangement that operates on consensus. It is composed of representatives of all Participating States who normally meet once a year at **Vienna, Austria**.

#### **5. 1668 Journalists killed in the last 20 years: Reporters without Borders. ( Dec. 31, 2022 )**

1668 Journalists killed in the last 20 years: Reporters without Borders

According to the yearend report of the **Reporters without Borders (RSF)** which was published on 31 December 2022, a total of **1,668 journalists** have been killed worldwide in connection with their work of journalism over the past two decades (2003–2022), due to murders, contract killings, ambushes, war zone deaths, and fatal injuries.

The report says that on an average every year 80 journalists lost their lives.

Due to the war in Syria over 144 journalists lost their lives in **2012** and 142 journalists died in 2013.

According to the RSF, in the last two decades, 80% of the deaths of journalists have happened in 15 countries. **Syria** and **Iraq** have the highest death rates, with a total of 578 journalists killed there over the past twenty years. This is about 1/3 of the world's death rate.

After these dangerous countries the most unsafe countries for journalists were Afghanistan, Yemen, and Palestine.

### **Reporters without Borders (RSF)**

Reporters without Borders (RWB) is an international non-profit organisation.

- It was founded by four journalists in 1985 in Montpellier, France.
- RSF works to safeguard and promote the freedom of information.
- Headquarters: **Paris, France**
- It has 7 offices in London, Brussels, Tunis, Washington DC, Rio de Janeiro, Dakar, and Taipei.

## **6. Former Pope Benedict XVI dies aged 95 ( Dec. 31, 2022 )**

Former Pope Benedict XVI dies aged 95

According to a statement released by the Vatican the former Pope **Benedict XVI** died on 31 December 2022 in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. He was 95 years old.

The head of the Catholic Church, former Pope Benedict, was the first pope in 600 years to resign. He resigned in 2013 and was replaced by the **present pope Francis**.

Pope Benedict was the first German to become pope in 1000 years. He was the head of the Vatican City from 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013.

He was born as Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in the southern German village of Marktl, close to Austria.

### **Pope and Vatican City**

Pope is a title which is given to the Bishop of Rome who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He is also the **head of the sovereign country of Vatican City**.

Roman Catholics are the largest of the three major branches of Christianity. The other branches of Christianity are Protestants and orthodox (Eastern).

Vatican City is the world's **smallest country** which is located within the Italian capital city of Rome.

It is also the **least populated country** in the world.

The **Holy See** is the name given to the government of the Roman Catholic Church, which is led by the pope as the bishop of Rome.

**St. Peter**, disciple of Jesus Christ, was the first Pope. Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity.

## **7. India, Cyprus signs three agreement during S. Jaishankar visits to Nicosia ( Dec. 29, 2022 )**

Nicosia on 29 December 2022. This is the first visit of S. Jaishankar to Cyprus.

External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** who is on a three day visit (29-31 December 2022) to Cyprus signed a number of agreements with his Cypriot counterpart **Ioannis Kasoulides** in the capital **Nicosia** on 29 December 2022. This is the first visit of S. Jaishankar to Cyprus.

### **Three agreement signed**

Both the ministers signed agreements to;

- Increase defence and military cooperation between the two countries ,
- Letter of Intent on immigration and mobility to check illegal migrations , as well as the agreement on
- Cyprus joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

S. Jaishankar also released the **commemorative stamp** on the **75 years of Indian Independence** and **60 years of establishing diplomatic ties with Cyprus**.

The minister said India and Cyprus were collectively working on pressing issues such as food and energy security, maritime security, as well as on sustainable environment.

During his three-day visit to Cyprus, Jaishankar will call **Annita Demetriou**, President of the Cyprus Parliament's House of Representatives.

He will also address the business and investment community of Cyprus, apart from an interaction with the Indian Diaspora.

### **Republic of Cyprus**

It is an island European country in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

It gained its Independence from Britain in 1960. The country has a majority population which are of Greece descent while the minority population are of Turkish origin.

Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 and created a Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983. Except Turkey no country recognises Turkish Cyprus.

India also recognises the Cyprus government.

