

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

July 13th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 6/7

TOP STORIES

[47 insurgents killed in operations](#)

AfghanistanTimes| 12th July

Forty seven Taliban fighters were killed and 13 others were wounded in different crackdowns within past 24 hours. In a press release issued here, Ministry of Defense, (MoD) said that Afghan National Army (ANA) in collaboration with Afghan National Police (ANP) and National Directorate of Security (NDS) conducted operations against insurgents in different areas of Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan, Ghazni Kandahar, Zabul, Farah, Takhat, Kunduz and Helmand provinces.

[Pakistan working on Gwadar-China oil pipeline](#)

The Express Tribune| 13th July

Pakistan is working on a plan to lay an oil pipeline from Gwadar to China for the export of crude and has given the task to state construction firm Frontier Works Organisation, say officials who are aware of the development.

[Sri Lanka can count on China for development cooperation](#)

Colombo Page| 12th July

In its pursuit of development, Sri Lanka can count on China as its most sincere and reliable partner for cooperation, the government of China assured following the successful conclusion of China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi's three-day visit to the island nation.

AFGHANISTAN

[Britain Pledges Military Support for Afghanistan](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan| 11th July

President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday met with British Prime Minister, David Cameron at the sideline of Warsaw Summit. They discussed different issues including fight against terrorism, extension of military cooperation for the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces and as well as Afghan-lead peace and reconciliation process.

[Radio Pakistan misuses US officials' speech on Durand Line](#)

AfghanistanTimes| 12th July

Radio Pakistan, a state-run media on Tuesday falsely misused the remarks of the US Department of State Spokesperson John Kirby about the Durand line. Kirby was wrongly quoted by Radio Pakistan that the US government recognized the Durand Line as permanent border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

[Pakistan playing dangerous game since Taliban overthrown: Khalilzad](#)

KhaamaPress| 13th July

The former top American diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad has said Pakistan has been playing a dangerous game since the Taliban group was overthrown. In his testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Khalilzad said Pakistani proxies pose a severe threat to coalition and Afghan forces and civilians. "Indeed, Pakistani policy is the principal cause of the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan."

BANGLADESH

[US wants to know BD's counter-terrorism strategy](#)

Dhaka Tribune | 12th July

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai came to Dhaka to express the support of the US to the people and government of Bangladesh after the two terrorist attacks that took place on first week of July. US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal during her recent visit to Dhaka said Washington wants to know Bangladesh's counter terrorism strategy for the future.

[Bangladeshis among domestic workers trapped in Oman: Human Rights Watch](#)

The Daily Star | 13th July

Many migrant domestic workers including Bangladeshis are trapped in abusive employment in Oman with their plight hidden behind closed doors, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report released today. The New York-based rights organisation stressed in the report that Omani authorities should take immediate steps to reform the restrictive immigration system that binds migrant workers to their employers.

[European Parliament supports Bangladesh in its fight against terrorism](#)

Bdnews24 | 13th July

The South Asia Delegation of the European Parliament (EP) has discussed Bangladesh's security situation in its monthly meeting and vowed to stand by the country following the terror attack. Twenty people including nine Italian, seven Japanese, an Indian and a Bangladeshi American, were killed in the July 1 terrorist attack on a Dhaka cafe. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadliest terror attack in Bangladesh's history.

BHUTAN

[Developments in the agriculture sector](#)

Kuensel | 11th July

The government has paid Nu 119 million (M) as compensation for tsamdros (pastureland) in 17 dzongkhags so far in line with the Land Act while the Land Commission is also finalising the rules to lease tsamdros.

[RAA recommends reviewing tax law](#)

Kuensel | 11th July

The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) recommends reviewing tax laws and regulations to tighten revenue leakage from Business Income Tax (BIT). Between 2009 and 2013, the number of business entities have grown from 19,062 to 28,346 while BIT collection has increased from Nu 707 million (M) to Nu 1.78 billion (B).

MALDIVES

[Maldives, Germany discuss expanding investment](#)

Sun Online | 12th July

President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and German Ambassador to Maldives and Sri Lanka, Dr. Jürgen Morhard have discussed expanding investment in Maldives by Germany. The discussion was held during Morhard's farewell call to President Yameen on Monday. President Yameen expressed gratitude to assistance provided by Germany especially in tourism and infrastructure development, as well as environmental protection.

[UN orders Maldives to hold off Humam's execution](#)

Sun Online | 12th July

United Nations has ordered Maldives to hold off execution of murder convict Hussain Humam. UN issued the order after Humam's father sent a letter to UN Human Rights Committee on Monday. Maldives has been given 6 months to provide an answer for the issues raised by Humam's family.

