



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

June 12th, 2017 | Volume: 3 - 5/6

[Top Taliban leader arrested by the Afghan forces in Baghlan](#)

Khaama Press | 12th June

A top leader of the Taliban group has been arrested during an ambush of the Afghan security forces in northern Baghlan province. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) in a statement said the group's shadow district chief for Khost Farang was arrested during the ambush of the Afghan national police forces earlier this morning.

[PM Hasina leaves for UK, Sweden tomorrow](#)

The Daily Star | 12th June

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will make a two-day official visit to Sweden on June 15-16 to further deepen and expand the cooperation between the two countries. Hasina is the first head of state or government who is making a bilateral visit to Sweden. She will go to Sweden via London. Her flight is around noon tomorrow.

[In a first, PM Nawaz Sharif to appear before JIT on June 15](#)

DAWN | 12th June

Nawaz Sharif is set to become the first sitting prime minister to appear before any investigating agency, when he appears before the joint investigation team (JIT), constituted to probe money-laundering allegations against his family. The unprecedented development will make him the first incumbent to appear before such a panel, let alone one probing allegations of financial irregularities or fraud against nearly his entire family, going back three generations.

AFGHANISTAN

[Government to provide 5,000 returnees with jobs](#)

Afghanistan Times | 11th June

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development said Sunday that it runs a project to provide job opportunities for 5,000 returnees in eight provinces. "Running of this program aims to provide job opportunities to those Afghan refugees who have returned from neighboring countries," the ministry said in a statement. The project focuses on carpet weaving sector and has allocated 335 million afs for the project, according to the statement.

[Ghani and Sharif to ramp up war on terror](#)

Afghanistan Times | 11th June

President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have agreed to speed up fight against terrorist outfits and to bolster bilateral cooperation, TOLO news reported. Ghani and Sharif held a meeting on the sideline of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit this weekend in Astana of Kazakhstan, where they joined hands to intensify their joint efforts in a bid to confront terrorism. Sharif reportedly expressed condolences over the recent terrorist attacks, especially the bloody wave of violence in Capital Kabul, following the May 31 tanker bombing in the sensitive zone of the city that claimed over 500 killed and wounded.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh must be ready for the 'One Belt One Road' initiative](#)

Prothom Alo | 12th June

The 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) initiative will spell seamless connectivity for Bangladesh and the rest of the region, and beyond. It is imperative for Bangladesh to prepare from now to reap full benefit of this initiative. Speakers at a roundtable on 'One Belt One Road' termed it as a win-win initiative for all. The roundtable, held on Sunday at the Prothom Alo office in Karwan Bazar, was organised by Prothom Alo with support from Standard Chartered Bank. Speaking as chief guest on the occasion, Minister for Planning AHM Mustafa Kamal said that China's OBOR initiative was not exactly new, it could be seen as an extension of the trade route set up 2000 years ago by the Han dynasty of China. It was a purely trade route then, but now would be seen from the development perspective too.

[FY18 budget to help boost country's economy: MPs](#)

The Financial Express | 11th June

Hailing the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, members of the treasury and opposition benches have said the allocations for all sectors were rationally made to further boost up the country's economy. Terming the new fiscal document a dependable economic tool for self-reliant Bangladesh in near future, they said the government would be successful to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 and developed country by 2041 riding on implementation of the country's biggest budget.

[Current account deficit hits \\$1.75b in 10 months](#)

The Financial Express | 12th June

The country's current account deficit reached \$1.75 billion during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year (FY17). It was in surplus of \$ 3.52 billion in July-April period of the past fiscal year (FY16), according to the latest statistics of the central bank. The difference between a nation's savings and its investment is generally known as the current account.

BHUTAN

[ACC charges two former land commission officials](#)

Kuensel | 10th June

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) forwarded its investigation report on fraudulent registration and encroachment of 1.33 acres of government land at Chang Debsi, Thimphu, to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) on June 6 for probable prosecution and restitution of six plots. The commission has reportedly implicated former land record officer of Thimphu dzongkhag, Sonam Norbu and National Land Commission's (NLC) former survey team leader, Pema Wangdi for fraudulent transfer of idle thram through forgery and encroachment of government land.

