

Justices Won't Hear Uighur Case

NYT, 2 March 2010

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday said it would not decide a case involving Chinese Muslims detained for eight years at Guantánamo Bay that had been set for argument this month. The prisoners, captured in Afghanistan or Pakistan after the Sept. 11 attacks, have been determined to pose no threat to the United States, but the government has opposed their request to be released in the United States. In October, the court agreed to decide whether a federal judge in Washington had the power to order the men released from the prison at the naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States. But other countries have recently said that they would accept the detainees, and on Monday the justices said that factual developments since it had agreed to hear the case might “affect the legal issues presented.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/02/us/politics/02detain.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Opinion: A crucial shift

The News, 2 March 2010

There are significant and far-reaching shifts in the way in which the ruling establishment perceives and interacts with the Pakistani Taliban and the Afghan Taliban. Until very recently they were seen as discrete entities, separate but having complementarities and some shared interests. Today, there is a recognition – somewhat belated but no less welcome for all of that – that both the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Quetta Shura Taliban (QST) are essentially one and the same; jihadi organisations which have the overthrow of the state of Pakistan as well as Afghanistan as their core objective. Over the last eight weeks we have seen nine of the eighteen key members of the Quetta Shura detained by our security forces in several parts of the country. Whilst it is not possible to second-guess what will come next, it may be reasonable to assume that other detentions will follow, and if so, this will weaken the QS and by extension the TTP – which is a very long way from the position long-held wherein a benign linkage was maintained with both groups as a hedge against the future withdrawal of coalition troops in Afghanistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=226771

Arrest warrant against Tarique withdrawn

Daily Star, 2 March 2010

A Dhaka court on Tuesday withdrew the arrest warrant against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman a day after it was issued in an extortion case. Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hassan Talukder, who had issued the warrant on Monday, passed the order after counsels for the BNP Senior Vice Chairman appealed for withdrawal. The court on Monday cancelled bail of Tarique and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22496

SAARC Summit: preparations in full swing

Kuensel, 2 March 2010

The preparations for the 16th SAARC summit are underway in earnest with various royal government agencies spearheading the work gearing towards a March end completion deadline. In all, about 450 delegates are expected to attend the summit, besides a media contingent of approximately 150, which will converge to the capital from the airport in Paro, as well as by road from Phuentsholing. In addition, 86 editors and journalists from South Asia have already confirmed their participation in the South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) organised SAARC journalist summit, which is customarily held in the host country parallel to the SAARC summit.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14805>

**FNCCI team to meet PM
Kathmandu Post, 2 March 2010**

Amid growing security threats from suspected armed outfits, a business community delegation led by Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) will meet Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal on Tuesday. "We are seeking government action to safeguard the business community," said FNCCI President Kush Kumar Joshi. Worried businessmen are likely to ask the prime minister to arrange a number of security provisions: Private security, small arms and black sticker in their vehicles. "The private sector is seriously considering creating its own industrial security force," said Bhaskar Raj Karnikar, the FNCCI vice president.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/01/top-stories/FNCCI-team-to-meet-PM/5664/>

**Economic turnaround remarkable - Finance Ministry Secretary
Daily News, 2 March 2010**

The Sri Lankan economy has made a remarkable turnaround, Finance Ministry Secretary Dr. P. B. Jayasundera told the Daily News. "This is a reflection of the recovery in exports, imports, domestic construction, tourism, manufacturing activities, plantation and agriculture," he added. "He said the economic outlook has dramatically improved towards the last quarter of the year following the military victory in the North in May last year and global recovery." The recovery has also helped the Government to enjoy improved revenue collection in the last three months of 2009. He said the recovery centric improvement is likely to reduce the deficit to 7.5 in 2010.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/02/news01.asp>

**Holbrooke slams linking Kashmir to America's Afghan policy
The Hindu, 3 March 2010**

Careful not to mention Kashmir by name, Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Wednesday rubbished Pakistan's attempt to link the Kashmir issue with the American approach to stabilise Afghanistan. Fresh from a trip to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, Mr. Holbrooke said he did not agree with people who have advocated the inclusion of Kashmir in the U.S. regional approach to end the war in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article133211.ece>

India upset with Holbrooke view on Kabul attack

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Indian officials have described as "absolutely incorrect" the statement by Washington's AfPak envoy, Richard Holbrooke, that India was not the target of last week's terrorist attack in Kabul. The officials expressed surprise and even consternation at this assertion, which, they said, ignored the fact that the terrorists' primary target was a building used by the Indian medical mission. The U.S. assessment, they said, also ran counter to what Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security, has established so far.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article139119.ece>

Indian missions under fresh terror threat

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Indian missions in Afghanistan are under fresh threat from terror outfits as intelligence inputs suggest that such groups are planning new attacks. The fresh inputs received from Indian as well as international intelligence agencies said that terrorists may target Indian missions in Kabul and Jalalabad, Union Home Ministry sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article138980.ece>

Bangladesh arrest underlines continued jihadist threat

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Little evidence exists to support claims that a Bangladeshi jihadist held in Dhaka on Monday was involved in the 1999 hijacking of an Indian Airlines flight to Kandahar, highly placed police sources told The Hindu. But the sources said Jamaat ul-Mujahideen-linked Belal Hosain's arrest underlined concerns over the regrouping of jihadist groups, despite suffering losses due to a determined joint offensive by India and Bangladesh.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article125308.ece>

Forces regain control of Bajaur

The News, 3 March 2010

AMADOLA: The paramilitary Frontier Corps said on Tuesday that it had wrapped up its military operations in Bajaur Agency. Inspector General Frontier Corps (IGFC) Major General Tariq Khan said the latest offensive launched in late January meant that militants in Bajaur were no longer able to cross over into Afghanistan to join the fight against the US and Nato forces and would find it more difficult to stage attacks inside Pakistan. "We think the Bajaur operations have now more or less ended as dedicated military operations. We will switch our posture to policing operations," the IGFC told reporters in Damadola area, a key Taliban and al-Qaeda base that the Army seized at the beginning of February.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27582

Border force takes oath for discipline

Daily Star, 3 March 2010

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam has expressed the hope that the border guards will emerge as a disciplined force in a year through necessary reforms. "There is no alternative to making our force a disciplined one," he emphasised yesterday while addressing 850 officers and soldiers at a Special Darbar on the occasion of BDR Week 2010.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=128593>

**Culling and compensation going hand in hand
Kuensel, 3 March 2010**

Bird Flu Outbreak 3 March, 2010 - Nu 115,376 has been paid as compensation for the culling of 795 adult birds, young poultry and day old chicks, and the destruction of 91 coops and 157 eggs, following the recent outbreak of bird flu in Rinchending, four kilometres from the border town of Phuentsholing. As of yesterday 1,119 poultry were culled, 140 coops dismantled and destroyed and 250 eggs disposed of in and around Rinchending and Pasakha areas. The compensation for an adult bird is Nu 225, Nu 83 for young poultry and day old chicks, Nu 6 an egg and Nu 200 for a coop, according to livestock officials.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14809>

**SPECIAL EDITORIAL : Law and disorder
Kathmandu Post, 3 March 2010**

A second media entrepreneur has been shot dead within a month. On Monday, Arun Singhaniya, was killed in Janakpur, the cultural and political hub of the Tarai, on a day the people there were celebrating the festival of colour and hope, Holi. Singhaniya ran Janakpur Today, a local newspaper, and Radio Today, an FM station. Both are known to take strong positions against armed groups that proliferate the Tarai. Like Jamim Shah's killing in February, Singhaniya's killing seems to be the handiwork of a sharpshooter. The deaths have other noteworthy parallels. Like Shah, Singhaniya was shot at pointblank range; like Shah, he was attacked in a crowded neighbourhood where both must have thought they were safe until their deaths. Both were in the media and were, in that respect, public figures. Perhaps the killings have a message written large on the wall: the days of high-profile assassinations are here, no one is safe.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/02/top-stories/SPECIAL-EDITORIAL--Law-and-disorder/5708/>

