



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

June 7th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 27/6

Top Stories

[Bhutan among fastest growing economies: IMF](#)

Kuensel | 6th June

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecasted Bhutan to be the third fastest growing economy in the world for two consecutive years. The IMF's World Economic Outlook, projects the country's real GDP to grow at 8.4 percent this year. This is the third highest projection after Myanmar at 8.6 percent and the Ivory Coast at 8.4 percent.

[Saudi Arabia wants to hire 500,000 workers from Bangladesh](#)

Bdnews24 | 6th June

Saudi Arabia wants to recruit 500,000 workers from Bangladesh, including doctors, engineers and teachers. The kingdom's Labour Minister Mufrej Al-Haqbani told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of his country's plans during a meeting at the Jeddah Conference Palace on Monday. Saudi Arabia employs 1.2 million Bangladeshi workers, according to government data, making it Bangladesh's largest manpower market.

[Taliban Financing War Through Illegal Taxes](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 7th June

Farmers and members of the provincial council in the northern province of Baghlan said Sunday that the Taliban have imposed illegal taxes on them to finance their war. They said that the Taliban has ordered that for every 70 kilogram of wheat, seven kgs must be given to the Taliban as usher (tax). Farmers said that the Taliban issue them forms after collecting the tax.

AFGHANISTAN

[President Ghani visits Helmand to review the security situation of the province](#)

Khaama Press | 6th June

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani visited the restive southern Helmand province to review the security situation of the province which has been witnessing heavy clashes during the past several weeks. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said President Ghani delivered a speech to the Afghan Army personnel in 215th Maiwand Corps in Lashkargah city.

BANGLADESH

[BNP chief Khaleda charged in court in four more cases over 2015 blockade violence](#)

Bdnews24 | 6th June

Police have submitted chargesheets in court against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in four more cases over the violence during the 2015 blockade she had called. Now Khaleda is charged in court in altogether 11 such cases which, the BNP leaders are alleging, aim to keep her away from politics. The investigating officers submitted the four new chargesheets in the cases with Darussalam Police Station to Dhaka's Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on Monday.

[Hasina ranks 36th on Forbes' list of powerful women](#)

The Financial Express | 6th June

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina now ranks 36th on influential business magazine Forbes' list of 100 most powerful women in the world this year. The list published on Monday. Last year, she ranked 59th. German Chancellor Angela Merkel tops the list this year too, with former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton as the second powerful woman.

[Bangladesh ranks sixth in South Asian WRI-2016: Report](#)

The Financial Express | 6th June

Bangladesh ranked sixth in the 'South Asian Women's Resilience Index (WRI)' in 2016 in term of women's resilience in disaster risk reduction, according to a survey report. Among the seven South Asian countries, only Pakistan scored less than Bangladesh in the survey. The survey report was shared at a programme at a city hotel on Monday.

BHUTAN

[Vocational skills development centre inaugurated](#)

Mizzima | 6th June

Her Royal Highness Princess Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck inaugurated the Vocational Skills Development Centre for spouses of the Armed Force personnel, at Dechencholing. Their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, Dechen Yangzom Wangchuck, and Kesang Choden Wangchuck graced the inauguration. The Prime Minister and senior government officials were also present.

[Initiative to save wetland](#)

Mizzima | 6th June

Her Majesty The Gyaltzen inaugurated the Thimphu Eco Park during the World Environment Day celebrations yesterday. The park was established to protect the wetland in the capital city. The 10.77-acre wetland below the Changangkha Lhakhang, has now been designated an urban park to protect the ecological wealth in the area.

MALDIVES

[Maldives United Opposition: Adheeb trial was unfair](#)

Sun Online | 6th June

Maldives United Opposition (MUO) has said that the former Vice President Ahmed Adheeb was sentenced to ten years in prison based on an unfair trial. The statement issued by the opposition tonight following the ten-year sentence to Adheeb on terrorism last night, said that Adheeb was robbed of a just trial assured to every citizen by the Maldivian Constitution.

[Sentencing hearing in the embezzlement case of USD 5 million](#)

Sun Online | 6th June

The sentencing hearing in the embezzlement of USD 5 million from state funds case against the former Vice President Ahmed Adheeb and the former Managing Director of the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC), Abdulla Ziyath has been scheduled for tomorrow.

MYANMAR

[Ending AIDS by 2030](#)

Michel Sidibé/ Mizzima | 7th June

This week, leaders are gathering at the United Nations in New York to agree to a new Political Declaration on Ending AIDS. The AIDS epidemic has defined the global health agenda for an entire generation. The first AIDS-related deaths were diagnosed 35 years ago and HIV rapidly became a global crisis. The epidemic threatened all countries and had the power to destabilize the most vulnerable. By 2000, AIDS had wiped out decades of development gains.

[Prime Minister of Singapore makes official visit to Myanmar](#)

Mizzima | 7th June

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will make an official visit to Myanmar from Jun 7 to Jun 9, where he will visit the country's capital Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, according to an official statement. The visit coincides with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Myanmar. The visit will affirm Singapore's longstanding ties with Myanmar, underscore Singapore's commitment to support Myanmar's development, and discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, the statement said.

NEPAL

[Private sector, experts discuss Nepal-India trade](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 7th June

As Nepal and India are going to revise the trade treaty by October 27, experts and private sector players have said that the new treaty should address the escalating trade deficit, participation in Indian value chain, technical barriers to trade, preference erosion, trade facilitation, attracting investment, and trade capacity enhancement. They have also stressed on the need for effective implementation mechanism of the agreement.

[Nepal to request India for defence loan waiver'](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7th June

Nepal is preparing to request India for the supply of military hardware and a helicopter, during the meeting of the Nepal-India Bilateral Consultative Group on Security that takes place in New Delhi on Thursday and Friday, according to high-level officials.

[Job creation within Nepal is priority, claims PM](#)

Rastriya Samachar Samiti / The Himalayan Times | 6th June

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said the government has prioritised job creation within the nation in order to end the problem of unemployment. Inaugurating the 23rd National Convention of the Federation of Nepal Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI) and the 20th women entrepreneurs' conference here today, PM Oli asserted that the government's policies and programmes as well as the budget were centred on creating employment opportunities within the country itself.

PAKISTAN

[Interior Minister Nisar Ali Khan blames foreign hands for attempting to sabotage CPEC](#)

Daily Times | 7th June

Interior Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan has said certain vested groups and countries are out to sabotage China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Inaugurating Islamabad Safe City Project in the capital, he however said no power can undermine this mega project as people of two countries, their civilian and military leadership are committed to take it forward.

[PM Nawaz discharged from London hospital](#)

The Nation | 7th June

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was discharged from hospital after a week-long stay following his open heart surgery. Premier's son Hussain Nawaz earlier said the prime minister's health condition had improved and his blood reports were encouraging.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka the next paradise destination for investments - Foreign Minister in Paris](#)

Colombo Page | 6th June

Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mangala Samaraweera, speaking in front of a large delegation of French entrepreneurs covering multiple sectors in which the French expertise were present internationally, highlighted the potential of Sri Lanka as a paradise destination for investments.

[France backs Sri Lanka on GSP and lifting of EU fisheries ban](#)

Colombo Gazette | 6th June

France's has extended support for Sri Lanka's GSP + application and the lifting of the EU fisheries ban, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement today.

[US House of Representatives to be briefed on changes in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Gazette | 6th June

The United States House of Representatives will be briefed this week on the changes taking place in Sri Lanka since January last year. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives will be briefed on Thursday on the topic "Sri Lanka's Democratic Transition: A New Era for the US-Sri Lanka Relationship".

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