



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

June 13th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 31/6

Top Stories

[Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel built for Sri Lanka Navy is launched in Goa, India](#)

Colombo Page | 11th June
An Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), built by India's Goa Shipyards Ltd for the Sri Lanka Navy was ceremoniously launched Friday at the shipyard in Goa. Secretary to the Ministry of Defense, Karunasena Hettiarachchi and Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne attended the significant occasion which marked another milestone in the history of Sri Lanka Navy.

[US President Obama Approves Broader Role for U.S Forces in Afghanistan](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan (Tolonews) | 11th June
President Barack Obama has approved giving the U.S military greater ability to accompany and enable Afghan forces battling a resilient Taliban insurgency, in a move to assist them more proactively on the battlefield, a U.S official told Reuters.

[Govt allocates Rs 400 billion for power projects](#)

Daily Times | 12th June
The Government has allocated over Rs 400 billion for various power projects in the country under the Annual Development Plan (ADP) 2016-17. Over 5000 megawatts of electricity would be added to the national grid by the end of next year, reported Radio Pakistan. Furthermore, energy projects being implemented under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would add over 10,000 megawatts of electricity through coal, hydro and wind power projects by 2018 in the Independent Power Producer (IPP) mode.

AFGHANISTAN

[Pakistan must take practical steps against Haqqani network, Taliban: The Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah](#)

Khaama Press | 12th June
The Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah has said Pakistan must take practical steps against the Haqqani terrorist network and the Taliban group in its soil. The Office of the Chief Executive said the issue was raised during a meeting with the US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson. Emphasizing on the right stance of Afghanistan in fight against terrorism, Abdullah said there is a need for a sincere cooperation by Islamabad to fight terrorism which is a threat for the region and is the enemy of humanity.

[Afghan and Pakistani border guards clash in Torkham](#)

Khaama Press | 12th June
A heavy clash took place among the Afghan and Pakistani border guards in Torkham gate amid reports that the incident erupted over the installation of a gate by Pakistan. Provincial governor's spokesman in Nangarhar confirmed the incident but said further details regarding the clash would be released later. Another local official however confirmed that the Afghan forces prevented the Pakistani border guards to install a gate in Torkham which resulted into the clash.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh emerging Asian Tiger: Egyptian envoy](#)

The Financial Express | 12th June

Outgoing Egyptian Ambassador to Bangladesh Mahmud Ezzat has said that Bangladesh is emerging as an 'Asian Tiger'. The Egyptian envoy expressed the observation when he paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad office in Dhaka on Sunday morning. During the meeting he said Bangladesh has achieved stunning success in its socioeconomic development.

[Role of Awami League under severe criticism](#)

The Daily Star | 13th June

Minority community leaders yesterday expressed anger over the role of the ruling Awami League (AL)-led 14-party alliance in protecting them from the recent violent attacks. They claimed that the alliance leaders did not stand beside them after people of their communities were attacked or killed. The series of attacks on minorities remind the brutality of 1971 Liberation War when minorities were the worst victim, they said.

BHUTAN

[Law needed on owning assets abroad: NC](#)

Kuenselonline | 12th June

The National Council (NC) yesterday approved the motion for framing a law to govern Bhutanese owning undisclosed income and assets outside the country. "To prevent tax evasion and chances of funding illegal activities, the house approved the motion for enacting a law to govern Bhutanese owning undisclosed income and assets abroad," NC deputy chairperson, Tshering Dorji said.

[First Bhutanese-built bridge inaugurated](#)

Kuenselonline | 12th June

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay inaugurated the Hejo zam and Dechencholing zam in Thimphu on Saturday. The government of India funded the construction of both the bridges.

MALDIVES

[Defense Ministry: Lethal chemicals being imported into country without permission](#)

Sun Online | 12th June

Ministry of Defense has announced that they have observed import of lethal chemicals, acid and poison into the country without permission from the authority. Ministry issued a statement on Sunday, in which it noted that lethal chemicals and acid and poison made out of such chemicals can only be imported into the country with express permission from the authority.

[Foundation of the Bridge Project has begun](#)

Sun Online | 12th June

Foundation of the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge has begun. Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Dr. Mohamed Muizzue tweeted on Friday saying that the installation of the steel beams to build the foundation was started on Friday. Responding to a question from Sun Media in relation to the bridge, the Deputy Minister of the Housing Ministry, Abdulla Muthtalib said today that it was the beginning of the foundation of the bridge. An issue surfaced last week regarding the steel beams used in the foundation being placed on the reef of Gulhi Falhu.

MYANMAR

[UNICEF joins the calls for protection and education for Myanmar children](#)

Mizzima | 11th June

On the World Day Against Child Labour, UNICEF is calling for more protection of children in Myanmar. More than 1.5 million children aged 10-17 or 21 percent are working in Myanmar, according to the 2014 census. While the country continues to focus on improving the education system for boys and girls, approximately 50 percent of secondary school aged children drop out, according to UNICEF. Many of them choose to work, others are compelled to work by the family due to economic reasons, and some are even forced to work, including in hazardous environments.

[Agreement reached on framework for political dialogue revision](#)

Mizzima | 13th June

An agreement has been reached on the revision of the framework for political dialogue at the meeting of the Preparatory Subcommittee-1 for the Union Peace Conference, state media reported on 12 June. The meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon with discussions on points in chapters 7 and 8 of the political dialogue framework as well as miscellaneous chapters to be discussed by the ethnic armed organisations that have signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA).

NEPAL

[PM invites Sanghiya Gathabandhan for talks](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 12th June

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has invited agitating Sanghiya Gathabandhan—an alliance of Madhesi and Janajati parties—through a letter addressing the alliance on Sunday. Earlier, the PM had sent an invitation letter to the Gathabandhan on May 23. But the alliance refused to come for talks demanding a letter specifically addressed to its name. Following this stand of agitating side, PM Oli on Sunday sent the letter addressing the Gathabandhan.

[‘Nepal is Apac’s fourth malware-prone nation’](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 13th June

Nepal is the fourth most malware infection prone country in Asia Pacific region, according to a recent index compiled by Microsoft. Pakistan tops the list followed by Indonesia and Bangladesh. In its Malware Infection Index 2016 (MII2016), which determines the key malicious software threats in the Asia-Pacific region and ranks the market based on how prone they are to the malware threats, Microsoft warned that “emerging markets most at risk of malware threats.”

PAKISTAN

[Reforms proposed for Fata’s merger into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#)

DAWN | 13th June

The Fata Reforms Committee has proposed a set of “parallel and concurrent” political, administrative, judicial and security reforms, as well as a massive reconstruction and rehabilitation programme, to prepare the Federally Administered Tribal Areas for a ‘five-year transition period’ for merger into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it has been revealed. “People of Fata have seen nothing but war and turmoil in the past 30 years. They now deserve peace, development and citizens’ rights,” the document containing the final draft of recommendations said.

SRI LANKA

[Indian Coast Guard to sign MoU with Sri Lanka on joint exercise](#)

Colombo Gazette | 11th June

The Indian Coast Guard will sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Sri Lanka and Myanmar to conduct joint exercises, its Director General Rajendra Singh said, according to The Hindu newspaper.

[Army says it will remain in the North and look after the Tamils](#)

Colombo Gazette | 12th June

The army will remain in the North and look after the Tamils, a senior army officer has said, virtually rejecting Northern Province Chief Minister CV Wigneswaran’s demand of withdrawal of military.

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