**Ravi K violated Exchange Control
Daily News, 3 March 2010**

Deputy Exchange Controller Sisira Kumara Perera giving evidence before Colombo High Court Judge Deepani Wijesundera in connection with charges against former UNP Minister Ravi Karunanayake said the former UNP Minister had received US \$ Three million to his personal account from the American company Necksia. The Deputy Exchange Controller examined by Senior State Counsel Dilipa Chamath Peiris said he had also sent a letter to Karunanayake wherein the ex-MP was given seven questions to answer in connection with the charges.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/04/news01.asp>

**Individual liquor licenses will not be renewed, says Economic Ministry
Minivan, 3 March 2010**

The Ministry of Economic Development will not renew individual liquor permits, according to State Minister Adhil Saleem, and that new regulations governing the sale of alcohol will still apply minus the controversial clause permitting the sale of alcohol on inhabited islands. The Ministry will continue to honour existing licenses until they expired, Adhil said.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/03/03/individual-liquor-licenses-will-not-be-renewed-says-economic-development-ministry/>

**U.S. to Send Bomb Kits for Air Force of Pakistan
NYT, 3 March 2010**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States will deliver 1,000 laser-guided bomb kits to Pakistan this month and is considering additional arms sales to help the Pakistani Air Force combat insurgents in the Afghan border region. The Air Force secretary, Michael B. Donley, said Tuesday that the arms sales came in response to a request made by the air chief of the Pakistani Air Force in December. "There continues to be a dialogue back and forth," Mr. Donley said, noting that the government had already agreed to sell Pakistan munitions and night vision goggles, and was also stepping up training.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/03/world/asia/03pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Be careful while preparing NPR: Chidambaram
The Hindu, 4 March 2010**

The Government on Thursday asked district magistrates posted along the Indo-Bangladesh border to guard against people from across the border who may try to enroll their names in the National Population Register (NPR). Home Minister P. Chidambaram said there have been some instances in border areas where people from across the border have tried to get themselves enrolled in the NPR, which will be updated across the country beginning April one.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article145678.ece>

**Pakistan refuses to hand over Taliban big guns to US
The News, 4 March 2010**

PESHAWAR: Pakistan is unlikely to hand over Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar and other recently detained Afghan Taliban leaders to Afghanistan despite the demand by President Hamid Karzai's government and requests by the US authorities. Highly informed sources told The News that the government had decided in principle not to deliver the Taliban leaders to the Afghan government. "This decision is final," a senior government official said. According to sources, President Karzai had made the demand for Mulla Baradar's extradition to Afghanistan soon after his arrest in Pakistan. He then sent Afghan Interior Minister Muhammad Hanif Atmar to Islamabad on a quick visit to discuss the arrest of Mulla Baradar and other Afghan

Taliban leaders with his Pakistani counterpart Rehman Malik and to look into the possibility of their early transfer to Afghanistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27592

JS body to visit hills

Daily Star, 4 March 2010

Members of the parliament standing committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry would visit Baghaihat in Rangamati and Khagrachhari where three people were killed in recent clashes between indigenous people and Bangalee settlers. The committee members are scheduled to attend a views exchange meeting with civil society leaders at 9:00pm on Friday at Khagrachhari circuit house. The team is also expected to visit arson-affected areas and talk to victims and journalists on Saturday.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22539

Government to review Special Security Plan

Kathmandu Post, 4 March 2010

In view of the worsening law and order situation across the country, the government has decided to review the much-hyped Special Security Plan (SSP), which has been in place for the past eight months. Government officials have claimed that SSP, which provides additional policing in 27 "sensitive" districts, is a success. The Cabinet on Wednesday decided to this effect following some high-profile assassinations and threats to members of the business community and the media in recent weeks. The Madhav Kumar Nepal government endorsed the security plan last July with the aim of immediately implementing it in 27 Tarai and Eastern Hill districts and the three districts in Kathmandu Valley.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/03/top-stories/Government-to-review-Special-Security-Plan/5741/>

The Maldives will run for the UN Human Rights Council: Shaheed

Minivan, 4 March 2010

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed Shaheed, has lauded the progress of the Maldives towards human rights, in front of an audience of world leaders at the 13th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. Speaking to the UN Council on 1 March, Dr Shaheed said although the situation of human rights in the country was moving in the right direction, it is "still very much a work in progress."

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/03/04/the-maldives-will-run-for-the-un-human-rights-council-shaheed/>

BSF-BDR talks in New Delhi today

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

India and Bangladesh will discuss issues related to cross-border terrorist activities and joint patrolling of the frontiers as top officers of the border guarding forces of both the countries begin their four-day meeting here on Sunday. While Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Raman Srivastava will lead the Indian side,

Major General Mainul Islam is leading a 19-member team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) officials for the Border Coordination Conference here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article201926.ece>

**Nirupama Rao calls on Sri Lankan President
The Hindu, 7 March 2010**

Visiting Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao called on Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa here on Sunday and exchanged views on whole range of issues of mutual interest to both the countries in general and the ongoing rehabilitation and resettlement of the nearly three lakh Tamil civilians displaced during the war between the Sri Lankan forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the course of the 34 month war (July 2006 to May 2009) in particular. Ms. Rao is here on a three day visit on the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government to the island nation for interaction with her interlocutors on a wide range of issues of mutual interest to both the countries. Her visit comes days after the External Affairs Minister, S.M. Krishna told Rajya Sabha in a written answer that the war in the island nation is over but the search for a political settlement continues.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article202025.ece>

**Dhaka prepares to sign free trade agreement with Delhi
The Hindu, 7 March 2010**

Bangladesh is to resume talks after five years on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India that it hopes will allow greater access to the Indian market. Commerce Ministry officials are to begin the exercise on Wednesday and an inter-ministerial meeting is scheduled to be held end of this month to work out the details. A major objective of the agreement is to narrow Bangladesh's widening balance of payments deficit against India, worth more than \$3 billion a year in formal trade.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article201940.ece>

**India to continue work in Afghanistan
The Hindu, 7 March 2010**

India on Saturday emphasised that it would continue to work with Afghanistan and carry on with the humanitarian and reconstruction mission in the country, including medical work here that took a hit after the February 26 terror strike. "We have temporarily suspended the medical mission here. The other four in Afghanistan are going on and we will continue to work here in future," National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon said at a press conference at the end of his two-day visit here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article201621.ece>

**4 Shibir men arrested in Ctg
Daily Star, 7 March 2010**

Police in a raid arrested four activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir from Madarbari area in Chittagong city Saturday night. The arrestees were identified as Md Ibrahim, 18, Saiful Islam, 22, Abdullah Al Noman, 19, and Mahfuzur Rahman, 19. Police also recovered four books on Islamic movement from their processions. They were shown

arrested in a case filed by police in connection with a clash between Shibir and police in Chittagong on February 12. Of them, Abdullah Al Noman is a student of Chittagong University, reports the daily Prothom Alo.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22566

**Raising the dropout census issue
Kuensel, 7 March 2010**

Dzongda's Conference 7 March, 2010 - The government should review the cases of people, whose census were dropped after the nationwide census registration. Dzongdas voiced this concern during the 18th annual dzongdag's conference, which began yesterday. The dzongdas pointed out that census dropped-out cases occurred mainly because some people could not genuinely turn up while the census was carried out. They said that, while negligence was also a reason, ignorance of the people and officials involved in national census were also to be blamed for the dropout cases. Dzongdas said those in the armed force and private sector could not make it on time, while the census was carried out in their respective places, because of logistic and financial problems.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14845>

**Deputy blames Rawal
Kathmandu Post, 7 March 2010**

State Home Minister Rizwan Ansari said the law and order situation has been deteriorating because of Home Minister Rawal. "Security situation is worsening as Rawal has been taking decisions unilaterally," Ansari said at the Reporters' Club on Saturday. Rawal and Ansari are at loggerheads over the former's working style. Ansari has been speaking against Rawal publicly, saying that the home minister 'dislikes consulting with senior home ministry officials and police officers' on security-related issues.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/06/top-stories/Deputy-blames-Rawal/5864/>

**Money laundering: police discover \$400,000 in washing machine
Minivan, 7 March 2010**

Police have seized US\$398,500 in forged dollars after raiding Mahchangolhi Fortune at 6:00pm yesterday. Chief Inspector of police Mohamed Jamsheed said Ibrahim Khaleel of Lhaimagu in Shaviyani Atoll was arrested in connection with the case.

