

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

June 8th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 28/6

Top Stories

[President Ghani reviews report on income sources of Taliban, ISIS, and other terror groups](#)

Khaama Press | 7th June

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has instructed the relevant security institutions to eliminate the income sources of the Taliban group, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group and other terror networks in the country. The Office of the President said the issue of income sources of the terror groups was discussed during the National Security Council (NSC) meeting chaired by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

[Nepal, India agree to speed up petro pipeline project](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 8th June

Nepal and India have agreed to speed up the construction of a long-planned cross-border oil pipeline. The 41-km pipeline linking Raxaul and Amlekhgunj is expected to ensure regular fuel supplies as it will eliminate the vagaries of transportation by tanker. The pipeline project was first proposed in 1995. High-level talks held in the Indian capital Delhi on Monday and Tuesday concluded with an agreement to start a detailed technical survey, land acquisition and tender process as soon as possible.

[Lanka to host World Economic Development Forum in Oct](#)

Daily News | 8th June

World Economic Development Forum 2016 (WEDEF) to be held in Sri Lanka in October. With the recent launch of the WEDEF 2016 to be held in Sri Lanka in October, the EDB has taken a bold step towards creating a true sense of the word of public, private partnership.

AFGHANISTAN

[Govt. Acknowledges Report on Mining Losses](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan (Tolonews) | 8th June

Afghan government confirmed that a number of opportunistic figures and armed groups have tried to muscle in on Afghanistan's mines. "Terrorist groups pay all their attention to the areas with national resources. Meanwhile, opportunistic figures use security gaps to misuse Afghanistan's natural resources," said President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Shahussain Murtazawi. This comes after Global Witness issued a new report on the millions of dollars being lost due to illegal mining activities.

BANGLADESH

[European Parliament wants Bangladesh parties hold real dialogue](#)

Prothom Alo | 8th June

Voicing concern over the current situation in Bangladesh, Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders has urged the government and democratic political parties to engage in 'real dialogue' for the country's stability, democratic and economic development.

“It’s now time for the government of Bangladesh and democratic parties together to engage in real dialogue....” Koenders, also Dutch Presidency for the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs, Security Policy and Vice President of the EC, said while delivering opening statement at a debate in the European Parliament (EP) on Bangladesh situation on Wednesday, reports news agency UNB.

[World Bank approves \\$10m for Bangladesh to scale up e-GP](#)

The Financial Express | 6th June

The World Bank approved \$10 million in additional financing to help Bangladesh scale up its electronic government procurement system to meet higher demand for more effective and efficient use of public funds. The additional financing to the Public Procurement Reform Project-II will help set up a new state-of-the-art data centre with 200 terabyte storage capacity and a mirror site to replace an existing lower capacity data centre to keep pace with exponential growth in demand for electronic procurement from public procurement entities.

[Cross-border malaria worries Bangladesh](#)

Bdnews24 | 6th June

Bangladesh has halved the number of malaria cases in the past seven years, but cross-border transmission poses a “new challenge” in eradicating the mosquito-borne disease by 2030, officials say. About 85,000 patients were identified with malaria in 2008 but the number fell to nearly 40,000 in 2015. The number of deaths dropped to nine from 154, according to the government’s malaria control programme.

BHUTAN

[Her Majesty inaugurates Wheelchair Accessibility Adaptation at Centenary Park](#)

Kuenselonline | 7th June

Her Majesty The Gyaltshen graced a ceremony to unveil the Wheelchair Accessibility Adaptation of the Centenary Park. The adaptation is part of an initiative to make public spaces accessible to people with disabilities, upon the Royal Command of Her Majesty The Gyaltshen.

[Local govt. elections postponed](#)

Kuenselonline | 7th June

The Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) has postponed the upcoming local polls by about one and a half months. The ECB had earlier notified that the second phase of the local government (LG) elections would be held in July, dates for which was supposed to be announced on 7th June.

[Nu 1.6M irrigation channel in Meretsemo fails](#)

Kuenselonline | 7th June

At least 50 farmers in Meretsemo of Bongo gewog in Chukha will not use the irrigation channel this season to cultivate paddy. Meretsemo is 19 kilometres away from Gedu. The channel which was constructed more than a year ago is not able to bring water to their paddy fields.

