



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

June 2nd , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 24/6

### Top Stories

#### [Land acquisition for India-Bangladesh rail project to begin soon](#)

Bdnews24 | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Work on land acquisition for the Agartala-Akhaura rail project will begin in the latter half of June coupled with launching of a broad gauge (BG) railway service from Agartala. General Manager of Indian Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) HK Jaggi disclosed this on Wednesday. He was speaking to media in the neighbouring Indian state of Tripura at the end of a meeting with Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and Transport Minister Manik Dey.

#### [DPM Thapa visiting India on June 10](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Kamal Thapa is set to leave for India on June 10. During his four-day visit, DPM and Minister for Foreign Affairs Thapa is expected to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj.

#### [Pakistani chargé d'affaires summoned over harassment of Afghan diplomat in Peshawar](#)

Khaama Press | 1<sup>st</sup> June

The chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan Moazzam Ali was summoned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan (MoFA) over the harassment of Afghan General Consul in Peshawar city of Pakistan. According to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, a strong protest was lodged over the Pakistani security personnel act to stop the vehicle of the Afghan General Consul in the Peshawar city.

### AFGHANISTAN

#### [President Ghani condemns execution of passengers, vows severe punishment for perpetrators](#)

Khaama Press | 1<sup>st</sup> June

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has strongly condemned the execution of passengers by the Taliban militants after 185 of them were kidnapped in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Calling the execution of innocent civilians an act of treachery, President Ghani said the bandits are committing such crimes, criticizing the Taliban leader for the lack of information regarding the religion of Islam and its principles despite claiming he is a religious scholar.

#### [Ease Border Controls for another Month, Kabul Asks Islamabad](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan (Pajhwok) | 1<sup>st</sup> June

With a new border management system ready for implementation, Kabul has urged Islamabad to extend a border restriction deadline for a month to enable the Afghans to travel to and from Pakistan during the holy month of Ramadan and Eidul Fitr.

### BANGLADESH

#### [Law & order fine, claims PM Hasina](#)

Prothom Alo | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday claimed the country's law and order situation is normal and people are getting

justice as her government has taken various “effective steps.” “People are getting justice, and locals and foreigners are leading a normal life and doing business peacefully,” UNB news agency quoted the prime minister to have told Parliament responding to a tabled question from MA Awal (Laxmipur 1) during her question-answer session.

### [Foreign investment increasing: PM Hasina](#)

The Financial Express | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has praised the role of law enforcement agencies in containing terrorism and militancy. It has been possible to contain terrorism and militancy due to the strong vigilance of the law enforcers, the prime minister told the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Wednesday.

### [Thailand wants Bangladesh to benefit from its trilateral highway with India, Myanmar](#)

Bdnews24 | 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Thailand wants Bangladesh to make use of its trilateral highway linkage project with India and Myanmar to enhance connectivity for economic benefits. Chalernpol Thanchitt, Special Envoy of the Thai Foreign Minister, said Bangladesh would be able to make use of this route by creating “an access point” between this proposed highway and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor.

## **BHUTAN**

### [The paradox of progress](#)

Kuenselonline | 1<sup>st</sup> June

The ongoing rural electrification works along the Jomolhari trek route to supply electricity to the remote gewogs of Soe and Lingzhi has obstructed trekking activities along the route, according to tour operators.

### [Panbang BHU faces erratic power supply](#)

Kuenselonline | 1<sup>st</sup> June

With the onset of monsoon, residents of Panbang are anxious about the unreliable electricity supply. People said weak and erratic power supply has damaged electrical appliances like television screens and refrigerators.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon Still no word to government from UK regarding Nasheed](#)

Sun Online | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon has said that so far there has been no work from the UK regarding the former President Mohamed Nasheed seeking political refugee status in that country. Ex-President Mohamed Nasheed went to London in January seeking medical treatment while serving a 13-year prison sentence. Since then, he has requested and received multiple extensions on his medical leave.

### [Foreign Minister Dunya: No Saudi influence in cutting ties with Iran](#)

Sun Online | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon has said that there was no influence from Saudi Arabia in the decision to cut diplomatic ties with Iran. While speculations continue as to whether the Maldives cut its diplomatic ties with Iran due to the tensions between Iran and a close ally of Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon said that the Maldives is an independent country and the maintaining and severing of ties of foreign relations is each country's own “sovereign decision”.