<http://minivannews.com/society/2010/03/07/money-laundering-police-discover-400000-in-washing-machine/>

**Sri Lankan Leader Rejects U.N. Plan to Study Abuses
NYT, 7 March 2010**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president has rejected a United Nations plan to appoint a panel of experts to look into allegations of human rights abuses in the nation's civil war, a statement from the president's office said Saturday. In a phone conversation on Friday evening, President Mahinda Rajapaksa told the United Nations

secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, that such a step was "totally uncalled for and unwarranted," the statement said. In New York, Mr. Ban's spokesman, Martin Nesirky, confirmed that the secretary general had told Mr. Rajapaksa he intended to form a panel to "advise him on the way forward on accountability issues related to Sri Lanka."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/07/world/asia/07lanka.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**U.S. Sees a Terror Threat; Pakistanis See a Heroine
NYT, 7 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Relations between the United States and Pakistan often have a through-the-looking-glass quality, where almost nothing appears quite the same from the other side. The latest example is the case of Aafia Siddiqui. In the United States, authorities say Ms. Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist who once studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is suspected of having links to Al Qaeda. She was convicted by a New York court in February of trying to kill American military officers while in custody in 2008 in Afghanistan. She faces life in prison when she is sentenced in May. In Pakistan, she has become a national symbol of honor and victimization so potent that politicians of all stripes, Islamists, the news media and an increasingly anti-American public have all lined up to champion her claim of innocence.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/06/world/asia/06wen.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Senior Taliban commander shot dead
The News, 8 March 2010**

PESHAWAR: In a surprising move in the militancy-stricken North Waziristan Agency, unknown assailants shot dead a senior Taliban commander, Maulvi Noor Mohammad, near Miramshah. Official sources told The News by phone from Miramshah on Sunday that Maulvi Noor Mohammad was travelling in a car near Gora Qabrestan when he came under attack. According to sources, he died on the spot and the attackers managed to flee the area. Maulvi Noor Mohammad, 40, belonged to Saidgai town, located near the border with Afghanistan's restive Khost province.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27666

**India voices tough on border killings
Daily Star, 8 March 2010**

Border Security Force of India on Monday assured Bangladesh that it would not tolerate the killing of innocent Bangladeshis on borders, BDR Director General Major General Mainul Islam said. Islam, who is now leading a 19-member delegation at a high level meeting at the BSF headquarters in New Delhi, said India also promised to crackdown on illegal phensidyl manufacturing factories along the borders with Bangladesh.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22589

**Federalism no solution: UML leaders
Kathmandu Post, 8 March 2010**

Sunday's CPN-UML Central Committee (CC) meeting heard some toughspeak against federalism from eight out of 17 leaders who maintained that the federal setup would not lead to economic prosperity and uplift backward people. They demanded that leaders review the party's decision to support a federal setup in view of "rising anti-federal sentiments" within the party. "Parties' decisions on federalism and state demarcation are unscientific," said CC member Karna Bahadur Thapa. He accused the parties of declaring a federal republic by keeping people in the dark. "State restructuring is meant to bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots," he said, adding that state demarcation is not the solution.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/07/top-stories/Federalism-no-solution-UML-leaders/5900/>

**Confidence and hope for Indo-Lanka ties
Daily News, 8 March 2010**

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao who met President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Janadhipathi Mandiraya yesterday congratulated the President for his resounding victory at the recent Presidential Election. She observed that so much had taken place for the better in Sri Lanka since she was last here as High Commissioner. She said the President's victory gave much cause for confidence and hope for bi-lateral relations between India and Sri Lanka in the future. The Indian Prime Minister looked forward to an early visit by President Rajapaksa to India, she said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/08/pol01.asp>

**Packed to no purpose
Kuensel, 8 March 2010**

Crossed wires between lower courts and police have led to overcrowding of Thimphu detention centre. Thimphu Centre Box 8 March, 2010 - Miscommunication between the district courts and police is causing an unnecessarily high number of citizens to be arrested and detained at the detention centre (centre box) here in Thimphu, Kuensel has found. The detention centre at the heart of town today holds 94 persons in a facility designed to accommodate only 38. There are 43 persons under trial and 51 in police custody awaiting arraignment. Sometimes, the number of persons detained even exceeds a hundred.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14852>

**Government approves project for floating golf course
Minivan, 8 March 2010**

The Maldivian government has signed a contract with Dutch Docklands of the Netherlands to develop a floating golf course and hotel in the Maldives. Minister of Trade and Economy Mohamed Rasheed signed the contract on behalf of the Maldives, and Chief Executive Officer Wen Di Cam signed on behalf of Dutch Docklands.

<http://minivannews.com/environment/2010/03/08/government-approves-project->

for-floating-golf-course/

Tk 15cr granted for each constituency
Daily Star, 9 March 2010

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved a project granting Tk 15 crore for rural infrastructure development work in each respective constituency. The project of Tk 4,691 crore has been taken to carry out rural infrastructure development works in the constituencies of lawmakers "irrespective of party affiliation."

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=129448>

Women still playing catch-up
Kuensel, 9 March 2010

Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2010 9 March, 2010 - Although Bhutanese men and women enjoy equal inheritance rights, men still continue to lead in the political sphere and labour force participation, states the Asia-Pacific human development report 2010, launched yesterday coinciding with the international women's day. With about 60 percent of rural Bhutanese women holding land registration titles, the report praises Bhutan's equal inheritance rights for men and women. However, male labour force participation remains significantly higher than that of women, especially in the urban areas, states the report.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14854>

Gayoom concerned over "false information" on women's rights
Minivan, 9 March 2010

Former President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has expressed concern at an increasing amount of "false information" being spread by Islamic scholars in the country concerning women's rights. Quoting from the Qur'an to prove his point during a DRP special event yesterday held on the occasion of International Women's Day, Gayoom said there was "no religious justification" for the inequality of women and that Islam "does not limit a woman's equal rights in society."

<http://minivannews.com/society/2010/03/09/gayoom-concerned-over-false-information-on-womens-rights/>

Next 30 days for first draft
Kathmandu Post, 9 March 2010

The Constituent Assembly (CA) is revising its schedule for the tenth time on Tuesday allocating 30 days for preparation of the statute's first draft. The amendment to the CA calendar will allot next 50 days for tasks including seeking feedback on the draft. Tuesday's CA meet will endorse the amendment to be finalised by Business Advisory Committee. "We are discussing allocating 30 days for preparation of the first draft and giving the next 50 days for procedures related to statute promulgation," said CPN-UML Chief Whip Bhim Acharya. The draft will then be taken for public feedback. Based on feedback, Constitutional Committee will prepare the bill related to the statute. CA members will then register amendments to the bill and clause-wise discussion will begin. The CA will have to pass every clause by two-third majority.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/08/top-stories/Next-30-days-for-first-draft/5937/>

Fonseka faces over five charges
Daily News, 9 March 2010

Military Spokesman Major General Prasad Samarasinghe yesterday said more than five charges will be filed against former Army Commander General Sarath Fonseka within a few days. This will be done in compliance with the provisions of the Army Act before a Court Martial, he said. He said the report of the Summary of Evidence on the charges against Fonseka was handed over to the Army Commander during the weekend. Military Spokesman Samarasinghe at a press briefing at the Media Centre for National Security, said the report is being scrutinized by Army Legal division officers before filing the charges.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/09/sec01.asp>

Dalai Lama's representative arrested in Nepal
People's Daily, 10 March 2010

The Dalai Clique's attempt to attract attention by stirring up trouble March 10 has been curbed by the Nepal government, according to a report by Global Times March 9. March 10, 1959 was the date on which the Dalai Clique launched a revolt in Tibet, but Tibetans in exile and their supporters, western media agencies, prefer to call it "uprising day." Over the past several years, some Tibetans in exile have surrounded China's embassies in European countries and the U.S. to protest on this sensitive day. Nepal, the country closest to Tibet, has become one of the major stages for such protests.

