

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

June 16th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 34/6

**TOP STORIES**

[Over reliance on remittance risky: WB](#)

The Himalayan Times | 16th June  
Nepal's over dependence on remittance as a single tool to strengthen foreign exchange reserves is an inherently risky strategy, as it is vulnerable to external shocks, according to the latest World Bank report. The slowdown in Gulf economies due to rampant fall in oil prices and contraction in outflow

[US Senate passes \\$800m Pakistan fund](#)

DAWN | 16<sup>th</sup> June  
The US Senate has passed its draft of the National Defence Authorisation Bill, including a provision to set up a new fund to reimburse Pakistan for its efforts in the war against terrorism. The Senate version authorises \$800 million under a provision called the 'Pakistan Security Enhancement Authorisation'. It also fences \$300m behind a similar Haqqani network provision that has existed in the annual defence authorisation acts since the fiscal year 2015

[Indonesia cites error as ASEAN meeting ends in confusion](#)

AFP/Mizzima | 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Indonesia said Wednesday that a bold statement from Southeast Asian nations raising concern over Beijing's island-building in the South China Sea was issued in error, as a meeting over the issue ended in confusion. In a statement released late Tuesday by Malaysia's foreign ministry, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) warned that recent actions in the disputed waterway had "the potential to undermine peace".

**AFGHANISTAN**

[Govt to draft detailed design of Bakhsh-Abad Dam](#)

Afghanistan Times | June 15th  
The Ministry of Energy and Water signed the contract of detailed designing of the Farah province's Bakhsh-Abad hydropower dam with Italian company of Hydro ARDH. The design would take at least 18 months to complete all its designing schemes, which would cost \$4.5 million. Minister of water and energy Ali Ahmad Osmani called the project an important national program. He said the dam would have the capacity to save annually more than 1.3 billion cubic meter of water and would prevent water.

[Afghanistan and Pakistan agree on ceasefire at Torkham](#)

Khaama Press | 15<sup>th</sup> June  
The Afghan and Pakistani authorities have agreed on a ceasefire at Torkham following three days of intense tensions that led to heavy clashes on numerous occasions. The Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal confirmed that a ceasefire was agreed following the meetings with the Pakistani authorities. "Productive meetings with relevant Pak leadership on Torkham issue. Agreed on ceasefire, deescalation of tension, draw down of military buildup and steps forward for an amicable solution," Zakhilwal said in a short message posted on his Facebook account.

## BANGLADESH

### [Home minister denies allegation of political harassment](#)

Prothom Alo | 15<sup>th</sup> June

The home minister, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, on Wednesday denied the allegation that the law enforcers are rounding up opposition activists during their special 'anti-militant drive' in a bid to harass them for political reasons. "We arrested no one out of ill motive or for harassing anyone politically. More or less 2,000 people used to be arrested a day in the past and so are we doing now," said the home minister while talking to newsmen after a meeting with the US ambassador in Dhaka, Marcia Bernicat, at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

### [US attorney in Manhattan probes Bangladesh Bank cyber heist: Source](#)

Bdnews24 | 16<sup>th</sup> June

The US attorney's office in Manhattan has opened an investigation of the cyber heist of \$81 million from Bangladesh Bank's account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, a law enforcement source said. Preet Bharara, the US attorney for the Southern District of New York, is investigating the February crime, in which criminals used the SWIFT fund-transfer network to steal money from Bangladesh's central bank.

## BHUTAN

### [A bill to develop the civil aviation sector](#)

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

The Civil Aviation bill aims to promote the development of civil aviation in the country through creation of a conducive policy and legal environment. The Civil Aviation Act 2000 will be repealed with the enactment of this new law. The bill was introduced in the National Assembly during the last session.

### [National and public libraries receive books from Singapore](#)

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

The Singaporean ambassador to Bhutan, Lim Thuan Kuan donated six boxes of books to the National Library and Archives of Bhutan and the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck Public Library in Thimphu on Tuesday. National Library and Archive director general, Dorji Norbu, said that the donated books would have a long-lasting impact and that the public will benefit.