### [Opposition coalition names 19 ministers in the Shadow Cabinet](#)

Sun Online | 1<sup>st</sup> June

A Shadow Cabinet has been established by the opposition coalition as the former Vice President, Dr. Mohamed Jameel as the leader and the MDP Chairperson, Ali Waheed as the Deputy Leader. At a special ceremony held in London today, the Shadow Cabinet was announced by the former Vice President Dr. Jameel. While the former Minister at the President's Office, Abdulla Ameen was named as the Defence Minister, while the former MP for the Kendhoo constituency, Ahmed Thasmeen was named as the Home Minister.

## **MYANMAR**

### [India keen to build bridges with Suu Kyi](#)

Subir Bhaumik/ Mizzima | 1<sup>st</sup> June

India is keen to build bridges with democracy icon and Myanmar's new Foreign Minister Aung Sang Suu Kyi. Indian external affairs ministry officials told Mizzima they have received instructions from the Prime Minister's office to 'find a

suitable opportunity' to invite Suu Kyi to India. They said India is considering some special arrangements for Myanmar pilgrims to Buddhist sites like Bodh Gaya and Sarnath.

### [EU adopts new strategy in support of Myanmar's reforms](#)

Mizzima | 2<sup>nd</sup> June

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission yesterday adopted a Joint Communication that sets out a vision for what it describes as ambitious and forward-looking EU engagement with Myanmar as the country's transition enters its next phase.

## NEPAL

### ['Budget can't sustain economic development'](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Opposition parties, including the Nepali Congress today criticized the government stating that the fiscal budget 2016/17 was unsustainable and not supportive of economic development as it was not based on reality.

### [Nepali, Chinese officials hold talks on protocol](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Officials of the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) and Chinese embassy in Nepal have held talks on developing protocol on the Transit Transport Agreement (TTA) signed between the two countries during Prime Minister K P Oli's visit to the northern neighbor.

### [Bangladesh to gift 10k tonnes of rice](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Bangladesh is sending a gift of 10,000 tonnes of rice to Nepal to be deposited in the SAARC Food Bank, an emergency reserve for use in times of crisis in the South Asian region. Officials said the grain to be received from Bangladesh will be added to the emergency stockpile as paddy production had dropped this fiscal year.

## PAKISTAN

### [Projects in Iran, Pakistan can complement each other: China](#)

DAWN | 2<sup>nd</sup> June

China does not see the recent move by Iran in collaboration with Afghanistan, and with financial support from India, to develop the port and road network at Chabahar for expanding regional trade as an attempt to undermine the Gwadar port project or the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In fact, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang is convinced that the projects have the potential to complement each other in boosting the otherwise sluggish economies of the region. In an interaction with a group of Asian newspaper editors, Premier Li said the economic crises in Asia as well as in the rest of the world could be countered by encouraging and supporting each of the regional countries in taking effective measures.

### [US drones must stop: COAS Raheel Sharif](#)

The Nation | 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Terming the US drone strikes threat to the sovereignty and security of the country, Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif said that the US drone strikes are regrettable and it must stop. Talking to media at a reception after attending President Mamnoon Hussain's address to the joint sitting of the Parliament, Army Chief denounced such acts of sovereignty violations as fatal to the relations between the two States and counter-productive to the ongoing peace process.

## SRI LANKA

### [Sri Lanka-Singapore Free Trade Agreement being studied](#)

Colombo Gazette | 1<sup>st</sup> June

A possible Sri Lanka-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (SLSFTA) is being studied, with both countries keen on pursuing the deal, Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said on Wednesday, according to Channel News Asia.

### [Sri Lanka ratifies Trade Facilitation Agreement with WTO](#)

Colombo Gazette | 1<sup>st</sup> June

Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the WTO in Geneva Ambassador R.D.S. Kumararatne has presented to Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of WTO the Instrument of Acceptance of the Protocol on Trade Facilitation. Sri Lanka is the 81st Member to deposit its Instrument of Acceptance with the WTO on the ratification of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the WTO.

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