

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

June 3rd , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 25/7

Top Stories

[World Bank grants Sri Lanka US\\$ 55 million to develop Jaffna with Galle, Kandy](#)

Colombo Page | 2nd June
The World Bank said it has approved a \$55 million loan to Sri Lanka to improve urban services, preserve cultural and environmental assets, and improve livability in Jaffna, adding the city to an existing project to develop Galle and Kandy.

[Myanmar gem firms say \\$100m 'missing' from industry fund](#)

AFP/Mizzima | 3rd June
An embezzlement probe has been launched after nearly \$100 million vanished from a fund set up by Myanmar's gem companies, a trade body said Thursday, raising corruption fears in an industry notorious for its shady dealings. Mining -- especially for jade -- was firmly in the hands of the military and their 'crony' elites during the final years of junta rule, but remains cloaked in secrecy despite reforms under a quasi-civilian government that came to power in 2011.

[PM Modi to inaugurate \\$300 million Salma Dam built by India in Herat](#)

Khaama Press | 3rd June
The Indian Prime Minister Prime Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the \$300 million Salma Dam built by India in western Herat province of Afghanistan. A spokesman for India's External Affairs Ministry Vikas Swarup has said "Prime Minister and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani will jointly inaugurate the Afghan-India Friendship Dam on June 4, Saturday, in Herat province. The completion of the dam project represents the culmination of work by 1500 Indian and Afghan engineers and other professionals in very difficult conditions."

AFGHANISTAN

[Hundreds protest against Taliban in Kabul city](#)

Afghanistan Times | 2nd June

A large demonstration was organized in capital Kabul to protest against the atrocities committed by the Taliban group. The demonstration has been organized by the Afghanistan Green Trend led by the former Afghan intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh. The rally participants gathered near Eid Gah mosque chanting anti-Taliban slogans as they aid to deliver final statement near the presidential palace.

BANGLADESH

[Finance Minister Muhith presents Tk 3.41 trillion Bangladesh budget for 2016-17 fiscal year](#)

Bdnews24 | 2nd June

With an outlay of Tk 3.41 trillion, the proposed national budget for 2016-17 fiscal year has been placed in Parliament. The new budget is 15.5 percent larger than the current FY's initial budget and 29 percent higher than the revised outlay. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith presented the budget on Thursday afternoon – the third one from the incumbent government. The new budget is equivalent to 17.37 percent of Bangladesh's GDP, which is Tk 19.61 trillion. The current FY budget represented 17.2 percent of the GDP.

[Growth target 7.2%](#)

Dhaka Tribune | 3rd June

The Bangladesh government aims to achieve a growth of over 7% in the 2016-17 fiscal year. Finance Minister AMA Muhith presented a Tk340, 605 crore budget in Parliament yesterday. Justifying the target, he said he believed government efforts to develop infrastructure would help improve private sector investment.

BHUTAN

[A budget outlay of almost Nu 50B](#)

Kuenselonline | 2nd June

The initiatives to realise the government's ideology of Wangtse Chirphel or power decentralisation has surfaced in a Nu 49.9 billion (B) budget outlay for the fiscal year 2016-17, which the finance minister presented on Wednesday in the national assembly.

[EIB joint committee in deadlock](#)

Kuenselonline | 2nd June

The joint committee of the two houses of Parliament constituted during the sixth session to review the disputed European Investment Bank (EIB) framework agreement and iron out differences has been in deadlock.

MALDIVES

[Closed testimony: Dr. Jameel led the campaign to arrest the President with a false court order](#)

Sun Online | 2nd June

A closed witness has testified that the attempt to arrest President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom with a false court order was led by the former Vice President, Dr. Mohamed Jameel Ahmed. The testimony was given at the Criminal Court hearing in the case against former PG Muhuthaz Muhusin and the Maamigili Court Magistrate, Ahmed Nihan for the attempted arrest of President Yameen with a false court order.

[PPM calls to oppositions to be responsible and stop activities from abroad](#)

Sun Online | 3rd June

Ruling Party PPM has called to the opposition leaders to immediately stop the political activities being organized from abroad and be responsible. A statement was issued by the party today after the opposition leaders met in London and inaugurated a new coalition with the former Vice President Dr. Mohamed Jameel Ahmed in charge.