Capital: **Nicosia**

Currency: **Euro**

President: **Nicos Anastasiades**

## **8. US Vice-President Kamala Harris names Indian-American Rajeev Badyal to the National Space Council Advisory Group ( Dec. 29, 2022 )**

The American Vice President Kamala Harris has named Indian American Rajeev Badyal

The American Vice President **Kamala Harris** has named Indian American **Rajeev Badyal** to the National Space Council's Users Advisory Group (UAG). The UAG is tasked to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future generations. The UAG is headed by US Air Force Rtd General Lester Lyles.

Rajeev Badyal is currently the vice-president of **Project Kuiper** of Amazon. Under Project Kuiper a number of Low Earth Orbit satellites will be launched by Amazon that will provide low-latency, high-speed broadband connectivity to unserved and underserved communities around the world.

The UAG will provide the National Space Council advice and recommendations on matters related to space policy and strategy, government policies, laws, regulations, treaties, international instruments, programmes, and practices across the civil, commercial, international, and national security space sectors.

### **Kamala Harris**

She is the first **woman to be elected as the Vice-President of the United States.**

She was elected as the Vice President in 2020 and Joe Biden was elected as the President of the United States of America.

Her mother Shyamala Gopalan was a Tamilian who immigrated to the United States and married a Jamaican Donald Harris.

## **9. Benjamin Netanyahu sworn in as the Prime minister of Israel for a record 6th time ( Dec. 29, 2022 )**

### **Benjamin Netanyahu sworn in as the Prime minister of Israel for a record 6th time**

**Benjamin Netanyahu** was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Israel for the **sixth time** on 29 December 2022. 73 years old Netanyahu was ousted from power 18 months ago. He replaced Yair Lapid whose party failed to win a majority in the Israeli Parliamentary election held on 1 November 2022. This was the 5th general election in Israel in the past four years.

The longest serving Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu heads a coalition government which is considered to be one of the most right wing governments in the history of the country.

The Israeli Parliament is called the **Knesset**. It is a unicameral house which has a term of **four years**. It has 120 members.

In the 120 member Israeli Parliament called as Knesset, Netanyahu has the support of 64 members. It included his **Likud party** supported by the ultra-orthodox Shas, United Torah Judaism, the far-right Otzma Yehudit, Religious Zionist Party, and Noam.

However the controversial leader is already facing protest in the country. During his speech to the Knesset thousands of people gathered outside the Knesset to protest against his government.

The Israeli Parliament is called the Knesset. It is a unicameral house which has a term of four years. It has 120 members.

### **State of Israel**

It is a small country located in West Asia. It is the only Jewish nation in the world with the Jews constituting  $\frac{3}{4}$  population of the country.

Israel was created by dividing the Palestine region into two. The Arab part was called Palestine and the Jewish part was called Israel.

It came into being on 14 May 1948.

**Capital:** Jerusalem (But it is not recognised internationally). The Government of India also doesn't accept Jerusalem as the capital of Israel .

**Currency:** Israeli shekel

Parliament: **Knesset**

President: **Isaac Herzog**

### **10. India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project handed over to Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corp ( Dec. 29, 2022 )**

India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project handed over to Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corp

The **720 MW Mangdechhu Hydropower Project** built with India's assistance in **Bhutan** was **handed over** to **Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)** on 27 December.

#### **Important facts**

- It was handed over during a program held in the capital of Bhutan which was attended by **Lyonpo Loknath Sharma**, Bhutanese Minister for Economic Affairs and **Sudhakar Dalela**, Ambassador of India to Bhutan.
- With the handing over of this project, India and Bhutan have successfully completed four major hydroelectric projects.

#### **About Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project**

- This 720 MW Project was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Bhutanese counterpart **Lotay Tshering** in 2019.
- The Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant has been established on the **Mangdechhu River** in the **Trongsa district of central Bhutan**.
- The commissioning of the project has increased Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity by **44 per cent** and it is now at **2,326 Mega Watts**.

- It is a benchmark hydroelectric project completed in an efficient manner at optimum cost, while maintaining high quality and performance standards.
- Since commissioning, the project has generated over **9000 million units of energy**, reducing emissions by **2.4 million tonnes** annually.
- The project received the **Brunel Medal 2020** from the Institute of Civil Engineers, London.
- It was recognized for its excellence in civil engineering and for its social and environmental credentials.
- The project increased Bhutan's hydropower revenue by **31 percent in 2020**.