[NC introduces Bhutan Red Cross bill](#)

Kuenselonline | 7th June

The National Council introduced and deliberated the second non-governmental bill, the Bhutan Red Cross Society bill on Monday. The house has however asked the steering committee of the Bhutan Red Cross Society bill to make some minor corrections in eight of its articles as recommended by some of its members.

MALDIVES

[Hearings end in the Presidential Launch Explosion case](#)

Sun Online | 7th June

The hearings in the terrorism charges against the former Vice President Ahmed Adheeb Abdul Gafoor and his two bodyguards, Hassan Rikaz and Afza Ahmed Amir, following the explosion onboard the Presidential Launch “Finifenma” have concluded. At the latest hearing today, the prosecution and the defense presented their closing statements. Since the hearing was closed due to a “threat on national security”, the details of proceeding is unclear.

MYANMAR

[India increasing security on Myanmar border](#)

Indian Correspondent/Mizzima | 7th June

Satyendra Garg, Joint Secretary of India's Home Ministry in charge of the Northeast, said Delhi was alarmed by the recent ambush of Assam Rifles soldiers. "We have to increase security in the unfenced border region because separatist rebels are freely moving back and forth and attacking our forces," Garg told Mizzima during a recent visit to the Northeastern state of Tripura.

[NLD to Reshuffle Executive Committee](#)

The Irrawaddy | 7th June

Burma's ruling party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), will hold internal elections starting next week to replace some of its executive committee members who are no longer involved in the party's activities. A directive released by the NLD on Tuesday said there are some executive committee members at varying levels who have been expelled or have resigned from the party.

NEPAL

[Chinese officials meet Defence Minister](#)

The Himalayan Times | 7th June

A 13-member Chinese delegation, led by Deputy Chief of the General Staff Department Admiral Sun Jianguo, held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Bhim Rawal on Monday.

[MoE to use local financial resources to build hydro projects](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 8th June

The Ministry of Energy (MoE) will soon start building hydroelectric projects of up to 25 megawatts throughout the country by setting up independent companies in which the government, local residents, community organisations and cooperatives will be equity partners.

[Chinese Admiral hints at Xi Jinping's Nepal visit](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 8th June

Chinese officials visiting Kathmandu in quick succession have indicated a strong possibility of Chinese President Xi Jinping visiting Nepal later this year. Nepali officials have also been invited to visit Beijing in connection with Xi's potential visit.

PAKISTAN

[Opposition questions budget figures authenticity](#)

DAWN | 8th June

Questioning the veracity of the government's statistics during the second day of debate on the federal budget, the opposition in the National Assembly pointed out shortcomings in the finance bill and predicted that the illusion of stability offered by the finance ministry would soon come apart at the seams.

[Pakistan has developed a robust nuclear deterrent system: Sartaj Aziz](#)

The Nation | 7th June

Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz has said, Pakistan will take all possible measures to augment its defense capability. He was winding up discussion on an adjournment motion moved by Javed Abbassi in the Senate over the recent Indian test fire of supersonic Interceptor missile. He said, Pakistan is not oblivious to its defense requirements and upgrading its capabilities through suitable technologies without entering into arms race.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lankan government prepares to defeat the no-confidence motion against Finance Minister today](#)

Colombo Page | 8th June

The Sri Lankan parliament is scheduled today to debate the no-confidence motion against the Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake tabled by the de facto joint opposition. The Parliament will commence the debate over the no confidence motion at 2 pm and a vote will be taken at 6 pm.

[India to assist women in the Ampara district affected by the war](#)

Colombo Gazette | 8th June

India is to assist women in the Ampara district affected by the war, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said today. India and Sri Lanka today signed an MoU to set up a Women's Community Learning Centre in Ampara.

[Bahrain hails existing bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page | 8th June

Bahrain has hailed the existing bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka, the Bahrain News Agency reported. Bahrain Deputy Prime Minister HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa had expressed these views when he received the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr A. Saj U. Mendis.

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