<http://chinatibet.people.com.cn/6914340.html>

Pakistan, US agree on new Afghan set-up
The News, 10 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: A strategic shift in Pakistan's three-decade old Afghan policy has taken a quiet but effective shape as Islamabad has successfully negotiated a peace plan with Mustafa Zahir Shah, the grandson of late King Zahir Shah, who would play a key role in future political dispensation comprising all ethnic groups. "It is a strategic coup by Pakistan against rising Indian influence in Afghanistan," an analyst tartly remarked commenting on the development. As Islamabad has agreed to untangle the complicated jihadist network fabricated by General Ziaul Haq in 1979, it has acquired 'iron-clad' guarantees from Washington and other world capitals to gain advantages not only in regional political and economic affairs but also to get peaceful nuclear technology related benefits, sources privy to the most significant development taking place in the region in more than quarter a century, claimed.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27714

2 lakh connections blocked over crime link
Daily Star, 10 March 2010

The government has blocked around 2,00,000 mobile phone connections which were reportedly used to carry out different crimes such as extortion and threatening

people. The information was disclosed at a meeting at the home ministry on Wednesday. A senior government official who was present at the meeting said the Subscriber Identification Modules (SIM) were blocked as allegations were received that some of these connections were used even in kidnapping.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22628

**A new look at an old threat
Kuensel, 10 March 2010**

There is a new twist in the story of the threats looming large high up in the mountains. Ten of the 25 glacial lakes, identified by ICIMOD as most dangerous, could be excluded from the category, according to Koji Fujita, who is on a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) assessment project in Bhutan's Himalayas. Koji Fujita, who is the manager of JICA-Japan science and technology project, said that the assessment was made, based on the latest satellite data processing, which he presented at a science workshop on GLOF conducted yesterday in Thimphu. Koji Fujita used criteria, determining relative angle from the lake surface to the outside of the moraine dam. According to the criteria, the steepness of the moraine determined the danger level of the lake – the steeper the moraine angle, the higher the risk. However, the criteria is yet to be validated.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14867>

**Alhan Fahmy criticises Adhaalath Party for “use of Islam as a political tool”
Minivan, 10 March 2010**

MP of the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) Alhan Fahmy has demanded the resignation of Adhaalath Party members from cabinet posts should the party continue “to take advantage of the political situation by using Islam as a tool.” Fahmy's comments, made at a recent MDP rally in Hulhumale', came in response to claims made earlier this week by Adhaalath Party's Vice President Asim Mohamed, suggesting that no political party in the Maldives would be able to run the government without the party's support.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/03/10/alhan-fahmy-criticises-adhaalath-partys-use-of-islam-as-a-political-tool/>

**Moves to strengthen LTTE abroad - PM
Daily News, 10 March 2010**

Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka told Parliament yesterday that there were international forces unfavourable to us attempting to strengthen the LTTE terrorist organisation abroad. They are assisted by certain local elements that wish to destabilize the Government and arrest the country's rapid economic development drive, Prime Minister Wickramanayaka said. The Prime Minister making his statement moving the motion to extend the State of Emergency by another one month, said certain elements attempting to strengthen the LTTE were arrested in Germany and another LTTE working abroad was arrested in Dehiwala.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/10/pol01.asp>

**'New-gen' in CA rise for timely statute
Kathmandu Post, 10 March 2010**

Seriously concerned over the "lust for power" among top leaders, a group of "new generation" Constituent Assembly (CA) members below the age of 50 have started a signature campaign to pressurise senior leaders to reach consensus and focus on constitution drafting. They also demanded meaningful participation in the process stating that they have been excluded from most of the critical stages. "There are over 430 of us who have not crossed 50, and we feel it's time we took the lead in making senior leaders responsible towards their duty," said Gagan Thapa, a 'new generation' CA member from Nepali Congress. "We have started the campaign to pressurise seniors as the ball is in their court."

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/09/top-stories/New-gen-in-CA-rise-for-timely-statute/5975/>

**Pak-Afghan joint declaration
The News, 12 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan on Thursday reaffirmed to build enduring ties by consolidating neighbourly relations and respect each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. This was stated in a joint declaration signed by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi and his Afghan counterpart Zalmai Rassoul here on Wednesday at the end of state visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai to Pakistan. The two sides emphasised that strong Pakistan-Afghanistan ties are important for regional peace, security and development.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27748

**Pakistan navy tests missiles in Arabian Sea
Daily Star, 12 March 2010**

Pakistan's navy successfully test-fired a series of missiles and torpedoes Friday in what it called a message to "nefarious" forces — an apparent reference to longtime rival India. While the two nuclear-armed neighbors have taken slow steps toward restarting peace talks, they also have a history of using weapons tests as a form of diplomatic saber-rattling. The missiles were launched from aircraft, submarines and ships in the Arabian Sea. It was not immediately clear if the weapons were capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22661

**Chinese firm interested to supply MRP
Kathmandu Post, 12 March 2010**

A Chinese company has forwarded a proposal to supply Machine Readable Passport (MRP) at US\$ 3.90 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). According to the proposal, each MRP copy will cost 10 cent less than the Indian proposal, which is emerging as a "dark horse" in terms of bagging the final MRP contract. After the ministry cancelled the global MRP bid four months ago, about 10 public and private firms have put forth their proposals at the ministry. They have offered competitive prices, ranging from US\$ 2.99 to 4.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/11/top-stories/Chinese-firm-interested-to-supply-MRP/6040/>

Courts Martial begin March 16 and 17
Daily News, 12 March 2010

Commander-in-Chief President Mahinda Rajapaksa has appointed two Courts Martial to inquire into charges against former Army Commander and Chief of Defence Staff Sarath Fonseka. This was done on the recommendations of Army Commander Lt. Gen. Jagath Jayasuriya, Military Spokesman Major General Prasad Samarasinghe told the media yesterday. Each Court Martial will commence at the Navy Headquarters on March 16 and 17.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/12/news01.asp>

Nuclear cooperation will cover all areas: Putin
The Hindu, 13 March 2010

India-Russia cooperation in civil nuclear energy will be wide ranging and cover areas such as nuclear waste and safety of reactors as well, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said, during a video conference with businessmen from the country's main metros here. Mr. Putin also advised a section of Indian business and strategic community to be "realistic" in its attitude towards Pakistan and take into consideration the action taken by Islamabad against some militant organisations operating along its border with Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article243754.ece>

BSF digs 25 bunkers inside Bangladesh
Daily Star, 13 March 2010

Indian Border Security Force dug 25 bunkers following an overnight intrusion into Bangladesh territory through Padua-Protappur border in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet and retreated yesterday afternoon after 19 hours. The BSF's retreat from about 100-yard inside the international border came after an emergency flag meeting held from 1:30pm to 3:30pm on 'no man's land' at Padua-Protappur border amidst tension prevailing there since Friday night.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=129955>

US report damns impunity in Nepal
Kathmandu, 13 March 2010

Impunity for human rights violators and threats against the media were the most serious problems for Nepal in 2009, said a new US State Department report on the rights situation in Nepal. Released on Thursday, the 2009 report on human rights in Nepal states that both the government and political parties have contributed to the worsening rights situation in 2009.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/12/top-stories/US-report-damns-impunity-in-Nepal/6071/>

Climate change heads the agenda

Kuensel, 13 March 2010

16th SAARC Summit 13 March, 2010 - The 16th SAARC summit, scheduled to be held in Bhutan in April, will provide an opportunity where politics, hopefully, will not come in the way of cooperation, according to Nobel laureate and chairman of the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC), Dr Rajendra Kumar Pachauri. Climate change is the main agenda of the Summit. Dr Pachauri, who is on a two-day visit, said that the summit will provide an opportunity for SAARC countries to discuss common problems related to climate change that will affect all the countries. "I think politics won't come in the way, because the theme is a problem all the countries are dealing with," he said in a brief press conference yesterday.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14891>

**Ports provide 235,000 new jobs
Daily News, 13 March 2010**

More than 25,000 direct employment opportunities and 200,000 indirect employment will be generated within the next five years in the ports and shipping sector, Ports Authority Chairman Dr Priyath Wickrama said. Addressing the media at the Mass Media and Information Ministry in Colombo yesterday, he said five port development projects are being carried out. From 2005 the Government has spent US \$ 1.7 billion on port development projects, he added.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/13/news01.asp>

**Next round in New Delhi
Kuensel, 14 March 2010**

GNH Seminar 14 March, 2010 - The first ever seminar between Bhutan and India on GNH concluded on March 12, with participants from both sides acknowledging the need for more discussion and study for the development philosophy to be successfully implemented. Dasho Karma Ura, the president for the centre for Bhutan studies (CBS), said that the "rich dialogue" had "enriched" the understanding of GNH for both Bhutanese and Indian participants. The seminar saw, what a CBS press release described as, "influential minds in India" talking to Bhutanese counterparts on various topics related to GNH. The Indian delegation included young politicians, sociologists, environmentalists, conservationists, and health activists.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14898>

**Murder of newborn baby sends mother and daughter to life in prison
Minivan, 14 March 2010**

The Criminal Court has sentenced a woman and her mother to life in prison for killing an illegitimate new born baby. Aminath Hussain, 31, and her 64 year old mother Sakeena Ali, both of Omadhu, Thaa Atoll confessed to the crime in court.

