

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

June 6th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 26/6

**Top Stories**

['Chahbahar will Bring Prosperity to Afghanistan': PM Modi](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 5<sup>th</sup> June  
The trilateral agreement to operationalise the strategically located Chabahar Port will give Afghanistan a “new route to the world” and “a new path to prosperity”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said. Speaking after jointly inaugurating the Indi-Afghanistan friendship dam earlier known as Salma dam with the country's President Ashraf Ghani, the Indian prime minister said that India's capacity may be limited, but it was committed to redefine Afghanistan's future.

[Afghan and Indian leaders inaugurated the landmark Salma Dam in Herat](#)

Khaama Press | 4<sup>th</sup> June  
The landmark Salma Dam project was inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in western Herat province of Afghanistan. “Afghanistan & India have long and continued relations & today millions of ties bind our nations together,” President Ghani said in his speech during the inauguration ceremony of the dam. The government of India has invested nearly \$300 million for the construction of the Dam. The Dam is a Multipurpose project planned for generating 42 MW of power, irrigation of 75000 hectares of land.

[Resumption of meetings indicate thaw in relation](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Nepal and India are set to resume meetings of several bilateral mechanisms indicating a thaw in relation between the two neighbours that remained strained since Nepal promulgated new constitution in September last year. A bilateral meeting on water resources and irrigation was held in the Indian capital last week and several meetings are on pipeline, many of them scheduled to take place within this month, according to officials on both sides.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[Nangarhar airstrike leaves 18 Daesh fighters dead](#)

Afghanistan Times | 5<sup>th</sup> June

At least 18 insurgents, loyal to the Islamic State, known as Daesh were killed in an airstrike carried out in eastern Nangarhar province, security officials said. In addition to that, 11 Daesh fighters were injured in the raid. Daesh militants were targeted in the Kot district of the province, where the group termed some areas of the district as their safe hideouts.

**BANGLADESH**

[Dhaka, Riyadh to work together for world peace](#)

The Daily Star | 6<sup>th</sup> June

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia yesterday pledged to work together for global peace, development and welfare of the Muslim

Ummah. The pledges were made when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and held a meeting with him at Al Salam Palace at Al Andalus in Jeddah.

### [Bangladesh-based CloudWell announces \\$2 million investment from India's Aavishkaar](#)

Bdnews24 | 4<sup>th</sup> June

Bangladesh-based electronic payment solutions provider CloudWell Limited has announced a \$2 million investment from Indian venture capital Aavishkaar Frontier Fund. Organised by The City Bank Capital Resources Limited, the funding will be the second round for CloudWell within two years. Earlier, it had an equity investment from IIMI Asia Pacific, Singapore, in 2014, CloudWell said in a media release on Saturday.

### [US finds no difference between Bangladesh attacks and global terrorism](#)

Prothom Alo | 5<sup>th</sup> June

US ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat on Sunday said the recent terrorist attacks in Bangladesh are no different from such attacks in other parts of the world. The US ambassador expressed the observation to the newsmen after a programme at Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) in Dhaka marking World Environment Day.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Imported rice safe to consume: Agriculture minister](#)

Kuenselonline | 5th June

Tests results for chemical content of 12 imported rice varieties from India showed that they are safe for consumption, agriculture minister Yeshey Dorji said at the 24th Meet the Press session. Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) randomly selected samples of rice from the market and carried out rapid tests. Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji said the temporary ban implemented sometime in the second week of May on cauliflower and beans will continue.

### [Measures in place to address increasing regional visitors: PM](#)

Kuenselonline | 5th June

Although the unprecedented growth of regional tourists is a concern, the government is prepared and measures are in place to address the increasing number of visitors without undermining the high impact, low value tourism policy. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, at the meet-the-press session, said that it is the government's responsibility to carry out tourism activities without undermining the high value, low impact policy. "Be it an increase in regional or international tourists, it's the government's responsibility to address it," Lyonchoen said.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Adheeb sentenced to ten years in prison for possession of two firearms and explosives](#)

Sun Online | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Former Vice President Ahmed Adheeb has been sentenced to ten years in prison by the Criminal Court for possession of two pistols and explosives. The verdict from the Criminal Court said that the former Vice President has been found guilty.

