



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

June 1st , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 23/6

Top Stories

[Floods, political change hamper Myanmar growth: World Bank](#)

AFP/ Mizzima | 31st May

Myanmar's growth rate, once one of the world's most impressive, has dipped following heavy floods and an investment slowdown sparked by uncertainty over its political transition, the World Bank said Tuesday. A civilian government led by veteran democracy campaigner Aung San Suu Kyi took power in March after clinching a clear majority in elections late last year, ending five decades of outright military rule. It was a transformative moment for a nation and its economy, which withered under the former junta.

[Rula Ghani Inaugurates First Women's University](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 1st June

First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani on Sunday officially inaugurated the first women's educational complex in Kabul in an effort to help Afghan female students pursue education in a number of key fields including medical science, computer technology and management. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Rula Ghani said that the establishment of the complex, which includes a college and university, will help boost women's educational capabilities and help female students who are not able to join co-educational institutions.

[Trans-national route from India to Nepal on the anvil](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 1st June

India is set to announce the Buddhist circuit as India's first trans-national tourist route by incorporating Nepal's Lumbini, an Indian media reported on Tuesday. The effort will promote tourism in Nepal and Sri Lanka alongside that in India, with sites in the Buddhist circuit as well as the Ramayana circuit spanning the other two countries, according to The Indian Express.

AFGHANISTAN

[Over 700 refugees feared drowned off Italy: UN](#)

Khaama Press | 29th May

Over 700 refugees may have drowned in three Mediterranean Sea shipwrecks south of Italy in the last few days, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said. A spokesperson for UNHCR Carlotta Sami has told The Associated Press that an estimated 100 people were missing from a smugglers' boat that capsized on Wednesday.

[Chabahar port has great importance for Afghanistan: Analysts](#)

Pajhwok Afghan News | 31st May

Analysts believe the Chabahar port in Iran has great importance for Afghanistan and the Afghan government should pay attention to related infrastructure to benefit from the port and take necessary security measures on the Zaranj-Dilaram route. A lecturer at Kardan University, Qais Mohammadi, who is also a member of Mahmud Tarzi Think Tank, told a press

conference here that Afghan trucks would not face problems on the border and would not be asked for unnecessary documents on their way to the port and Afghan products would easily reach Indian markets.

[Pakistani police register case against US for airstrike that targeted Mullah Mansoor](#)

Khaama Press | 1st June

The Pakistani police has filed a case against the US for a drone strike that targeted the Taliban supreme leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor late last month. According to the local media reports, the case was registered on the complaint of brother of a taxi driver who was driving Mullah Mansoor.

[Increasing Number of Afghan Internally Displaced Persons](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 1st June

Each year, instability and insecurity compel many people throughout Afghanistan to leave their homes and search for refuge somewhere where their survival can be guaranteed. Unfortunately, they always do not find what they leave for and have to go through myriads of problems even in the new place or on the way to the new place. In most of the cases, many people do not even choose their destinations. Driven away by insecurity and poverty, they do not have anything in mind except running away from death and misery.

[Taliban Kidnaps 200 Passengers in Kunduz Province](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 1st June

At least 200 passengers have been kidnapped reportedly by the Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province. A local official said that the passengers were abducted in the early hours of Tuesday after the Taliban insurgents established a post to stop the passenger buses and vehicles, reports the Khaama Press.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh heading towards authoritarianism: Stratfor](#)

Prothom Alo | 31st May

The country's declining international image triggered by recent extremist attacks will limit investment, affecting its 7.3 per cent growth target, forecasts a global intelligence company. Strategic Forecast or Stratfor has also predicted two trends-descent into single-party authoritarianism and increasing insecurity brought about by extremist attacks-that will shape Bangladesh's future.

[AIIB to fund over Tk700cr for rural electrification project](#)

Kayes Sohel/Dhaka Tribune | 1st June

Bangladesh will receive a loan of over Tk770 crore from the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) this year for rural electrification project. The funding from the newly created lender is the second in kind following a loan of Tk517 crore approved by the Ecne last week for two power distribution projects this month.

[Bangladesh, Thai businesses agree to help each other](#)

Sheikh Shahariar Zaman/Dhaka Tribune | 1st June

Bangladeshi businessmen agreed to help Thai exporters to get zero duty for their textile products, while Thai traders agreed to help their Bangladeshi counterparts to get the same facility for ready-made garment (RMG) products, said Saida Muna Tasneem, Bangladesh ambassador to Thailand. Speaking to the Dhaka Tribune, Saida said she had a talk with the Thai authorities and they assured that they would consider the tariff rate reduction for the RMG products next year.

BHUTAN

[37 percent of workforce economically inactive](#)

Kuenselonline | 30th May

The economically inactive population of the country stands at 206,007, which is 36.9 percent of the country's total working age population (15 years and above) according to the Labour Force Survey 2015.

