

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

June 14th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 32/6

TOP STORIES

[Bangladeshis getting one year's multiple entry in first-ever Indian Eid visa camp](#)

Bdnews24 | 13th June

Bangladeshis are getting “one year's multiple entry” facility to visit India, as thousands turn up at the first-ever Indian visa camp in Dhaka, the Indian High Commissioner has said. “This is a pilot camp. We'll organise more such camps in future,” Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Monday while visiting the centre at the new chancery premise at Baridhara. The Indian High Commission opened the 12-day camp on June 4 to cope with a rush of applicants and ease travel to India by Bangladeshis, who often complain of harassment in getting Indian visas.

[Burma Army Deploying Armed Drones](#)

The Irrawaddy | 13th June

The Burma Army has deployed armed military drones in ethnic minority regions in Burma's north, likely for surveillance and surgical strikes, said a military analyst in a report for the consultancy IHS Jane's. “The unmanned combat aerial vehicles [UCAVs] can be used for reconnaissance and surveillance for extended periods over remote terrain, and for surgical strike missions,” Anthony Davis, a Bangkok-based military expert who writes for IHS Jane's, told The Irrawaddy.

[Pakistan may buy used F-16 jets from Jordan](#)

DAWN | 14th June

Pakistan is considering a Jordanian offer to buy sixteen used F-16 jets in lieu of the eight advanced fighters it could not buy from the United States because of a financing row, but officials fear Washington could still throw a spanner in the works. The case for the purchase of F-16s from the US is closed, “we are now going for a third party transfer of F-16s and have an offer from Jordan”, Defence Secretary retired Lt Gen Alam Khattak told a joint sitting of the Senate committees on defence and foreign affairs, which had been asked by Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani to review the current state of Pak-US ties and suggest the way forward.

AFGHANISTAN

[Wolesi Jirga rejects president's decree on electoral reforms](#)

Afghanistan Times | 13th June

Parliament on Monday rejected presidential decree for reforms in functions and authorities of the electoral commission's law. In the Monday session, lawmakers called the decree against the Constitution, which cannot ensure transparency of the next parliamentary elections.

[Afghanistan summoned Pakistani Ambassador over Torkham clash](#)

Khaama Press | 14th June

The Pakistani Ambassador to Afghanistan was summoned in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan (MoFA) over a clash between the Afghan and Pakistani forces in Torkham. MoFA said a strong protest was lodged with the Pakistani Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain regarding the latest clash. The latest skirmish among the Afghan and Pakistani forces took

place late on Sunday night after the Afghan border forces prevented the Pakistani forces to establishment military installations.

BANGLADESH

[UN human rights chief asks Bangladesh to prioritise investigation, prosecution of recent killings](#)

Bdnews24 | 13th June

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein has asked the Bangladesh government to make "investigating and prosecuting" the perpetrators of the recent wave of killings "a priority". "I am very concerned about the dramatically increased number of brutal murders in Bangladesh that target freethinkers, liberals, religious minorities and LGBT activists," he said, speaking at a UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday. He has urged all government officials and political and religious leaders "to unequivocally condemn these attacks on freedom, and to do more to protect affected groups".

[Bangladesh urged to take "urgent steps to protect freedom of expression"](#)

Prothom Alo | 13th June

Nineteen groups advocating media freedom around the world have called for urgent and concrete steps to reverse what they observed as the deteriorating climate for free expression in Bangladesh. The organisations including the Committee to Protect Journalists made the call in a submission to UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, which is set for holding a session. "A string of murders of bloggers and publishers since February 2015, for which no one has been convicted, has produced an atmosphere of fear," reads the joint statement.

[Transit gets operational](#)

The Daily Star | 14th June

Transit between Bangladesh and India is set to become fully operational with the first Indian consignment reaching Ashuganj tomorrow on its way to north-eastern Indian state of Tripura. A Bangladeshi ship carrying the consignment of 1,000 tonnes of corrugated iron sheets started from Kolkata on June 3. Anbis Development Ltd, a Bangladeshi operator, hired the ship to carry the goods from Kolkata to Ashuganj, said its General Manager Mahmud-ur Rahman Siddiqui.