<http://minivannews.com/society/2010/03/14/murder-of-newborn-baby-sends-mother-and-daughter-to-life-in-prison/>

**Karzai seeks common Pak-Afghan strategy against terrorism
The News, 15 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Hamid Karzai made a telephone call to Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Sunday evening, reiterating the demand to develop a common Pak-Afghan strategy to arrest the increasing incidents of terrorism in the larger interest of the people of the two countries besides the regional peace. The Afghan president expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of innocent lives in the recent acts of terrorism in Lahore and Mingora. He reminded the prime minister that during their talks in Islamabad recently, he had mentioned that the circumstances in both the brotherly countries were so similar that an act of violence in any of the two neighbourly countries was followed by a similar incident in the other.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27791

BDR vows tough line on drug peddling
Daily Star, 15 March 2010

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Major General Md Mainul Islam on Monday said he would not hesitate to give directives to his troops to open fire at drug peddlers if necessary. "We'll show zero tolerance to drug trading. I'll order my force on borders to open fire at drug peddlers if necessary in future," he told a press briefing at BDR headquarters in Pilkhana.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22705

Maoists roll up sleeves for no-trust resolution
Kathmandu Post, 15 March 2010

The main opposition UCPN (Maoist) on Sunday started collecting signatures from its lawmakers for the special session of Parliament, where the party could move the no-confidence motion against the Madhav Kumar Nepal government. Bringing the government down, however, will be an uphill task as the party has just 237 members in the 601-member House. "Though the party hasn't yet officially decided to take up the motion, plans are afoot to go on the offensive," said a UCPN (Maoist) leader. "One of our agendas for the special session is to table the no-confidence motion against this government," senior Maoist leader C.P. Gajurel told the Post. "Discussion is going on with other parties to topple the puppet government."

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/14/Nation/Maoists-roll-up-sleeves-for-no-trust-resolution/6157/>

Filed with the Cabinet
Kuensel, 15 March 2010

Final FDI Draft Policy 15 March, 2010 - Following almost a year of fine-tuning, the country's first draft foreign direct investment (FDI) policy is ready and had been submitted to the cabinet for approval last weekend. With it was the public-private partnership framework for infrastructure projects. Save a few key changes, including some unresolved issues that the cabinet would have to deliberate upon, the final draft policy reads similar to the last draft.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14906>

US search for LeT link with Jamaat: Shafique
Daily Star, 16 March 2010

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed on Tuesday said the US government was examining if Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami had any link with Pakistan based militant organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba. The US will assist Bangladesh in combating militancy and terrorism and finding out its financiers, the minister told reporters at his office at the secretariat. Shafique, who just returned home after his 10-day visit to the US, said he was also assured of help to bring back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22726

President concerned over delay, uncertainties
Kathmandu Post, 16 March 2010

President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav has expressed deep concern with Constituent Assembly (CA) Chairman Subas Nembang regarding uncertainties over the constitution drafting process. The president invited Nembang to his official residence at Sheetal Niwas on Monday for consultation on the status of the constitution drafting process. "The president shared deep concerns with the Speaker regarding the uncertainties related to constitution drafting," said the president's Press Adviser Rajendra Dahal. "He also asked about measures to be adopted for timely promulgation of the statute."

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/15/top-stories/President-concerned-over-delay-uncertainties/6187/>

UPFA kicks off from Kandy
Daily News, 16 March 2010

The large scale election campaign of the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) will commence on March 19 in Kandy with a mass rally under President Mahinda Rajapaksa's patronage, Transport Minister Dullas Alahapperuma said. The UPFA will hold 26 main election rallies at district level with the President's participation from March 19 to April 5, he said. Addressing the weekly UPFA press briefing at the Mahaweli Centre, Colombo yesterday, Minister Alahapperuma said the UPFA will hold another 74 election rallies at electoral level with the participation of Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka and other UPFA leaders.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/16/pol01.asp>

Call for a rural development policy
Kuensel, 16 March 2010

15 March, 2010 - The development buzzwords today may be McKinsey, FDI and economic development policy, but dzongdas, the chief executive officers in the dzongkhag who are in direct contact with rural Bhutanese, reminded the government for a need of a rural development policy. During the 18th annual dzongda's conference, which concluded last week, dzongdas asked if the government had such a policy. Punakha dzongda, Kuenzang N Tshering, who tabled the issue, said that the government should think of a rural development policy that goes beyond agriculture, increased food production and preserving culture.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14907>

'We don't have guns but we can fight with our pens': Hiriga Minivan, 16 March 2010

Attacks on five senior DhiTV senior officials and the stabbing of a Haveeru employee yesterday afternoon have sparked concern among media outlets that they could be subject to further attacks over their content. DhiTV reported on its 2 o'clock news yesterday that alleged gang leader Ibrahim 'Chika' Nafiz had been released to house arrest. Soon after the broadcast, a gang reportedly stormed DhiTV studios.

<http://minivannews.com/society/2010/03/16/we-don%E2%80%99t-have-guns-but-we-can-fight-with-our-pens-hiriga/>

**Rao emphasises India's role in Afghanistan
The Hindu, 17 March 2010**

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao has concluded her visit to Washington, during which she impressed upon U.S. officials the importance of India's continued commitment to its developmental work in Afghanistan. Her trip also saw a sharp focus on high-tech trade and the Strategic Dialogue that was initiated last July when Secretary Clinton visited India. In a brief to U.S. interlocutors earlier this week Ms. Rao drew attention to several key regional issues according to Rahul Chhabra of the Indian Embassy, including her talks with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan in February. She also touched upon the recent developments in Afghanistan and stressed "that Afghanistan presented the foremost security related challenge in the region," Mr. Chhabra said. In that context, Ms. Rao emphasised the need "for the international community to stay the present course in Afghanistan for as long as it is necessary." U.S. officials reportedly conveyed their appreciation of the important developmental work being done by India in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article248418.ece>

**PM leaves for China
Daily Star, 17 March 2010**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka for Beijing Wednesday afternoon at the invitation of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao. She was seen off at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, senior leaders of Awami League, chiefs of three services, members of the diplomatic corps and senior officials. She was accompanied by Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Dipankar Talukdar. Besides, eminent citizens, MPs and a business delegation were included in her entourage.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22743

**Fonseka appears before Court Martial
Daily News, 17 March 2010**

The first Court Martial, appointed to try General Sarath Fonseka on charges against his participation in political work while in active service commenced its sittings as scheduled at 9.30 a.m. yesterday morning at Navy Headquarters. The Court Martial,

presided by Major General H.L Weeratunga took up three charges separately under the above category in accordance with provisions in the Army Act during hearings.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/17/news01.asp>

Security measures in place for Summit Kuensel, 17 March 2010

17 March, 2010 - The country will be hosting the seven most important people from its neighbouring seven south Asian nations for the upcoming SAARC summit. With slightly over a month remaining for the event, the country is speeding up work to ensure the comfort of all the heads of member states during their weeklong stay at the capital city. On the security front, however, the government is optimistic about the measures it is undertaking.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14928>

Exchange of high level visits slated this year Kathmandu Post, 17 March 2010

Foreign Ministry officials from Nepal and China are busy working out a suitable date for President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav's state visit to China in the second half of this year. As preparations get under way for exchange of high-level state visits, it has come to light that Chinese President Hu Jintao or Prime Minister Wen Jiabao is likely to visit Nepal after President Yadav returns from China. Although China is yet to extend an official invitation, officials from both sides are preparing for Yadav's maiden trip to coincide with Shanghai Expo-2010. "As of now, two separate dates are being mulled. The president could be there for Nepal day of the Expo on Sept. 3 or on the closing day on Oct. 31," a Foreign Ministry official said.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/16/top-stories/Exchange-of-high-level-visits-slated-this-year/6226/>

Rothschild banking dynasty to assist Maldives with goal of carbon neutrality Minivan, 17 March 2010

The Rothschild banking dynasty in Europe has agreed to help the Maldives towards its goal of carbon neutrality, following a meeting between President Mohamed Nasheed and Baron Benjamin and Baroness Ariane de Rothschild in their Genevan chateau. In the first phase of the agreement signed on Monday, the family's financial services arm La Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild (CTBR) will secure international financing to fund a carbon audit of the Maldives.