[Parliament passes companies bill](#)

Kuenselonline | 31st May

The joint sitting of Parliament on Monday passed the Companies Bill 2015 after deliberations on 12 disputed sections. Over

the last 15 years since the enactment of the Companies Act 2000, there has been a tremendous amount of changes in the socio-economic and legislative landscape of the country. And the changes needed to be incorporated into the Act.

MALDIVES

[Malaysia to give 90-day on arrival VISA to Maldivians](#)

Sun online | 31st May

Malaysian government has decided to give a 90-day on arrival VISA to Maldivians starting tomorrow. Maldivian High Commissioner in Malaysia, Mohamed Fahumee Hassan told Sun Media that President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom held discussion with the Malaysian government get a 90-day on arrival VISA to Maldivian citizens travelling to Malaysia.

[President questioned over MMPRC embezzlement scandal](#)

Sun Online | 31st May

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has taken the statement of Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom over Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) embezzlement scandal. Vice President of ACC, Muawwiz Rasheed spoke to "Sun" on Tuesday and said that President Abdulla Yameen was questioned in the matter about a month back.

MYANMAR

[Suu Kyi Heads New Committee for Troubled Arakan State](#)

Irrawaddy|31st May

Burma's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi is to chair a new high-level committee on Arakan State, according to an announcement from the President's Office on Monday. The initiative could represent a change in tack for the National League for Democracy (NLD) government and Suu Kyi, who at several points have played down the significance of the ongoing crisis in Arakan State, despite international pressure.

NEPAL

[Committee formed to probe budget leak](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 1st June

A committee has been formed under Nepali Congress leader Ramesh Lekhak to probe the leak of budget contents as demanded by the major opposition party. Lekhak will lead the eight-member committee. Other committee members have not been named yet. The committee was sanctioned by the parliament on Tuesday.

[Swiss support 'to continue'](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 1st June

Nepal and Switzerland have reviewed the overall state of bilateral relations. The first meeting of Nepal-Switzerland Bilateral Consultation Mechanism concluded on Tuesday, with the two sides exchanging views on matters of common concern, including the latest developments in their respective countries, regional cooperation, cooperation within the UN framework, and global issues such as climate change, migration, and human rights.

[Four PEs to be merged to form new supply company](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 1st June

Four state-owned trading companies will be merged to form National Supply Company which will operate as an oversight agency to ease the supply of essentials. The Supply Ministry said Tuesday that the establishment of the new company as per the government's budget statement for 2016-17 would be completed by the end of the next fiscal year.

PAKISTAN

[Work to start on 3rd unit of Karachi nuclear plant soon](#)

Dawn| 1st June

Construction work is expected to start within weeks on the third unit at the Karachi nuclear power plant using a reactor developed by the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), according to a spokesman for the company. A report

published on the website of China Daily said the K3 plant would be built by using Hualong One, the CNNC's third-generation nuclear reactor design.

[PM 'stable' after open-heart surgery in UK](#)

Dawn| 1st June

A day after approving budgetary proposals for the next financial year via video link, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif underwent successful open-heart surgery at a London hospital and was moved to an intensive-care unit in a stable condition on Tuesday. "Prime Minister shifted to ICU. Alhamdulillah stable," said one of the many tweets of the PM's daughter, Maryam Nawaz, who used the social media platform to update her two million followers, as well as the nation, about her father's successful surgery — his second major medical procedure since 2011.

[Hamid Karzai to visit Pakistan next month](#)

The Express Tribune| 1st June

Former Afghan president Hamid Karzai has said he will visit Pakistan next month. "I've received an invitation from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif a couple of days back," Karzai told a group of journalists at his residence in Kabul on Tuesday. He thanked Premier Nawaz and prayed for his recovery from a major heart surgery.

SRI LANKA

[China to fund friendship village for Sri Lankan families affected by disaster](#)

Colombo Gazette| 31st May

China today announced it will fund the construction of a Sri Lanka – China friendship village to house families affected by the recent natural disaster. The Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yi Xianliang made the announcement after handing over a consignment of emergency relief supplies donated by China to the Government at the Katunayake airport today.

[New inductees of the Indian Administrative Services visit Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page| 31st May

A team of thirty six newly inducted Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officers visited Sri Lanka from 22 to 26 May 2016 as part of the foreign exposure component of the IAS induction program at the Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram, Trivandrum, Kerala, the High Commission of India said in a release today.

[Sri Lanka's Colombo inflation rises to 4.8 percent in May 2016](#)

Colombo Page| 31st May

Sri Lanka's inflation, as measured by the change in the Colombo Consumers' Price Index (CCPI), increased to 4.8 percent in May 2016 from 3.1 percent in the previous month, the Department of Census and Statistics reported on Tuesday.

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