### [Military vessel donated by S. Korea arrives in the Maldives](#)

Sun Online | 5<sup>th</sup> June

A military vessel donated to the Maldives by South Korea has been brought to the country today. The South Korean government donated a 20 feet long vessel used for coastal patrols.

### [Environment Minister launches National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan](#)

Sun Online | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Minister of Environment, Thoriq Ibrahim has launched the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in a ceremony held at the ministry on Sunday. Compiling a NBSAP – strategy and action plan of how each country will protect its biodiversity - is compulsory for all countries that have signed the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Delhi yet to firm Trans-Asian railway plans](#)

Subir Bhaumik Imphal – Mizzima Correspondent | 4<sup>th</sup> June

Indian policy makers talk of a Delhi-Hanoi railway link as if it is not very far away from reality, but plans for linking up Indian

and Myanmar railway systems have not yet been made. "If India and Myanmar railway systems are not connected and synchronised, the Trans-Asian railway from Delhi to Hanoi will only remain a pipe dream," says Atin Sen, with 30 years' experience in trans-regional logistics in Asia. India is almost three years behind schedule in implementing the Assam-Manipur rail link that intends to put Manipur capital Imphal on the country's railway map.

### [Myanmar's hardline monks regroup after political change](#)

AFP/Mizzima | 6<sup>th</sup> June

Over a thousand hardline Buddhists gathered on the outskirts of Yangon for the annual summit of their ultra-nationalist group Saturday, 5 June, as the anti-Muslim network looks to stay relevant under Myanmar's new civilian leadership. Maroon-robed monks, nuns and other followers filled the monastery in northern Yangon to mark the third anniversary of the founding of Ma Ba Tha, which has been at the forefront of anti-Muslim sentiment in Myanmar in recent years.

## NEPAL

### [Environmental balance must be focused on development: PM Oli](#)

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

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has insisted on the need of maintaining environmental balance while carrying out development endeavours. Addressing a programme organised by the Ministry of Population and Environment here on Sunday on the occasion of the World Environment Day, Prime Minister Oli said development works should be carried out only after completing a study of its impact on the environment.

### [Health Foundation Nepal talks tackling malnutrition](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 6<sup>th</sup> June

The fourth annual conference of Health Foundation Nepal (HFN) concluded here on Saturday, showcasing the impact of foundation's activities in tackling childhood malnutrition in Dang.

## PAKISTAN

### [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf \(PTI\) Chairman Imran Khan warns to hit the roads if PM Nawaz not held accountable](#)

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

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan addressed a public gathering in Kohat on Sunday and announced that the party shall hit the roads if Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is not held accountable in the Panama Leaks issue. "Why is PML-N afraid if the Prime Minister is not involved in any wrongdoings?", he inquired while addressing a public gathering in Kohat. He further stated that he is ready to be held accountable on the very Terms of References (TORs) that cater others in the investigation.

### [Govt 'overspent' Rs261bn in FY 2015-16](#)

DAWN | 6<sup>th</sup> June

Despite the government's protestations of "fiscal discipline", Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has sought parliament's post-facto approval for a Rs261 billion 'supplementary budget' to cover massive governmental expenditure overruns in the outgoing fiscal year, almost 28pc higher than the figure approved last year.

## SRI LANKA

### [PM, Cabinet to raise objections](#)

Daily News | 4<sup>th</sup> June

The Supreme Court was yesterday informed by counsel representing Cabinet of Ministers including the Prime Minister that they were intending to file limited objections over the Court's jurisdiction to hear a Fundamental Rights petition that had been filed challenging the constitutionality of the present government formed after August 17 General Election.

### [Sri Lanka to strengthen defense relations with Russia](#)

Colombo Page | 6<sup>th</sup> June

Sri Lanka and Russia pledged to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the military and technical spheres, when the Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov met with Sri Lanka's Defense Secretary Karunasena Hettiarachchi in Singapore on Sunday.

## [Pakistan reiterates continued support to Sri Lanka in field of education](#)

Colombo Gazette | 5<sup>th</sup> June

Pakistan has reiterated its continued support to Sri Lanka in enhancing younger generation's nation building capacities with better educational opportunities, Radio Pakistan reported.

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