<http://minivannews.com/environment/2010/03/17/rothschild-banking-dynasty-to-assist-maldives-with-goal-of-carbon-neutrality/>

Pakistan Charges Americans With Terrorism NYT, 17 March 2010

LAHORE, Pakistan — Five young American Muslims detained in Pakistan last December on suspicion of seeking to join jihadists in Afghanistan were formally charged Wednesday, in a case that added to fears that Westerners might be increasingly be turning to Islamist-inspired terrorism. The five men, friends from the

Washington suburbs in their late teens and early 20s, pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include plotting attacks in Afghanistan as well as raising funds to commit terrorism and planning attacks against Pakistani allies and targets within the country, according to Hassan Katchela, a defense lawyer for the men. Some of the charges carry life sentences.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/18/world/asia/18pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Bangladeshi Prime Minister arrives in Beijing
People's Daily, 18 March 2010

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Beijing Wednesday evening to start a five-day official visit to China. During Hasina's visit, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo are expected to meet her. Premier Wen Jiabao will hold talks with her.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6923054.html>

India, Bangladesh hold talks on sharing of Teesta water
The Hindu, 18 March 2010

The Joint River Commission was established by India and Bangladesh to work for the common interests and sharing of water resources, irrigation, floods and cyclones control. As the two-day water talks began here on Thursday, Bangladesh hoped to reach an interim agreement on the vexed issue of Teesta river water sharing at the meeting being held after a gap of five years while India insisted on sorting out certain technical issues first. "The expectation is high. We are here to grow the relations between the two countries further," Bangladesh Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen told PTI here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article257120.ece>

China pledges free market access
Daily Star, 18 March 2010

China will allow duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to its markets and increase its support for the country's efforts to face floods and other natural calamities caused by global warming. Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao gave the assurance during official talks with Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina held at East Hall of Great Hall yesterday afternoon.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=130713>

National judicial commission formed
Kuensel, 18 March 2010

The members of the commission are the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye, the seniormost drangpon of the Supreme Court, Tshering Wangchuk, the chairperson of the legislative committee, Ugyen Wangdi, and the recently appointed attorney general, Phuntsho Wangdi. As prescribed in the Constitution, the judicial commission will begin filling vacancies in the High Court. The first task of the commission will be nominating the fourth Supreme Court justice, which still lies vacant. Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye earlier said that the fourth justice would be elevated from among the judges of the High Court.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14936>

Another betrayal by Sarath Fonseka
Daily News, 18 March 2010

General Sarath Fonseka is attempting to internationalize domestic issues and has displayed his disloyalty to the country by secretly dispatching a letter to the United Kingdom based Channel 4 television station which has been supporting the LTTE terrorists for over a long period, Minister Dullas Alahapperuma said. Addressing the Cabinet media briefing yesterday. Minister Alahapperuma said General Fonseka has sent this letter in his own handwriting.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/19/news01.asp>

Islamic Ministry proposes extremist rehabilitation centre
Minivan, 18 March 2010

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs has renewed its proposal for an 'extremist rehabilitation centre' to curb fundamentalism in the country. The idea was first raised in a letter from the Islamic Ministry to the Home Affairs Ministry and the President's Office in April 2009. According to the President's Office Spokesman Mohamed Zuhair, joint consultations were held yesterday about how to best take the concept forward.

<http://minivannews.com/society/2010/03/18/islamic-ministry-proposes-extremist-rehabilitation-centre/>

China's help sought for deep-sea port, road link
Daily Star, 19 March 2010

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought Chinese cooperation to construct a deep-sea port in Chittagong and establish road link between Chittagong and Kunming. "China can be benefited by using the deep seaport while all neighbouring countries also can use it," Hasina said as a key speaker at the Bangladesh-China Business Forum and Luncheon Reception at State Guest House Diaouthai.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=130836>

First steps to preferential treatment
Kuensel, 19 March 2010

Bhutan and Nepal have agreed to work towards a preferential trade agreement as the first step in formalising trade between the two Himalayan countries. This will involve drawing up a list of export products by both countries that will enjoy preference in terms of reduced export duty. Trade officials from the two countries met in Kathmandu, Nepal, on March 17 to look into the possibilities of having a trading agreement.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14943>

Dahal asks Nepal to resign
Kathmandu Post, 19 March 2010

UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal has asked Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to resign to pave the way for formation of a national unity government. Dahal said this during his one-on-one meeting with the prime minister

at the latter's residence on Thursday. The meeting lasted for close to an hour. During the meeting, Dahal reiterated his stance on forming the new government under UCPN (Maoist) leadership. "The peace process cannot reach its logical conclusion unless the Maoists lead the government," Dahal told reporters after the meeting.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/18/top-stories/Dahal-asks-Nepal-to-resign/6300/>

**Poverty down nine percent
Daily News, 19 March 2010**

The national poverty level has dropped by nine percent. The decline in poverty is mainly due to the village centered development projects started under the Gama Neguma program under the Mahinda Chintana, Nation Building Ministry Secretary W.K.K. Kumarasiri said. Addressing a media conference at the Department of Information, Kumarasiri said the poverty level that was 24 percent in 2007 had come down to 15.2 percent at present and the Government is implementing programs to reduce poverty further.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/20/news01.asp>

**China, Bangladesh vow to lift bilateral links to higher level
People's Daily, 20 March 2010**

China is ready to lift the comprehensive partnership of cooperation with Bangladesh to a new level, Chinese President Hu Jintao said Friday. In a meeting with visiting Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Beijing, Hu expressed appreciation for the outstanding contributions that Hasina had made to enhancing friendship between the two countries.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6925336.html>

**India and Bangladesh exchange documents on Teesta water sharing
The Hindu, 20 March 2010**

India and Bangladesh achieved a "significant movement forward" during their two-day talks on the sharing of Teesta waters with an understanding that the two sides would finalise an agreement on the issue within a year. Both sides exchanged draft documents during the ministerial-level 37th Joint River Commission talks that concluded here on Friday. During the talks Bangladesh proposed a draft interim agreement, while India suggested a 'statement of principles' including on modalities and methodology of sharing the Teesta waters during dry season. Now the two documents would be reconciled at official-level talks.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article258933.ece>

**Nepali PM meets secretary of CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee
People's Daily, 21 March 2010**

Nepal's Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal met here Saturday with Zhao Leji, member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and also secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee at his official resident. In their talks, Zhao Leji expressed his thanks to Nepali government's long-term assistance and cooperation on Tibet-related issues.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6925519.html>

India playing a stellar role in rebuilding Afghanistan: Krishna
The Hindu, 21 March 2010

Refuting reports that it has been "squeezed out" of Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna has said India was playing a "stellar role" in rebuilding the war-torn country which was acknowledged by the people and the legitimate government there. He also said India has taken note of Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai's statement that it was a friend and Pakistan a conjoined twin.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article260949.ece>

A towering Koirala no more
Kathmandu Post, 21 March 2010

Girija Prasad Koirala, the architect of the peace process, who brought the Maoists to peaceful politics, passed away at his daughter and Deputy Prime Minister Sujata Koirala's residence in Mandikhatar on Saturday afternoon, leaving behind a rich political legacy of the Koirala family and a deep void in transitional politics. Born on Feb. 20, 1925, the four-time prime minister and Nepali Congress (NC) president emerged as a towering political figure, giving hope that peace is possible in the conflict-ravaged country.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/20/top-stories/A-towering-Koirala-no-more/6383/>

