



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail July 31-August 6 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press reply button for your feedback and comments.

Myanmar's Military Extends State of Emergency, Fueling Human Right Crisis, and Instability in Indo-Pacific



The Myanmar military-controlled government has extended its state of emergency for another six months from July 31, 2023, which was initially set to expire this week. The junta's move indicates that it intends to delay the general election in the country further. Myanmar's military seized the power from an elected government following a coup on Feb.1 2021. Since then, a widespread pro-democracy protest and resistance movement has emerged against the military regime. The junta has resorted to violent means to suppress the movement, including lethal and brute force. As per the recent [report](#) an estimated of more than 6,000 civilians were killed and [more than](#) 1.6 million displaced after the coup in 2021.

The news of extension of emergency sparked U.S. concerns as the State Department's spokesman Matthew Miller [said](#), "the United States is deeply concerned by the Burma military regime's extension of the state of emergency, which comes as the regime plunges the country deeper into violence and instability." Notably, on June 21,2023, the U.S. [designated](#) Myanmar's Ministry of Defense and two military regime-controlled banks; Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB) that enables most financial transactions and exchanges to take place domestically and with foreign banks. The United States policy limits the regime's ability to use the global financial system for its benefit in collaboration with allies and partners. the United States is committed to supporting the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, and justice. It is worth noting that in July 2023, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN denounced the use of force by the military Junta, which disregarded the 'five-point consensus' agreed upon by the ASEAN in 2022.

Myanmar is strategically important in the Indo-Pacific which connects South Asia to Southeast Asia. Additionally, Myanmar's growing relations with Russia and China alarm the U.S., and its Indo-Pacific allies, and partners. The Junta's continued military assault to defeat the civil resistance movement and prolonged state of emergency fuels human rights crisis and instability in the Indo-Pacific.

U.S.- Mongolia Celebrates Third Neighbor Partnership

The U.S. and Mongolia strengthens its relationship as the Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken [meets](#) with Mongolian Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrain in Washington on July 5, 2023. Both leaders signed the Economic Cooperation Roadmap and Open Skies agreement. Blinken stated that "both countries have shared commitment to democracy and have a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific." [Read More](#)

Indian Navy Ships Dock in Papua New Guinea

On August 2, 2023, the INS Kolkata, and INS Sahyadri, two Indian Navy vessels, arrived at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea (PNG). According to an Indian embassy official, this visit will strengthen maritime cooperation and security in the area. Additionally, these ships will participate in the upcoming Malabar exercise. It is worth mention that

Indian PM Modi visited PNG on May 21,2023 to host the summit of the Forum of India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). [Read More](#)

China's He Lifeng visits Pakistan, Celebrating Economic Corridor Anniversary

On July 30, 2023, Chinese Vice Premier Lifeng visited Islamabad to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) - a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that commenced in 2013. With a [budget](#) of \$62 billion, the project aims to establish a connection between China's western region and Pakistan, ultimately leading to the Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. This mega project includes Chinese investment in transport, infrastructure, energy, and connectivity has received \$25 billion dollar so far. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

What is the number of countries that share a border with Myanmar?

- a. Six
- b. Three
- c. Five
- d. Four

Who is appointed as the Prime Minister of Cambodia in the July 2023 elections?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| a. Hun Sen | b. Sar Kheng |
| c. Chea Sophora | d. Hun Manet |

Consortium highlights

- Book Review on the Bay of Bengal: Geo-Politics and the Quad <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7094069794215223296>
- A mini-project on improving Korean-Japan Relations

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