BHUTAN

[ECCD for vendors at CFM](#)

Kuenselonline | 13th June

Children of vendors and local farmers at the centenary farmers market will soon receive better care. A community-based early childhood care and development (ECCD) centre opened at the Centenary Farmers Market on Monday. Ministry of Education and Thromde Education Office established the centre with support from UNICEF.

MALDIVES

[Nazeem assigned as the Deputy Minister at Housing](#)

Sun Online | 13th June

Former Managing Director of Maldives Road Development Corporation Ltd., Ibrahim Nazeem has been assigned to Housing Ministry as the Deputy Minister. The President's Office has confirmed the appointment saying that the President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom made the decision today.

[Majlis accepts bill to provide ministers a say when appointing permanent secretaries](#)

Sun Online | 13th June

People's Majlis, on Monday, accepted the bill to amend Civil Service Act so that minister's will have a say when Civil Service Commission appoints permanent secretaries for their respective ministries. The bill, put forward by Dhiddhoo MP Abdul Latheef Mohamed, was accepted into the Majlis with vote of 32 members.

MYANMAR

[New government should not disregard ASEAN](#)

Bangkok Post/Mizzima | 13th June

Amid the foreign policy headlines that have focused on whether Myanmar pivots towards China or the US, Asean, the grouping of neighbouring countries that Myanmar has been participating in since 1997, is almost absent from the discussions. Nowhere to be found is the term "Asean" under the NLD's foreign policy manifesto or in the first policy brief made by Ms Suu Kyi to diplomats from Singapore, Thailand and India.

[Turkish Foreign Minister Visits Burma, Offers Assistance to Arakan State](#)

The Irrawaddy | 13th June

Visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu thanked the Burmese government on Monday for its efforts to quell racial and sectarian violence in Arakan State, expressing a desire for mutual cooperation to resolve the issue. "We would like to cooperate with the Union government to solve this problem, and we will support the actions of the Union government," the Turkish foreign minister said at a joint press conference with Foreign Affairs Minister Aung San Suu Kyi in Naypyidaw.

NEPAL

[Agitating parties dismiss govt call to hold dialogue](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 14th June

The agitating parties have once again dismissed the government call to resume dialogue to resolve the political deadlock, saying that Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli "is not serious" about addressing their demands. The government on Sunday wrote to the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM), claiming that "it is eager to resolve the present deadlock". The Morcha had earlier declined three invitations from the government.

[Food security monitoring system handed to govt](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 14th June

The European Union and the United Nations World Food Programme have handed over a food security monitoring system to the Nepal government. The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System, or NeKSAP, was established in 2009 with the aim of collecting and analysing food security information to help authorities take action to prevent human suffering due to food insecurity.

PAKISTAN

[22 more civil armed forces \(CAFs\) wings to be raised for guarding CPEC, Senate told](#)

The Nation | 14th June

The government informed the Senate that 22 additional wings of civil armed forces (CAFs) would be raised to provide foolproof security of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC). Minister of State for Interior Baleeghur Rehman while responding to a calling attention notice moved by PML-N Senator Abdul Qayyum said that the government decided to recruit more than 17,000 security personnel for this purpose while over 3,000 personnel had already been hired. He said funds have also been released in this connection and the task would be completed till the end of this year.

SRI LANKA

[US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Biswal to address Sri Lanka Policy Forum](#)

Colombo Page | 13th June

The United States Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Biswal will address the Sri Lanka Policy Forum at Columbia University in New York today, the Department of State announced.

[ADB, Sri Lanka sign US\\$ 2 million grant for flood and landslide relief](#)

Colombo Page | 14th June

The Government of Sri Lanka and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Monday signed a US\$ 2 million grant agreement to finance relief efforts in the country following the recent floods and landslides which claimed the lives of around a hundred people and damaged the homes and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands more.

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