

State of Emergency declared

Sun Online | 5th February

A State of Emergency has been declared in the Maldives. The State of Emergency was declared for the next 15 days withholding some of the constitutional rights which are: Freedom of public gathering and protest; Judicial administration; Warrantless arrests; Warrantless seize and search including property; Releasing of suspects; Fast investigations and trials; Civil suits; Legal appeal; Official summoning; Impeachment of President or Vice President; No confidence votes against cabinet ministers; Supreme Court rulings against the President; Supreme Court's right to the final decision; Impeachment of the Prosecutor General.

India Pledges \$100m for Afghan Projects

Tolonews / Daily Outlook

Afghanistan | 7th February

The money will be invested in 108 small development projects in different parts of the country. An agreement was signed between Indian Ambassador to Kabul Manpreet Vohra and Afghan officials on Tuesday, 6th February, based on which India will provide \$100 million USD for 108 small development projects in Afghanistan. Education and health sectors will be included in the 108 projects, officials said. There should be no delay in the implementation of the projects, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said at the signing ceremony of the agreement.

Md. Abdul Hamid as the President of Bangladesh, re-elected to the no-contest

BBC Bangla | 7 February

Md. Abdul Hamid has been re-elected as the 21st President of Bangladesh without any contests. Mr. Hamid submitted his nomination papers on Wednesday as the single candidate after examining the election of Chief Election Commissioner M Nurul Huda. On March 14, 2013, the then President Mohammad Zillur Rahman was the first president of the country while being treated in Singapore. After the death of President Zillur Rahman, on 20 March 2013, he started acting acting president.

[Afghanistan-Indonesia to Open Air Corridor](#)

Tolonews / Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 7th February

Commerce ministry said Afghanistan and Indonesia have formed committees to work on opening an air corridor between the two countries. Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) on Monday, 5th February, said Afghanistan and Indonesia have talked about opening an air corridor between the two countries. MoCI spokesman Musafir Quqandi said with the establishment of this air corridor, Afghanistan's exports will increase significantly. The presidential palace meanwhile said since the opening of the air corridor between Afghanistan and India, over 1,000 tons of goods have been exported to India on 65 flights.

[US Redeploying Forces from Iraq to Afghanistan](#)

Tolonews / Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 7th February

Contract workers at US military bases in Iraq have said troops are leaving on flights on a daily basis. The US military is redeploying its troops from an American-led coalition base in Iraq to Afghanistan following the defeat of Daesh in the country, Fox News reported. The report said that it western contractors at the base say US troops began the drawdown over the past week, with groups of soldiers leaving the base on daily flights. However, the exact scale of the redeployment was unclear.

BANGLADESH

[Upazila chairperson in Jhenidah arrested with 12 bombs](#)

Prothom Alo | 7 February

An upazila chairperson was reportedly arrested with 12 bombs while devising subversive acts from a house in Kut Chadpur upazila of Jhenidah on Tuesday, 6 February. The arrestee is Nazma Khatun, acting upazila chairman of the upazila. Acting on secret information, police conducted a raid at the house around 7:00pm while the chairman along with her men was planning subversion and recovered 12 bombs from the house, said officer-in-charge of Kut Chadpur police station Biplob Kumar Saha. Nazma became senseless seeing the law enforcers at her house and later she was sent to the Kut Chadpur Upazila Health Complex for her treatment, said the OC, adding that Nazma is serving as secretary of Kut Chadpur Upazila Jamaat Female unit, the OC added.

BHUTAN

[PM invites investors to explore opportunities in Bhutan](#)

Kuensel | 5th February

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay urged foreign investors to explore investment opportunities in Bhutan while speaking at the "Advantage Assam – Global Investors' Summit, 2018" in Guwahati, Assam. Hundreds of business leaders including the Chief Managing Director of Reliance Industries Ltd, Mukesh Ambani, TATA Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and Patanjali CEO Acharya Balakrishna attended the business summit. Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay thanked India's friendship and support in Bhutan's development and said, it is an attractive destination for investment and invited business leaders to visit Bhutan and explore opportunities of investments.