MYANMAR

[Arakan National Party to Address Local Issues With Burma's Vice President](#)

The Irrawaddy | 12th July

The Arakan National Party (ANP) will deliver an open letter highlighting local concerns to Vice President Henry Van Thio during a meeting with residents in Mrauk U, according to an Arakan State parliamentarian. The letter will address a number of issues: the excavation of ditches and tunnels that are filled with rubbish and soil from rice mill production; the supervision of businessmen operating in the state; the announcement of local projects before they begin; the need for new bridges; and the demolition of a railroad which runs through a designated Mrauk U archeological zone.

[Suu Kyi Will Chair Government Peace Center](#)

The Irrawaddy | 12th July

State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi will chair the government peace negotiation body, the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC), as part of her stated prioritization of peace and national reconciliation. The NRPC, formally known as the Myanmar Peace Center (MPC) under the previous military-backed government, was reorganized by Suu Kyi in May when she replaced several key people who had ties to the Burma Army with civilians.

NEPAL

[Villagers building quake-resilient homes in Gorkha](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 13th July

Three hundred and fifty people in Gorkha are taking masonry and carpentry training which is expected to teach them the techniques and skills required to build earthquake-resilient homes.

[After Bhotekoshi](#)

My Republica | 13th July

The Sindhupalchowk floods serve as a powerful reminder that there remains a high risk of slope failure and landslides this monsoon. Hardly 15 days since the monsoon started in Nepal, and it is already leaving a trail of destruction.

[Foreign investors repatriate Rs 6.12b in dividend payment](#)

My Republica | 13th July

Foreign investors repatriated Rs 6.12 billion to their home country in the first 10 months of Fiscal Year 2015/16. According to Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), foreign investors received dividend payment of Rs 6.12 billion in the review period, compared to Rs 7.21 million in 2014/15.

[PM Oli should not resign, conclude ruling parties](#)

The Himalayan Times | 12th July

A meeting of the ruling parties concluded on Tuesday evening that Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli should not resign even though CPN Maoist Centre, a major ally, pulled out of the coalition government.

PAKISTAN

[APS massacre mastermind killed in US drone strike](#)

DAWN | 12th July

The mastermind of the Army Public School massacre, responsible for the death of 144 students and staff members, has been killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan, two senior security officials claim. They told Dawn that Umar Mansour, alias Khalifa Mansour, alias Umar Naray, had been killed, along with another militant leader Qari Saifullah, in the US drone attack in the Bandar area of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province on Saturday.

[Islamabad nudges UN veto club on Kashmir](#)

The Express Tribune | 13th July

Pakistan on Tuesday approached the five veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council to take notice of the

deteriorating situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) and call on New Delhi to respect human rights in the violence-wrecked disputed Himalayan territory.

[Govt misses deficit target, will need IMF's lenient hand](#)

The Express Tribune|13th July

The government, for the consecutive second year, has missed the 'sacrosanct' budget deficit reduction target of the last fiscal year, and will have to seek a waiver from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to qualify for the last loan tranche. Against the IMF-determined target of reducing the budget deficit – gap between income and expenses – to 4.3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Rs1.292 trillion, the deficit remained slightly higher in the fiscal year 2015-16 that ended on June 30.

[US stresses need for peaceful resolution in held Kashmir](#)

DAWN|13th July

The United States has urged all sides to the Kashmir dispute to make efforts for finding a peaceful resolution. "We have seen reports of clashes between protesters and Indian forces in Kashmir. Obviously, we're concerned about the violence," US State Department spokesman John Kirby told a news briefing in Washington. "We encourage all sides to make efforts towards finding a peaceful resolution."

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka welcomes US Assistant Secretaries Biswal and Malinowski](#)

Daily News| 12th July

Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera welcomed Assistant Secretaries of State Nisha Biswal and Tom Malinowski to the island, this evening. Biswal, the US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and Malinowski, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor are in Sri Lanka on an official visit, and are expected to engage with government officials and civil society during their stay.

[Sri Lanka's US\\$ 1.5 billion dual-tranche sovereign bond oversubscribed to US\\$ 6.6 billion](#)

Colombo Page| 12th July

Sri Lanka's dual-tranche US\$ 1.5 billion international sovereign bond issued Monday to the international market was oversubscribed more than four times drawing US\$ 6.6 billion, Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake told Reuters on Monday.

[Kerala's Salafis now look for 'real Islam' in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Gazette| 12th July

Sri Lanka has emerged as the favourite destination of a section of Malayalee Salafis who are on the pursuit of 'real Islam' and believe that scholars in Kerala lack correct understanding of the religion, the Times of India reported.

[UN tells Sri Lanka to stick to its commitments on accountability](#)

Colombo Page| 13th July

The United Nations has urged Sri Lanka to stick to its commitments on accountability. Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, responding to a question posed on Sri Lanka, recalled that there are agreements between Sri Lanka and the international community and Sri Lanka should stick to those agreements.

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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