MYANMAR

[UNFC to Meet Government's New Peace Negotiator in Chiang Mai](#)

The Irrawaddy | 1st June

The United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), an alliance of non-state ethnic armed groups in Burma have said that they will meet on Friday with Dr. Tin Myo Win, the Burmese government's newly installed peace negotiator, after a two-day meeting of the alliance in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Consisting entirely of non-signatories to last year's nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA), the UNFC remains an influential bloc which the government is eager to woo into what Suu Kyi has styled a 21st Century Panglong Conference.

[Report on Media Development in Myanmar released](#)

Mizzima | 2nd June

More than 80 people from the media sector, the government, international cooperation agencies, academia and civil society came together on 1 June to attend the launch of UNESCO's Report on Media Development in Myanmar, based on the UNESCO Media Development Indicators. "The timing of this launch cannot be better than now," said Sardar Umar Alam, Head of UNESCO Yangon Office to kick-off the launch that took place in Yangon today. "The result of this two-year's process is remarkable in the way the Journalism Department of the National Management Degree College took the ownership of the process", he added.

NEPAL

[Call to endorse Social Security Bill pronto](#)

Rastriya Samachar Samiti / The Himalayan Times | 2nd June

Concerned stakeholders have pressed for endorsement of the Social Security Bill which has been tabled at the Legislature-Parliament. At a meeting of the International Relations and Labour Committee of the Legislature-Parliament today, participants in discussion with lawmakers, experts, workers and industrialists called for embedding separate provisions in the Act for workers involved in organised and unorganised sectors as well.

[Nepal unlikely to host fourth Bimstec meet this year](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 3rd June

Nepal is unlikely to host the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) Summit this year. According to officials, busy schedule of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and other pressing issues like post-quake reconstruction and constitution implementation are the reasons why Nepal will not be hosting the Bimstec meeting this year.

PAKISTAN

[CPEC to be turned into a reality despite challenges, says army chief](#)

The Express Tribune | 2nd June

Army chief General Raheel Sharif has said Pakistan is facing multiple and complicated challenges, but expressed optimism that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be turned into a reality. While presiding over the Formation

Commanders Conference at the GHQ, army chief said the Pakistani nation had remained a victim of terrorism for over a decade but turned the tide with its resilience and professionalism of armed forces.

[Terror war incurred \\$118 billion loss](#)

The Nation | 3rd June

Pakistan faced \$118.3 billion economic loss as an impact of terrorism and the war in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy during the last 14 years, said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. Presenting 'Pakistan Economic Survey-2015-16', Dar said the country incurred \$5.56 billion economic loss during the first nine months (July 15-March 16) of the outgoing financial year 2015-16 as against \$9.24 billion loss of the corresponding period of last year. The cash-starved country faced comparatively less economic losses in these nine months as Zarb-e-Azb and National Action Plan played a role in decreasing terrorism, he said.

[China, Pakistan to jointly monitor \\$46bn CPEC projects to check corruption: NAB chief](#)

DAWN | 3rd June

Anti-corruption organisations of Pakistan and China will jointly monitor the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its related projects to ensure transparency and avoid chances of corruption. Both countries will soon sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for anti-corruption cooperation and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman, Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, will fly to China this month to sign the document. This was stated by the NAB chairman while addressing a seminar on "Transparency in National Projects".

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lankan government committed to strengthen free education system - President](#)

Colombo Page | 2nd June

The Sri Lankan government is committed to strengthen the free education system and will act according to a comprehensive strategy to resolve the issues that have arisen in the field of university education in the country, President Maithripala Sirisena said.

['SL to receive first tranche of US\\$ 1.5 bn IMF loan next week'](#)

The Island | 2nd June

The first tranche of the US\$ 1.5 billion IMF loan facility to Sri Lanka is likely to be received by the country sometime next week, Central Bank of Sri Lanka Governor Arjuna Mahendran said. "We are looking for a loan of as much as US\$ 1.5 billion from the IMF as a seal of approval for the government's policies, in order to help draw further foreign inflows and to cover up our import bill, Mahendran told The Island Financial Review yesterday.

[Sri Lanka Navy arrests four Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters](#)

Colombo Page | 2nd June

Sri Lanka Navy said it has assisted the Sri Lanka Coast Guard on Thursday to arrest four Indian fishermen for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in Sri Lankan waters. The Navy personnel arrested the four fishermen along with an Indian fishing trawler while fishing in Sri Lankan waters northwest of Delft Island early morning today.

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