



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

**June 5th, 2017 | Volume: 3 - 2/6**

[ISIS leaders among 22 killed in airstrikes, ground operations in East of Afghanistan](#)

Khaama Press | 5<sup>th</sup> June

At least twenty two militants affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in a series of airstrikes and ground operations in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. According to the local government officials, the operations were conducted in the past 24 hours in the restive Achin district. The officials further added that the militants were targeted in the vicinity of Mamand Dara, Lata Band Bazar, Pekha, and some other areas.

[PM poll put off until tomorrow](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 5<sup>th</sup> June

The parliamentary vote scheduled to elect the new prime minister on Sunday has been deferred till Tuesday after the main opposition CPN-UML warned of obstructing the House in protest against the Election Commission's decision to conduct re-election in Bharatpur Metropolitan City-19 where ballot papers were torn up. The Parliament meeting was put off until Sunday afternoon after the UML said clearly that it would obstruct the House business.

[CPEC projects to address energy problem: China](#)

APP/ Dawn | 5<sup>th</sup> June

With the formal commissioning of its second unit later this month, the Sahiwal power plant will become one of Pakistan's clean coal power plants with the largest installed capacity of generating 9 billion kWh of electricity per year. The electricity produced by the plant will meet energy needs of nearly 10 million people. The first unit of the coal-fired power plant with a capacity of 660 megawatts was inaugurated by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last month and connected to the national grid.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[Karzai condoles over funeral attack victims](#)

Afghanistan Times | 4<sup>th</sup> June

Former President, Hamid Karzai expressed condolences for the death of a funeral attack took place on Saturday in Kabul. "With regrets, I learned that the enemies of Afghanistan once again committed an unforgivable crime by attacking the funeral prayers of Salem Izadyar, son of the deputy head of senate, Alam Izadyar, in which a large number of our country-fellows were killed in injured," Karzai said in a statement.

### [Afghan govt's call for talks rejected as Jamiat-e-Islami called emergency meeting](#)

Khaama Press | 4<sup>th</sup> June

The Jamiat-e-Islami led by foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani and Balkh governor Ata Mohammad Noor reportedly called an emergency meeting after the recent deadly incidents in Kabul. Noor in a statement said the government's call for talks to reach to an understanding regarding the recent incidents, was rejected during the meeting of the Jamiat-e-Islami. Noor said it also concluded in the meeting to seek clarification from the Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah regarding his stance about the latest upheavals.

### [MPs Warn against Ethnic Division, Call for National Unity](#)

Daily Outlook | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Lawmakers in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Sunday warned that fueling ethnic sentiments and ethnic-based politics will further deteriorate the situation, and instead called on the Afghan people and politicians to promote national unity and solidarity. In today's session, the administrative board of parliament slammed ethnic-based politics in the country and said it was an act of treason.

## **BANGLADESH**

### [PM Hasina hints at solving budget debates](#)

Prothom Alo | 4<sup>th</sup> June

Amid concerns of the business community and the general public about some provisions of tax, and VAT and excise duty in the proposed budget for fiscal 2017-18, prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday said her government will look into those for finding out solutions.

"We've given the highest-ever budget in the country's history amounting Tk 4,00,266 crore. There'll will be discussions on the proposed budget in parliament ...there might be some problems for some people. We'll look into and resolve those," the PM said. The prime minister was addressing the joint Iftar and Doa Mahfil 2017 of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the Jatiya Press Club.

### [Bangladesh Govt working to expand the Sundarbans](#)

UNB/ The Daily Star | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Acknowledging the importance of the Sundarbans for the country's existence, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government took development projects keeping in mind that the mangrove forest should not be affected in any way. The Sundarbans is not only a heritage for Bangladesh, it is also important for the country's existence, Hasina said at a function organised on the occasion of World Environment Day, tree fair and National Tree Plantation Campaign in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

### [Bangladesh rethinks MIP of some Indian goods](#)

The Financial Express | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Dhaka is reconsidering minimum import price (MIP) of some products as India said its exports to Bangladesh hit hindrance following a pricing order, officials said. The statutory regulatory order (SRO) was issued in July last year which had modified MIP of some products, including bicycles, ceramic sanitary products, and leaf springs. "The issuance of the order had an adverse impact on Indian exports to Bangladesh of several products," Indian commerce secretary Rita Teatota wrote to her counterpart in Dhaka recently.

### [Bangladesh targets 1.0m bales cotton production](#)

The Financial Express | 4<sup>th</sup> June

Cotton production can be enhanced to around 0.8 to 1.0 million bales from the existing hardly 0.1 million bales

annually, experts said. Cotton Development Board has adopted a five-year project titled "Extensive Cotton Cultivation" considering importance of the sector and its further development. On successful implementation of the project, the cotton production will increase many fold and that will save huge foreign currency.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Govt.'s prerogative to grant fiscal incentives: PM Tshering Tobgay](#)

Kuensel Online | 3<sup>rd</sup> June

A meeting between members of the Government and the Opposition, which was called yesterday to forge a consensus on Fiscal Incentives 2016, ended inconclusively. The chairperson of the finance committee, MP Karma Tenzin, said the meeting could not arrive at a solution. He, however, said that he was hopeful that the issue would be resolved by Monday. The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Namgay Dorji. "We couldn't meet because of lack of a quorum," said Finance Minister Namgay Dorji.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Shakoor appointed State Minister at Ministry of Environment](#)

Sun Online | 4<sup>th</sup> June

Abdul Shakoor Salih, who was dismissed from the position of Managing Director of State Electric Company (Stelco) this Sunday, has been appointed State Minister of Ministry of Environment and Energy. The appointment has been confirmed by Spokesperson at President's Office, Ibrahim Muaz Ali.

