

**Highlights from the local media of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**

June 15th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 33/6

**TOP STORIES**

**[Hasina giving rise to militancy: BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia](#)**

UNB/ Prothom Alo | 14<sup>th</sup> June  
The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, Khaleda Zia, on Tuesday alleged that the government itself is conspiring to destabilise the country through spreading terrorism and giving rise to militancy. "She [PM] assures foreigners that she would curb terrorism, but she won't do it actually. She wants to make the country unstable through spreading terrorism and giving a rise to militancy," said the BNP chairperson while addressing an ifar party organised by the Association of Engineers, Bangladesh at the International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital city.

**[77 insurgents killed, injured in Jawzjan](#)**

Afghanistan Times | 14<sup>th</sup> June  
As many as 37 Taliban insurgents were killed, 40 injured and 25 others arrested in Jawzjan province in an operation launched by the Afghan National Security Forces, said provincial spokesman. Provincial spokesman Mohammad Reza Ghafari told media on Tuesday that Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police in cooperating with National Directorate of Security launched multiple clearing operations against armed insurgents in different areas of Jawzjan province.

**[WB, ADB 'to extend' \\$1b line of credit](#)**

The Kathmandu post | 15<sup>th</sup> June  
The World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have expressed interest to provide \$1 billion (Rs107.89 billion) to Nepal under Development Policy Credit in Energy (DPCE) in the largest ever loan for the energy sector through a single window.

**AFGHANISTAN**

**[Heavy clash resume among Afghan and Pakistani forces in Torkham](#)**

Khaama Press | 14<sup>th</sup> June

A heavy clash is underway between the Afghan and Pakistani forces in Torkham as the deadlock over the establishment of a gate by Pakistani forces has entered into the third day. Provincial governor's spokesman Ataullah Khogyani confirmed that the Pakistani forces resumed artillery shelling.

**[President Ghani chairs Security Council meeting amid tense situation in Torkham](#)**

Khaama Press | 14<sup>th</sup> June

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani chaired the National Security Council (NSC) meeting amid persistent tense situation in Torkham and security situation of the country. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said the issue of violations by Pakistani forces in Torkham was discussed during the meeting and called the move by Pakistan against the international norms. Calling the move as a matter of concern, the National Security Council insisted that the issue should be resolved

through diplomatic ways while praising the Afghan forces for their high level of readiness to protect the country and national interests of Afghanistan.

## **BANGLADESH**

### [PM Hasina orders Chhatra League to work against militancy, terrorism](#)

Bdnews24 | 15<sup>th</sup> June

Awami League chief Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ordered Bangladesh Chhatra League to campaign against militancy and terrorism, saying these hinder a country's journey towards progress. Leaders from all levels of the student affiliate of Awami League met the prime minister on Tuesday after their two-day extended council and workshop. "We will never harbour terrorism and militancy," Hasina said at the meeting in Ganabhaban.

### [Forex reserve hovering over \\$29b](#)

The Financial Express | 13<sup>th</sup> June

Foreign exchange reserves of Bangladesh are hovering over 29 billion US dollar. A central bank official has said that the country's forex reserve stood at \$29.23 billion at the end of Thursday (June 9), the previous week's last working day. The country's economists have said that the foreign currency reserves crossed the \$29-billion mark mainly due to a dearth of investment.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Bhutan most peaceful in region: Global Peace Index](#)

Kuensel | 14<sup>th</sup> June

Bhutan was ranked the most peaceful among seven South Asian countries and 13th among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2016. The GPI ranking is something to be proud of said Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay at the opening of the 20th Desuup training programme at the Tencholing military training centre in Wangdue, yesterday.

## **MALDIVES**

### [UN says application of terror-related charges on Maldivian opposition leaders "troubling"](#)

Sun Online | 14<sup>th</sup> June

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, on Monday, said that he was "troubled" by the application of terrorism-related charges on Maldivian opposition leaders. He made the statement in the global update to UN Human Rights Council, which is started its 32nd session in Geneva on Monday.

### [Ibrahim Ziyath appointed CEO of MTCC](#)

Sun Online | 14<sup>th</sup> June

Ibrahim Ziyath (H. Aahama, Male') has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC). The appointment was confirmed in a tweet sent out by President of Privatization Board, Mohamed Nizar on Tuesday.

## **MYANMAR**

### [ADB President commends Myanmar's progress, announces expanded assistance](#)

Mizzima | 15<sup>th</sup> June

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao met with Myanmar's President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday to discuss Myanmar's development prospects, macroeconomic and structural priorities, and ADB's support to the new administration, according to an ADB statement.

### [Government peace team to meet non-signatory armed groups soon](#)

Mizzima | 15<sup>th</sup> June

Preparatory Subcommittee-2 for the Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong) is set to meet a delegation for political negotiation (DPN) from the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) in Chiang Mai, Thailand the third week of June state media reported on 15 June.

## **NEPAL**

### [Eight Education Amendment Bill will bring new wave: Edu Minister](#)

RSS / The Kathmandu Post | 14<sup>th</sup> June

Minister for Education, Girirajmani Pokharel, on Tuesday, said the government was ready to address the demands of Madhes

and the indigenous nationalities through constitution's second amendment in agreement with the political parties.

### [US agrees to support Nepal's trade regime during TIFA meeting](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 15<sup>th</sup> June

The United States has agreed to exchange information to support Nepal's ongoing efforts of developing laws and regulations to promote trade. During the meeting of Nepal-US Trade and Investment Framework (TIFA) Council, held on June 10 in Washington, DC, the US agreed to support Nepal to enhance trade competitiveness, says the joint statement of TIFA council meeting.

## PAKISTAN

### [Army major killed in Afghan cross-border firing](#)

DAWN | 15<sup>th</sup> June

An army officer, who was injured by Afghan firing at the Torkham border on Monday, succumbed to his injuries at the Combined Military Hospital in Peshawar on Tuesday. A skirmish between Afghan and Pakistani security personnel began on Sunday after "Afghan security forces resorted to unprovoked firing directed at the Pakistani side of the Torkham Gate," a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) had earlier said.

### [Army chief inaugurates development projects in South, North Waziristan](#)

Daily Times | 14<sup>th</sup> June

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif inaugurated multiple development projects in South and North Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The army chief inaugurated the projects, including the 72km long Miranshah–Razmak–Makeen dual carriage road which is part of the 705km Central Trade Corridor, as part of the post operation comprehensive rehabilitation plan for FATA. The road, constructed by the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), will considerably reduce traveling time between North and South Waziristan.

## SRI LANKA

### [Work on first Sri Lanka Innovation Index begins](#)

Daily News | 15<sup>th</sup> June

"The IP System of a country greatly contributes to its various development activities such as promotion of national creativity, research, technology transfer, licensing, commercialization of goods and services and proper implementation of industrial policies. If we look at many developed economies practicing high level of innovation such as Japan and Korea, we can see that intellectual property has become a key growth driver for them" Minister of Trade and Commerce, Rishard Bathiudeen said.

### [Sri Lanka's economic potential is considerable – IMF](#)

Colombo Page | 14<sup>th</sup> June

The International Monetary Fund says that the three-year, \$1.5 billion loan it approved on June 3 for Sri Lanka under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to support the country's economic reform agenda will help Sri Lanka navigate macroeconomic policy adjustments and a more difficult external environment.

### [US 'very firm' on the need for human rights and accountability in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page | 14<sup>th</sup> June

The United States stood "very firmly" on the need for respect for human rights and the need for a process of accountability and reconciliation in Sri Lanka, the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal has said.

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