

SOUTH ASIA DAILY BRIEFING

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The shifting landscape of international relations this week centers on **President Trump's "Board of Peace,"** a new multilateral body established at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Originally framed as a mechanism for post-war Gaza reconstruction, the Board's charter now envisions an expansive mandate to resolve global conflicts, potentially bypassing traditional United Nations protocols. **Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** was among the founding signatories, joining over 20 nations in a transactional framework where permanent membership can be secured through a \$1 billion investment.

Concurrently, European leadership is pivoting toward New Delhi. Ahead of India's **Republic Day**, EU Representative Kaja Kallas labeled India "indispensable" for Europe's economic resilience, signaling a reset in trade and security ties. Meanwhile, tensions in the Arctic have eased slightly as a framework agreement on **Greenland** preserves Danish sovereignty while granting the U.S. expanded military rights, including the deployment of a "Golden Dome" missile defense system.

HERE ARE TOP FIVE STORIES SHAPING SOUTH ASIA TODAY:

- 1- PAKISTAN'S Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other world leaders on Thursday signed the charter for the "Board of Peace" headed by United States President Donald Trump, who has billed the body as a platform for resolving international conflicts.

Summary

Originally meant to oversee peace in Gaza after Israel's two-year war on the Palestinian enclave, the board's charter envisions a wider role in resolving international conflicts. PM Shehbaz, other world leaders sign charter for Trump-led Board of Peace

Link: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1968433/pm-shehbaz-other-world-leaders-sign-charter-for-trump-led-board-of-peace>

- 2- Storms, heavy rain kill 9 children across Afghanistan

Summary : Severe storms and a rain-triggered landslide have killed at least nine children across southern and eastern Afghanistan, officials said, with residents facing further risks on Thursday as heavy snow hit the country.

Strong wind and heavy rain in Kandahar killed six children on Wednesday, and caused significant financial losses in several districts, the emergency department in the southern province said.

Link: <https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2630226/world>

3- India becoming "Indispensable" for Europe: EU ahead of New Delhi visit

Summary: Days before the European Union's top leadership arrives in India as chief guests for the Republic Day celebrations and for the 16th EU-India Summit on January 27, the bloc's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, on Wednesday set the tone for what is being described as a pivotal reset in ties between the two strategic partners.

Addressing the European Parliament, Kallas said India is becoming "indispensable" for Europe's economic resilience and signalled that the EU is ready to deliver on a powerful new agenda with New Delhi spanning trade, security, technology and people-to-people ties.

Link: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/print/international/India-becoming-Indispensable-for-Europe-EU-ahead-of-New-Delhi-visit/107-331034>

4- Axios: The agreement plan for Greenland preserves Denmark's sovereignty over the island. The U.S. wants to strengthen its military presence there.

Summary:

The discussed agreement, which became known on January 21 thanks to Trump, stipulates that Denmark will remain the sovereign owner of Greenland. According to Axios, sources claim that the plan was developed during a meeting between Trump and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte. As part of this plan, the Agreement on the Protection of Greenland, signed in 1951, will be updated: the US will gain expanded opportunities for building military bases and creating "defense zones." There will also be the possibility of deploying elements of the "Iron Dome" air defense system, which Trump mentioned.

Link: <https://open.kg/en/news/in-the-world/64387-axios-plan-soglashenija-po-grenlandii-sohranjaet-suverenitet-danii-nad-ostrovom-ssha-hotjat-usilit-tam-svoe-voennoe-prisutstvie.html>

4- Strengthening Sri Lanka's Global Trade: EDB Hosts Orientation for Newly Appointed Heads of Mission

SUMMARY:

The Export Development Board (EDB) of Sri Lanka hosted an orientation programme on 16 January 2026 for the newly appointed Heads of Sri Lanka Missions overseas, aimed at strengthening collaboration in promoting the country's exports. The programme provided an overview of Sri Lanka's export landscape, strategic priorities, and the role of Missions in supporting trade and investment promotion initiatives.

LINK: <https://bizenglish.adaderana.lk/strengthening-sri-lankas-global-trade-edb-hosts-orientation-for-newly-appointed-heads-of-mission/>

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