### [Fuvahmulah City Council established; former councils dissolved](#)

Sun Online | 3<sup>rd</sup> June

President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom has established the Fuvahmulah City Council, following the declaration of the island's city status. Following the decision, President Yameen has also abolished the former councils and their respective secretariats of the island as its terms have expired.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Rangoon Govt Allegedly Reneges on Land Agreement](#)

The Irrawaddy | 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Local businessman MichealKyawMyint accused Rangoon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein of violating a land agreement with farmers over nine acres in North Dagon Township. MichealKyawMyint, a former Karen National Liberation Army – Peace Council member, and high school teacher Daw Chaw Kay Khaing held a press conference in Tamwe Township over the regional government deciding to allow private construction company Myanmar V-Pile to develop high-rises on land that they claim is rightfully owned by farmer U Ohn Han.

## **NEPAL**

### [Nepal, China sign deal to build mega 1,200MW hydro project](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 5<sup>th</sup> June

The government has sealed a major deal with a Chinese company for development of a mega hydroelectric project, which could resolve perennial power crisis in the country and lay the groundwork to establish Nepal as an electricity exporter. The Ministry of Energy on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC) for the development of much-touted 1,200MW Budhigandaki Hydroelectric Project, the biggest hydro project set to be built in the country.

### [Cabinet okays Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Foreign investors can now get approval for investments of up to Rs five billion in Nepal from Department of Industry (DoI). The amendment bill of the Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Act (FITTA), which was passed by the Cabinet on Friday has authorised DoI to approve FDI to this limit. Currently, DoI is providing approval to foreign investments of up to Rs two billion in Nepal. Meanwhile, foreign investments of more than Rs five billion and up to Rs 10 billion must be approved by the Industrial Promotion Board, which is chaired by the industry minister. However, foreign investors will need permission from Investment Board Nepal to make investments of more than Rs 10 billion in Nepal.

### [Why Ncell paid the CGT?](#)

My Republica | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Ncell has paid the Capital Gain Tax (CGT) amidst a debate over whether the tax should be paid or not and who should pay the tax as there was no clear provision on acquiring CGT on offshore transactions. The amount paid by the Ncell as the CGT calculates to be the 15 percent of the share transactions.

## **PAKISTAN**

### [Four killed as Indian troops foil attack on camp in IOK](#)

AFP/ The Express Tribune | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Indian paramilitary forces killed four alleged attackers who tried to storm their camp in Indian-held Kashmir on early Monday. The gunmen lobbed grenades and fired automatic weapons outside the Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] camp in Indian-administered Kashmir before dawn, a spokesperson said. "They tried to storm the camp, but they were not even allowed to enter the gate," CRPF spokesperson Bhuvesh Choudhary told *AFP*. "All the four attackers were eliminated in a clean and wonderful operation. There were no injuries on our side.

### [Pakistan's polio fight wins praise in Geneva](#)

The Express Tribune | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Experts attending the World Health Assembly appreciated Pakistan's progress in polio eradication and urged other countries to benefit from Pakistan's experience in countering this deadly disease, Minister for National Health Services Saira Afzal Tarar said. World Health Assembly, which started on May 22 concluded last week on Wednesday in Geneva.

## **SRI LANKA**

### [Sri Lanka is open for investment opportunities - Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake](#)

Adaderana | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Sri Lanka is open for investment in areas of infrastructure, agriculture, export manufacturing, apparels, power and energy, recycling of waste, tourism and leisure, and export services, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ravi Karunanayake says. He added that, apart from those sectors, Ports and Development, Education, Telecommunications, Financial Services, Petroleum and related products along with several other thrust sectors covering all of the Sri Lankan economy.

### [Expressway not cause of floods: Home Affairs Minister Vajira Abeywardene](#)

Daily Mirror | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Minister of Home Affairs Vajira Abeywardene today dismissed the claims made by his Cabinet colleague Patali Champika Ranawaka that the Southern Expressway had been the major cause for the recent floods. “Some say that the Southern Expressway may have had a major impact on the recent floods but the real issue is mismanagement of rivers in the area,” Minister Abeywardene said.

### [Cabinet reshuffle a big farce, say Y'palana activists](#)

The Island | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Major civil society organisations that campaigned for Maithripala Sirisena and the UNP at presidential and parliamentary polls in 2015, have looked askance at the government's first cabinet reshuffle. The National Movement for Social Justice (NMSJ) and Purawesi Balaya said that the cabinet reshuffle was certainly meant to appease some members of the SLFP and the UNP.

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### ***About Ananta Aspen Centre***

*Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent and not-for-profit organisation that seeks to foster positive change in society through dissemination of knowledge. The Centre facilitates discussions on issues of international significance, values-based leadership and cross-sector outreach by engaging the civil society, government, private sector, and other key stakeholders.*

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