

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

June 9th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 29/6

**Top Stories**

[Govt asks Taliban to stop violence during Ramadan; insurgents reject](#)

Afghanistan Times | 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Taliban insurgents refused to stop violence during the holy month of Ramadan, insisting to increase attacks, a response to the government's demand to ceasefire in the fasting month. Second Vice President Sarwar Danish asked the Taliban to stop violence during Ramadan month and let the Muslim Afghans to celebrate this holy month in peace and stability.

[Pakistan asks US to support its NSG bid](#)

DAWN | 9<sup>th</sup> June  
Pakistan has formally asked the US administration and Congress to support its application for joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). On Tuesday, US President Barack Obama formally endorsed India's application to join the group. Pakistan submitted a formal application in Vienna last month, expressing its desire to join the group. But the US administration and Congress are both unwilling to support Pakistan.

[Nepal-India IGC meet slated for June 28-29](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 9th June  
Nepal and India are scheduled to hold the commerce secretary-level Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting in New Delhi on June 28-29. The meeting is likely to discuss facilitating banking and insurance and minimising non-tariff barriers.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[Taliban commander, al-Qaeda affiliates killed in Wardak and Paktika airstrikes](#)

Khaama Press | 8<sup>th</sup> June  
A commander of the Taliban group was killed in an airstrike in central Maidan Wardak province of Afghanistan, the defense officials said. The airstrike was carried out by the Afghan Air Force in the vicinity of Shashgaw area targeting the Taliban militants. Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, confirmed that the Taliban commander was identified as Mansoor who was killed in the air raid.

**BANGLADESH**

[Not cutting off ties with Pakistan, says PM Hasina](#)

Bdnews24 | 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina says her government is not considering cutting down diplomatic ties with Pakistan. "We don't believe in cutting off ties with anyone," she told a press conference at her Ganabhaban residence on Wednesday. This came on a day when several political and social organisations including the Bangladesh Chhatra League demonstrated in Dhaka's

Gulshan asking the government to review ties with Pakistan in view of Islamabad's 'repeated interference' over war crimes verdicts.

### [Country programme deal to be signed with Denmark on Thursday](#)

The Financial Express | 8<sup>th</sup> June

With the aim of poverty reduction, growth and sustainable development of Bangladesh, Denmark has extended its financial assistance for another 5-year. To this end, the government of Bangladesh and Denmark is going to strike a grant deal for "Bangladesh Country Programme" on Thursday for 2016-2021 periods, an official of Economic Relations Division (ERD) has said.

### [Bangladesh economy to show strength despite lower global forecast](#)

The Financial Express | 8<sup>th</sup> June

Bangladesh economy would continue to show strength despite lower forecast for most of the developed countries, according to the latest economic update of the World Bank (WB). The Global Economic Prospects report of the WB, released on Tuesday, downgraded the global economic growth forecast to 2.4 per cent from earlier 2.9 per cent.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Bhutan's forests the last Himalayan biodiversity refugia](#)

Kuenselonline | 8<sup>th</sup> June

Wildlife conservation in the region is proving increasingly difficult mainly due to loss of forest to various activities, forest officials said. "Bhutan is the last Himalayan biodiversity refugia," Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) director Nawang Norbu said. "We have a unique opportunity in the 21st century because we protected areas in the north and south and forests that connect all of that," he said.

## **MALDIVES**

### [President submits policy paper to the Parliament on the state's position on extremism](#)

Sun Online | 8<sup>th</sup> June

President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom has submitted a policy paper on Terrorism and Violent Extremism to the Parliament today. The President's Office said that the policy paper was sent for debate and decisions of the Parliament including its views on further steps to be taken to address the issue.

## **MYANMAR**

### [DHL launches largest express facility in Myanmar](#)

Mizzima | 7<sup>th</sup> June

DHL Express, the world's leading international express services provider, has launched the largest express facility in Myanmar, set to support the nation's fast-growing economy which is forecast to rise by 8.5% in 2016, the company said in a statement. Located in Yangon and occupying over 50,000 square feet of land with a built-up area of 32,500 square feet, the facility's expansive handling capacity is set to support Myanmar's strong import and domestic demand.

### [Public forum on displaced communities held](#)

Mizzima | 9<sup>th</sup> June

Thirty-five delegates from twenty-five Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and community leaders working with conflict-induced displaced communities joined together for a workshop on "Fulfilling the Right to Land Restitution for Displaced Communities" from 6-7 of June 2016 followed by a public forum on the 8 of June in Yangon.

## **NEPAL**

### [Nepal-India JC meet likely after mid-August](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 9<sup>th</sup> June

The Fourth meeting of Nepal- India Joint Commission at Foreign Ministers' level has proposed after mid-August in New Delhi and date will be fixed during the upcoming India visit of Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa. Thapa is embarking on his fifth visit of India on Friday after the formation of the UML-led government, and his meeting with Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj is expected to pave the way for a meeting of the highest level mechanism between the two countries and fix its date.

### [Maoist faction's bandh throws life out of gear in Valley](#)

The Himalayan Times | 9<sup>th</sup> June

Normal life in the Kathmandu Valley has been thrown out of gear due to a nationwide bandh imposed by the Netra Bikram Chand-led CPN Maoist on Thursday. Educational institutions, markets and shops pulled down their shutters from early morning, while public and private vehicles stayed off the roads.

### [Joint agreement on West Seti project likely to be signed in a month](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 9<sup>th</sup> June

CWE Investment (CWEI) Corporation, the Chinese developer of the 750-megawatt West Seti Hydroelectric Project, has expressed interest to conclude a crucial agreement with Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) within a month to expedite the process of forming a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to build the project.

## PAKISTAN

### [Pakistan Awami Tehreek \(PAT\) Chief Dr Tahirul Qadri vows to struggle until justice for Model Town martyrs is served](#)

Daily Times | 9<sup>th</sup> June

In order to seek justice for the martyrs of Model Town incident, Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) Chief Dr Tahirul Qadri has confirmed his arrival in the provincial metropolitan on June 15 for holding a scheduled protest rally and sit-in at The Mall on June 17. PAT would organise the protest sit-in on the second anniversary of Model Town tragedy in which several workers, including female devotees of the party, were killed by the police on directions of the authorities. The party vows to struggle until justice is fully served in this regard.

## SRI LANKA

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

Colombo Page | 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### [World Bank expects Sri Lanka's growth to pick up to 5.3 percent for next 3 years despite monetary and fiscal tightening](#)

Colombo Page | 8<sup>th</sup> June

In its latest Global Economic Prospects report, the World Bank predicts Sri Lanka's economic growth will pick up to 5.3 percent in this year and in both 2017 and 2018 despite monetary and fiscal tightening.

### [Modi to speak via video conferencing during Jaffna stadium reopening](#)

Colombo Gazette | 9<sup>th</sup> June

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President President Maithripala Sirisena will jointly inaugurate the renovated Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna through video conferencing on June 18, Indian officials told the New Indian Express.

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