MALDIVES

[Chief Justice, Supreme Court Judge Ali Hameed arrested](#)

Sun Online | 6th February

Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed and Supreme Court Judge Ali Hameed has been taken into police custody. They were arrested in the pre-dawn hours of this Tuesday, 6th February. Maldives Police Service issued two subsequent tweets announcing that the Chief Justice and Judge Ali Hameed were arrested in connection with an ongoing investigation. "Sun" has been informed both the Chief Justice and Judge Ali Hameed are currently in police custody at Dhoonidhoo Prison. Police have also arrested the Chief Judicial Administrator at Department of Judicial Administration (DJA), Hassan Saeed.

[Ex-President Maumoon arrested](#)

Sun Online | 6th February

Former Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom – half-brother of current President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom - has been taken into police custody. He was arrested in the pre-dawn hours of this Tuesday, 6th February, from his spouse's residence, M. Endherimaage, as part of a special operation run by the police. Police entered Endherimaage after breaking down the door of the residence. Maumoon was taken into police custody for investigation into charges of bribing MPs and planning to illegally overthrow the government.

MYANMAR

[India's Exim Bank to invest in Myanmar's Healthcare Sector](#)

Mizzima | 7 February

Exim Bank's Market Outreach Programme on Indian Investment in Myanmar's Healthcare Sector, was launched on February 5, at Hotel Sule Shangrila. The Exim Bank, a statutory apex developmental financial institution, was set up in 1982 under an Act of Parliament of the Government of India to finance, facilitate and promote India's international trade and investment. The Bank is managed by Board of Directors, which has high level representatives from key ministries of the Government of India, the Central Bank of the country, commercial banks, Indian financial institutions and industry. Besides having offices at all the major centres in India, Exim Bank has nine overseas offices, including a representative office in Yangon, Myanmar.

[Myanmar and South Korea sign MoU to build logistics hub](#)

Mizzima | 7 February

Myanmar and South Korea have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to build a logistics hub of international standard in Yangon, Xinhau reported on 6 February. The logistics hub will be constructed by the Myanmar Ministry of Commerce and the HUBS MK Company of South Korea on a 24-hectare land plot in Yangon's Hlaingtharya township where the biggest industrial zone lies.

NEPAL

[Chair Dhakal meets Iranian foreign minister](#)

My Republica | 7th February

Eknath Dhakal, Chairman of Nepal Pariwar Dal met Mohammad Javad Zarif, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran on Wednesday, 7th February. According to the Santosh Paudel, spokesperson of Pariwar Dal, both discussed on national and international issues and mutual relation of both countries. Chair Dhakal said that Iran is interested to extend its relation with Nepal. Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zarif also felicitated Dhakal for the successful completion of local, province and federal election.

[UML, CPN-MC to intensify power sharing talks](#)

The Himalayan Times | 7th February

Chairman KP Sharma Oli and CPN-Maoist Centre Chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal will hold discussion on sharing power after the National Assembly election results are announced on Thursday, 8th February. "As the date for the formation of the new government nears, the two chairmen are under intense pressure to make a power sharing deal," a left alliance leader told THT. Oli and Dahal have to decide on president, vice-president, prime minister, speaker, deputy speaker, NA chairperson and vice-chairperson, and the chairperson the unified party. According to the constitution, speaker and deputy speaker of the federal parliament should be from different parties and gender, while chairperson and vice-chairperson of the NA should be from different gender.

PAKISTAN

[Anti-typhoid campaign: USAID to donate 250,000 syringes to Sindh govt](#)

The Express Tribune | 7 February

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will be partnering with the Sindh government on a children's anti-typhoid campaign by donating 250,000 syringes. After the health department noticed a recent rise in the number of drug-resistant typhoid cases, it reached out to USAID for assistance. The syringes will help immunise over 250,000 children against a drug-resistant strain of typhoid reported in Latifabad and Qasimabad, two sub-districts of Hyderabad.

SRI LANKA

[Team leaves for Abu Dhabi to facilitate extradition of Udayanga Weeratunga](#)

Colombo Page | 7th February

An eight-member team of officials are scheduled to leave for Abu Dhabi, UAE today to facilitate the extradition of the former Sri Lankan diplomat Udayanga Weeratunga, who was arrested by Interpol on Sunday (04) while in transit at the Dubai International Airport. According to the Law and Order and Southern Development Minister Sagala Ratnayake, the team comprises officials from FCID, CID, Foreign Ministry, Attorney General's Department and Immigration Department. The team will liaise with UAE authorities to facilitate the process to extradite the fugitive ex-diplomat under the extradition treaty between Sri Lanka and the UAE.

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