[Festival to strengthen Bhutan-Thailand relation](#)

Kuensel | 10th June

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced the opening of the first Bhutan-Thailand festival at the Bhutan Youth Development Fund's (YDF) multipurpose hall in Thimphu yesterday. Thai delegation from the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Sports and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Tanasak Patimapragorn, is in the country to attend the festival. The festival, held to celebrate friendship and goodwill between the two kingdoms with common spiritual heritage and shared cultural and traditional values, will be open for public until June 11.

MALDIVES

[MP Mahloof freed after serving ten months and 24 days](#)

Sun Online | 9th June

The MP for the South Galolhu constituency, Ahmed Mahloof has been freed after serving his prison sentence of ten months and 24 days. His father, Mohamed Hassaan confirmed the MP's return to home to Sun Media. Criminal Court sentenced MP Mahloof to prison after convicting him of two counts of obstruction of police duty. Mahloof was sentenced to four months and 24 days on the first charge and a six months on the second charge.

MYANMAR

[Pardoned Bangladeshis start returning from Myanmar](#)

Mizzima | 12th June

Thirty-three Bangladeshis pardoned by the Myanmar President through an executive order on 25 May 2017, have started returning to Bangladesh in phases, according to a statement from the Bangladesh Embassy in Myanmar. A batch of 5 persons, released from jails in Tanintharyi close to Thailand, returned to Dhaka from Yangon on Biman Airlines on 7 June.

NEPAL

[Bill on first amendment of Act on Political Parties passed](#)

RSS / My Republica | 11th June

The bill relating to the first amendment of the Act on political Parties has been passed with majority by the Legislature-Parliament meeting today. Home Minister Janardan Sharma presented a proposal seeking the passage of amendment bill in the third meeting of the Parliament.

[Agitators stick to amendment demand](#)

My Republica | 12th June

The agitating Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) has set increase in the number of local units based on population and written commitment of major parties for constitution amendment as preconditions to participate in the local poll scheduled for June 28.

PAKISTAN

[Pakistan beefs up security for Chinese officials](#)

Reuters / The Express Tribune | 12th June

Pakistan is beefing up security around Chinese citizens streaming into the country on the back of Beijing's 'Belt

and Road' infrastructure splurge. China has often urged Pakistan to improve security after pledging around \$57 billion to build power plants, railways, and roads that will cross the Himalayas to connect western China with Pakistan's Arabian Sea port of Gwadar.

[Pakistan will soon become centre of trade activities, says Sartaj Aziz](#)

The Express Tribune | 11th June

Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs said Pakistan would be at the centre of trade activities following obtaining full membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Radio Pak reported on Sunday. In an interview, Aziz reiterated the full membership will enhance multi-lateral cooperation and boost connectivity.

SRI LANKA

[US Navy ship USS Lake Erie arrives in Sri Lanka on flood relief mission](#)

Colombo Page | 11th June

Sri Lanka Navy Sunday welcomed a guided-missile cruiser of the United States Navy, USS 'Lake Erie' arrived at the Port of Colombo with embarked U.S. military personnel to support humanitarian assistance efforts across flood-affected areas across Sri Lanka.

[Sri Lanka's ties with China not at the cost of relations with India - envoy](#)

Colombo Page | 11th June

Sri Lanka has expressed its intention to have friendly relations with every country to become an economic hub in the Indian Ocean and assured that its growing relations with China is not an impediment to strengthen relations with India.

[Over 840,000 affected by drought in parts of the country](#)

Colombo Gazette | 12th June

Over 840,000 people have been affected by drought in parts of the country, despite rain being experienced in other areas. The Disaster Management Centre said that as of noon today 849,752 people have been affected by drought in eleven districts. According to the Disaster Management Centre 243,683 families have been affected by the drought.

About Ananta Aspen Centre

Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent and not-for-profit organisation that seeks to foster positive change in society through dissemination of knowledge. The Centre facilitates discussions on issues of international significance, values-based leadership and cross-sector outreach by engaging the civil society, government, private sector, and other key stakeholders.

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