## MALDIVES

### [Indian company to build 72 housing units in Hulhumale'](#)

Sun Online | 15<sup>th</sup> June

Indian company – Renaatus Projects Private Limited is to build 72 mixed use residential units in Hulhumale' waterfront area. Renaatus is not new to Maldives, having built the Maldives National University's Faculty of Hospitality and undertaken maintenance work on Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital.

### [Home Minister Umaru: Opposition has nothing to say about gangs and theft with Adheeb as part of it](#)

Sun Online | 15<sup>th</sup> June

Home Minister Umaru Naseer has said that the opposition has nothing they can say about gang violence and theft with the former Vice President Ahmed Adheeb Abdul Gafoor being part of the opposition. Minister Umaru told Sun Media today that MDP has previously said that it was Adheeb who was behind all the gang activity in the country. And so United Opposition formed with the involvement of the former Vice President does not have anything to say about gang violence and thefts.

## MYANMAR

### [Development at forefront of new budget](#)

Mizzima | 16<sup>th</sup> June

Myanmar's Financial Commission held its first meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with President U Htin Kyaw addressing the crowd and stressing the need for the new government to bring forward a constitution that focuses on national reconciliation, internal peace and democratic federalism, state media reported on 16 June. President U Htin Kyaw also promised increased spending on education, health and social welfare to ensure more human resources, adding that development policies would be focused on the implementation of rural development, electrification, poverty alleviation and infrastructural development.

### [Support is better than protection, government's new economic policy](#)

Aung Thura/Mizzima | 16<sup>th</sup> June

"Our government will not give favour to anyone and there will be no discrimination. We will give all Myanmar nationals equal

opportunity.” Union Minister of Planning and Finance Kyaw Win said at a meeting held at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 13 June, the meeting was held for the first time with Myanmar traders and entrepreneurs and it lasted about three hours.

## NEPAL

### [India planning to boost connectivity with Nepal](#)

KathmanduPost | 16th June

India plans to substantially advance its connectivity with its immediate neighbours including Nepal, top Indian officials have said. However, in view of some of the incomplete projects in Nepal--with some being on hold--India's plans to advance connectivity are likely to be viewed with some scepticism in Kathmandu.

### [Election at all levels by Dec 2017: PM Oli](#)

The Himalayan Times | 16th June

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli today said the government would hold polls for all three levels federal parliament, provincial parliament and local bodies by mid-December 2017. Addressing the annual function of Public Service Commission, PM Oli said that the government would hold local polls by mid-December this year, provincial polls by May 2017 and the elections of federal legislature by December 2017.

## PAKISTAN

### [Pakistan urges UN to take notice of illegal drone strikes](#)

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

Pakistan stressed that the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council and its mechanisms should respond to human rights violations and the loss of precious lives as a result of drone strikes on the country's territory in violation of its sovereignty. Speaking at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Tehmina Janjua, emphasised that these drone strikes were also a violation of UN Charter, international law including human rights and humanitarian law.

### [Heavy artillery fire on Khyber Pass border as Afghan, Pakistan forces continue to clash](#)

Reuters / The Express Tribune | June 16<sup>th</sup>

Pakistan and Afghan troops exchanged heavy artillery at the main Khyber Pass border crossing on Wednesday, the Pakistan Army said, an escalation after days of clashes that have killed four people and stranded thousands on both sides. Afghanistan's ambassador to Islamabad Omar Zakhilwal on Wednesday said he met Pakistani officials and the countries had "agreed on a ceasefire". Previous ceasefire deals announced over the last two days were swiftly broken.

## SRI LANKA

### [Sri Lanka notes significance of bilateral relations with India](#)

Colombo Gazette | 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dr. Harsha de Silva, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, who was in Mumbai, to deliver the inaugural address at the Gateway of India Dialogue emphasized the importance of Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with India and highlighted the late Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar's thesis that India and Sri Lanka should work together to build on a shared geography, history and culture in a relationship he defined that should be in a state of 'irreversible excellence'.

### [Sri Lankan Prime Minister tells UK exiting EU will disrupt global economy, impact Sri Lanka's export trade](#)

Colombo Page | 15<sup>th</sup> June

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe says Sri Lanka is 'very concerned' about the probable impact of 'Brexit'- withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union - on the global economy, on Sri Lanka, and on the UK.

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