President Karzai leaves for China
People's Daily, 23 March 2010

Afghan President Hamid Karzai left here for a state visit to China on Tuesday. "During his three-day tour, President Karzai would hold meetings with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and top legislator Wu Bangguo to exchange views on matters pertaining mutual interests," said a statement issued by Afghanistan's Presidential Palace.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6927946.html>

Kayani, Petraeus agree to enhance defence ties
The News, 23 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani met with US Central Command Commander General David Petraeus at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between Pakistan and the US. During the meeting, General Petraeus and General Kayani discussed ways to advance cooperation and collaboration in countering extremist violence in Afghanistan, as well as US support for Pakistan's own fight against violent extremists. They also discussed improvements in coordination between Pakistan's military and US forces in eastern Afghanistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27932

New info highway to link neighbours
Daily Star, 23 March 2010

The government's vision of a "digital Bangladesh" came a step nearer yesterday when the Executive Committee on National Economic Council approved a Tk 29 crore project to establish an information highway with India, Nepal and Bhutan. Fifty-five

kilometres of fibre optic cables will be installed between Panchgarh and Banglabandha and a landing station will be built in Panchgarh, which will provide a rural wireless broadband network and portal service.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=131332>

Dark clouds

Kathmandu Post, 23 March 2010

There has been apprehension among the political class — not least within the Maoist party — that Girija Prasad Koirala's death could possibly lead to further damage to the peace process. And although GPK's place in the political sphere had steadily become more marginal in recent months (the three milestones being the formation of the Maoist-led government in September 2008, the souring of relations between parties caused by the attempt to sack Chief of Army Staff Rookmangud Katawal and the subsequent replacement of that government by a UML-led coalition in May 2009, and the resentments towards Koirala that arose within the Nepali Congress as a result of the appointment of his daughter Sujata as Deputy Prime Minister in October), it is clear that disaster could yet arise if the parties do not make major efforts to change course.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/22/Oped/Dark-clouds/6451/>

The old guard in a new era

Kuensel, 23 March 2010

Annual Gup's Conference 23 March, 2010 - Gups, elected gewog heads, from 199 gewogs are in Thimphu to discuss and resolve various local government issues, but mainly to understand where they stand in the new political structure. An upshot of democracy, the gewog leaders said, is that their workload has increased, respect from the people has diminished and they are struggling to understand and draw a line between politics and local governance. This year's annual conference of the gups, which began yesterday, is the second such meeting, since the introduction of parliamentary democracy, and the first after the recent reinstatement of the local governance department under the home ministry.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14974>

Foreign revenue up US \$ 3.3 b

Daily News, 23 March 2010

Foreign revenue has increased by US\$ 3.3 billion to be on a par with the previous year which recorded an increase of US\$ 2.9 billion, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Secretary Susil S. Sirisena said. He was speaking after opening a provincial office and training centre in Vavuniya District. This is the 27th branch which opened by the Bureau this year. Sirisena said the number of expatriate workers is increasing rapidly. "There is an encouraging demand for Sri Lankan labour in the world as we are reputed to have hard-working people," he said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/24/news01.asp>

Parliament paralysed by punch-up pandemonium

Minivan, 23 March 2010

Parliament was cancelled today by Speaker Abdulla Shahid, after DRP MP Ahmed Mahloun reportedly approached MDP MP Alhan Fahmy, tapped him on the shoulder

and informed him he was sitting in a DRP seat. MPs from the major parties leapt to the defence of their respective party members, and the chamber quickly degenerated into a brawl.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/03/23/parliament-paralysed-by-punch-up-pandemonium-over-protocol/>

**Pakistan asks for US nuclear, mly, intelligence aid: WSJ
The News, 24 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has sent a 56-page document to the US ahead of strategic talks scheduled for Wednesday, seeking expanded military and economic aid in what some American officials believe is an implicit offer to crack down in return on the Afghan Taliban, reports the influential Wall Street Journal. In a report filed by Matthew Rosenberg and Peter Spiegel, the paper said this previously undisclosed document includes requests ranging from the US help to alleviate Pakistan's chronic water and power shortages to pleas for surveillance aircraft and support in developing the country's civilian nuclear program.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27943

**PM gets trial process going
Daily Star, 24 March 2010**

Just a day before the Independence Day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night approved initiation of the trial of war criminals of the Liberation War. It was confirmed by Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, who told The Daily Star that on completion of official process a gazette notification would be issued in the later hours today. "But we'll announce it formally tomorrow [today] in the afternoon," said the law minister.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=131469>

**No green light for LG elections
Kuensel, 24 March 2010**

Annual Gup's Conference 24 March, 2010 - The long delayed local government elections saw renewed debate yesterday at the annual gup's conference in Thimphu, when gewog heads asked the chief election commissioner (CEC) if there would ever be an election of local leaders. Expressing urgency, gups questioned when the election process would begin and how it would be conducted and said that they wanted an answer before they returned to their gewogs. Bhutan will be electing about 1,200 gups, tshogpas, mangmis, thrompons and thromde tshogpas during the local government (LG) elections.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14986>

**Nepal to ink MRP deal with India
Kathmandu Post, 24 March 2010**

The Foreign Ministry and the Indian government are set to clinch the controversial Machine Readable Passport (MRP) deal. "Letters to this effect will be exchanged between the foreign secretary and the Indian ambassador within this week. A separate MoU will be signed between MoFA and officials from Nasik-based Indian Security Printing and Minting Press (ISPMP) later. The ISPMP had sought 10 weeks to

deliver the first consignment of MRPs to Nepal.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/23/top-stories/Nepal-to-ink-MRP-deal-with-India/6465/>

Another group of Lankans held

Daily News, 24 March 2010

Somalian pirates seized a British Virgin Island cargo ship carrying a Bermudian Flag with 23 Sri Lankans of the 25 crew on board. The vessel was seized off the Oman coast Tuesday. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson said they were informed that a British Virgin Island cargo ship was believed to have been hijacked by the Somalian pirates with 25 crew of which 23 were Sri Lankans adding that however that the ownership of the cargo ship captured by the pirates was yet to be confirmed.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/25/news01.asp>

Karzai visit yields major pacts

People's Daily, 25 March 2010

China has announced more investment in Afghanistan and pledged to continue aiding reconstruction efforts in the war-torn neighboring country. President Hu Jintao and his visiting Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai witnessed the signing of three deals on Wednesday, which cover economic cooperation, technical training and the granting of preferential tariffs for some Afghan exports to China. Details were not disclosed. China is seen as a key player in an international coalition seeking to secure and rebuild Afghanistan, particularly after US troops pull out, analysts said, adding that Beijing is striving to help boost security and revive the economy in Afghanistan.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6929577.html>

India, Bangladesh to join hands to save Sunderbans

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

With the bio-diversity of Sunderbans facing threat, India and Bangladesh have decided to join hands to protect the world's largest mangrove forest and a joint forum will be formed soon in this direction. Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh has invited his Bangladeshi counterpart to discuss the issue of environmental degradation of Sunderban ecosystem and prepare a joint action plan to meet the challenges. "There will be a joint forum between India and Bangladesh for protection of Sunderban ecosystem that spreads from India to Bangladesh," he said at a press conference.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article304577.ece>

War crimes tribunal formed

Daily Star, 25 March 2010

The government on Thursday formed the much-awaited tribunal for the trial of crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971. Justice Nizamul Haque of the High Court Division has been made chairman of the three-member tribunal. Two other members are HC judge AKM Fazle Kabir and retired district judge AKM Zahir Ahmed. At a press briefing at the secretariat, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed also announced a 12-lawyer prosecution team and seven-member team for investigation.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22881

A positive step towards transparency

Kuensel, 25 March 2010

The Press 25 March, 2010 - In what is a positive development towards making the government functioning transparent, the prime minister Lyonchhoen Jigme Y Thinley and his cabinet will meet the press every month to answer queries from journalists. The first question and answer session with the press, which lasted more than two hours, was conducted yesterday with journalists from both print and broadcast media asking a variety of questions on the activities of the government.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14990>

Taliban say they can 'reconcile' with India but justifies Kabul attack

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

Claiming that it was not in "direct conflict" with India, the Taliban have said there was a possibility of reconciliation even as they justified the February 26 Kabul attack on Indians as a "legitimate" action. In a self-contradicting interview, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed his organisation did not want India out of Afghanistan but attacked the country for supporting the Hamid Karzai government and western forces.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article306293.ece>

Call for quick trial of war criminals

Daily Star, 26 March 2010

The nation paid tribute to its Liberation War martyrs yesterday celebrating the 40th Independence Day, with citizens of all walks of life expressing their expectation that the government will soon start fair and expeditious trials of war criminals. Hundreds of thousands of people of different generations thronged Liberation War memorials across the country all through the day.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=131808>

PM brings gups up to speed 6th Annual GYT & DYT Meeting

Kuensel, 26 March 2010

26 March, 2010 - As deciders of national policies and plans, the cabinet's responsibilities are crucial, while those of the local leaders translate into something paramount, as they ensure that policies and plans are implemented across the country. Bearing this in mind, Lyonchhoen Jigme Y Thinley, in his meeting with the gups yesterday, recapitulated the plans and policies, both ongoing and in the offing under the DPT government.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15004>

OHCHR asks Army to come clean

Kathmandu Post, 26 March 2010

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Nepal has expressed concern over Nepal Army (NA)'s non-cooperation in the civilian investigation of the deaths of three females in Bardiya National Park on March 10 and urged it to come clean on the incident. In a statement on Thursday, the UN rights body said that even after two weeks "the relevant state authorities have been unable to complete their investigations in accordance with the law and their mandates." This follows other incidents wherein civilian authorities have not been able to properly investigate cases concerning the NA as per the law, it said.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/25/top-stories/OHCHR-asks-Army-to-come-clean/6534/>

Senior DRP leaders taken into police custody
Minivan, 26 March 2010

Police used tear gas grenades to disperse a large crowd, after political demonstrators from the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and opposition Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) clashed during an MDP rally at the artificial beach last night. Sub Inspector Ahmed Shiyam reported that both protesters and police were injured in the skirmishes, although none seriously.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/03/25/senior-drp-leaders-taken-into-police-custody/>

Over 193,607 IDPs resettled
Daily News, 26 March 2010

The government has resettled 193,607 Internally Displaced Persons of the North and only 76,205 IDPs remain to be resettled. These people are housed in six welfare villages in the Menik Farm area of Vavuniya, Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services Ministry Secretary U.L.M. Haldeen told the Daily News yesterday. These remaining people are original settlers of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Madhu regions where the de-mining operations were continuing. They would be resettled in their original villages and lands when they are cleared of mines. These three regions were heavily mined by the LTTE terrorists when they were fleeing. These IDPs would be resettled stage by stage when their original villages are made safe for human habitation, he said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/27/news02.asp>

5 Pakistani Security Officials Killed in Clash With Militants
NYT, 26 March 2010

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Taliban militants battled Pakistani security forces for control of a security outpost in a tribal region near the Afghan border, leaving five Pakistani security officials and dozens of Taliban fighters dead, Pakistani authorities said Friday. The Taliban captured the outpost in the Orakzai tribal region on Thursday night after more than 100 militants bombarded it with mortars and automatic-rifle fire, said a Pakistani security official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media. A lieutenant colonel of the paramilitary Frontier Corps and four other security officials were killed, he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/27/world/asia/27pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

U.S. and Pakistan Agree to Reinforce Strategic Ties
NYT, 26 March 2010

WASHINGTON — Pakistan and the United States wrapped up two days of high-level talks on Thursday, with a raft of economic development initiatives, an agreement to hasten deliveries of military hardware and a promise to put their often mistrustful relationship on a new footing. In a communiqué issued after the talks, the countries said they would “redouble their efforts to deal effectively with terrorism” and would work together for “peace and stability in Afghanistan.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/world/asia/26policy.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

PM warns of attempt to foil war crimes trial
Daily Star, 27 March 2010

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday called upon her party leaders and workers and the people from all walks of life to remain alert so that none can foil the trial of war criminals. "As the process of the trial of war criminals started, a conspiracy is being hatched by certain quarters against it. You have to remain vigil to prevent any sort of conspiracy in the greater national interest," she said.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22909

AL lawmakers wary of crises
Daily Star, 28 March 2010

Senior Awami League leaders, who were left out of the party's central committee, yesterday suggested that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urgently resolve priority issues including crises of power, water and gas. They also advised that Hasina, also the AL president, pay more attention to maintaining law and order across the country.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=132042>

LeT expanding to other South Asian states: US
The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), predominately a threat to India, is fast expanding its operations to other South Asian countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, a top US military official told US lawmakers on Friday. The dangerously expanding influence of LeT, which was responsible for the Mumbai attack in 2008, is an issue of concern for the Obama Administration, said Admiral Robert Willard, Commander of the US Pacific Command, in his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28026

Al-Qaeda, Taliban militants on the run: FM
The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The al-Qaeda and Taliban militants were on the run and fleeing the Afghan border regions for new destinations since Pakistan has no longer remained as their safe haven, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi declared on Saturday. "Our operations have curtailed the border crossings. Today, Taliban, al-Qaeda and their associates are on the run. They are running away from Pakistan because they're seeing the seriousness, the resolve of the people and the armed forces against militancy," he told the Charlie Rose Show for Public Broadcasting Service.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28036

Tokyo weighs assistance for Sri Lanka
Asahi Shimbun, 29 March 2010

The government is weighing how to help police in Sri Lanka overcome ethnic differences that are hindering reconciliation in the aftermath of a civil war that ended last year. A former high-ranking official from the Fukui prefectural police will join a delegation from the Foreign Ministry and the Japan International Cooperation Agency

that will visit Sri Lanka from Monday to assess ways assistance could be provided. Last May, Colombo declared victory over the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) after 25 years of armed civil hostilities. However, reconciliation between the majority ethnic group Sinhalese and the minority Tamils has been a major problem.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003280236.html>

15 militant outfits active
Daily Star, 29 March 2010

Country used mainly for transit to neighbouring countries till 2005, say detained foreign militants

At least 15 foreign militant organisations were active or are still operating in Bangladesh since 1991 using the country as a safe shelter or transit to infiltrate neighbouring countries. The organisations are Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Tehrik-e-Jehad-e-Islami-Kashmiri (TJI), Harkat-ul Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Jehadul Islami, Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HuM), Hezbe Islami, Jamiatul Mujahideen, Harkatul Ansar, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), India-based Asif Reza Commando Force (ARCF), Myanmar-based militant groups Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO) and National United Party of Arakan (NUPA).

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=132179>

Development in full swing as Rs 76.16 B projects begin
Daily News, 29 March 2010

The Nation Building Ministry is implementing 18 projects islandwide with Rs 76.16 billion aid covering irrigation, agriculture, livestock, education, health, housing and infrastructure development, Ministry Secretary W.K.K Kumarasiri told the Daily News yesterday. The housing project for war affected people in the North and East under the Negenahira Navodaya and Uthuru Vasantaya rehabilitation programs was funded by the World Bank and the European Union. Under this project 53,000 houses will be built while the investment on this project is around Rs. 17,103.16 million. Improvement of the standards of living of the war and tsunami affected in the North and East is also another project with Rs. 9.2 billion investment, he said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/03/30/news03.asp>

Maldives announces US\$313 million in pledges at Donor Conference
Minivan, 29 March 2010

Speaking at the close of the 2010 Maldives Donor Conference, Vice President Dr Mohammed Waheed Hassan announced that the government has received pledges of support totalling US\$313 million for a period of three years. The crowded hall of donors at Bandos Island Resort and Spa included delegations from countries as diverse as Saudi Arabia, Australia, Japan and Norway, as well as international financial groups such as the International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank and the sovereign wealth Abu Dhabi Fund. A breakdown of the pledges is not currently available, Minivan News was told, as several donor countries had requested time to consult their home agencies before solidifying the figure.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/03/29/maldives-announces-us313-million-in-pledges-at-donor-conference/>