

TOP STORIES

[New Delhi is ready to assist Dhaka in combating terrorism in Bangladesh.](#)

Dhaka Tribune | 19th June

New Delhi is ready to assist Dhaka in combating terrorism in Bangladesh. "We do also understand that the magnitude and challenges is quite significant. But, obviously steps are being taken. As a neighbour, as a friend of Bangladesh, as partner of Bangladesh, we can only offer our fullest support and assistance for anything where our support might be required," Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Harsh Vardhan Shringla said after visiting Ramakrishna Mission in Old Dhaka Sunday.

[China extends road up to Korala border](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 19th June

China has extended its road connectivity to the Korala border point in Mustang district in order broaden the long-term business relationship with Nepal. In the last five months, China built the 20 km road stretch connecting to Nepal.

[NSG to take up Pakistan, India's membership requests this week](#)

DAWN | 20th June

The Nuclear Suppliers Group's 2016 annual plenary, which begins in Seoul on Monday, is expected to have a far-reaching impact on South Asia's future. During its session, the NSG would take up membership requests from both India and Pakistan on June 23-24. Pakistan submitted its membership application on May 19, a week after India, which applied on May 12, the day New Delhi resumed nuclear weapons testing in 1998. The NSG was formed in 1974, in response to India's first nuclear test, to prevent further proliferation. But now India is a favourite to join this 48-nation group, with an active support from the United States, Russia, Britain, France and other world powers.

AFGHANISTAN

[Taliban suffer heavy casualties in Uruzgan, 47 killed, 41 wounded](#)

Khaama Press | 19th June

The Taliban militants suffered heavy casualties during an operation in the restive Uruzgan province in southern Afghanistan. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the operation was conducted in Charchino district by the Special Forces of the Afghan National Army.

[Delivery of 5 Attack Helicopters Boosts Afghan Air Force \(AAF\) Capability](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan (Pajhwok) | 20th June

The United States has delivered five attack helicopters to the nascent Afghan Air Force (AAF), providing it with an expanded capability to support ground combat operations. The five new MD-530 Cayuse Warrior helicopters arrived at the Hamid Karzai International Airport on June via a C-17 Globemaster III from Travis Air Force Base, California. Lt. Col. Bill Ashford, 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander, said: "These latest (MD-530s) have the capability to fire rockets or .50-caliber machine guns and sighting systems that aren't on the previously-delivered helicopters."

[Agreement signed for Bamyan power transmission](#)

Afghanistan Times | 19th June

The Asian Development Bank inked an agreement with Afghan power department (De Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat) to extend 220kw electricity line from Doshi district of Baghlan to Bamyan province. The agreement was signed between Qudratullah Delawari, chief executive of power department and Thomas Panila, general director of Asian Bank in the presence of President Ashraf Ghani in the presidential palace. Minister of Energy and Water Ali Ahmad Usmani said that for transmission line of 220kw electricity from Doshi to Bamyan province, the government designed double circuit which can transmit 300 megawatt electricity to this province.

BANGLADESH

[BNP demands judicial probe into 'extrajudicial killings'](#)

The Daily Star | 19th June

BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) today demanded judicial enquiry into the all "extrajudicial killings" including death of the prime suspect in a case filed for attempting to murder a Madaripur teacher. Terming Golam Faizullah Fahim's death in an alleged shootout a "drama" BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir claimed that by killing such crucial suspect, the crossfire drama has been staged to hide the fact.

['India wants Bangladesh to inform neighbour whenever problem arises'](#)

Prothom Alo | 19th June

Visiting Indian Lok Sabha member Abhijit Mukherjee, also the son of Indian president Pranab Mukherjee, on Sunday said he does not think that the attacks on minorities what Bangladesh is witnessing in recent times is being carried out for religious reason. 'India ready to offer assistance in combating terrorism'

[Bangladesh signs deal with WB for additional \\$130m financing](#)

The Financial Express | 19th June

The government of Bangladesh on Sunday signed a \$130 million additional loan financing agreement with the World Bank to scale up support for the recently licensed and new economic zones to attract foreign and domestic investment as well as to create more jobs in the country's manufacturing sector. The agreement was signed by Economic Relations Division (ERD) Additional Secretary Kazi Shofiqul Azam and World Bank Acting Country Director Rajashree Paralkar on behalf of the government and the World Bank respectively, at the ERD in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area this morning.

BHUTAN

[PM quizzed on MTR target figures, media independence](#)

Kuenselonline | 19th June

Prime Minister TsheringTobgay was questioned on the varying figures of agriculture and livestock production targets in the dzongkhags and the situation of media independence in the country at the National Assembly's question hour session on Saturday. Leader of the Opposition (Dr) PemaGyamtsho said a drastic increase in agricultural and livestock yield and production were highlighted during the mid-term reviews of the dzongkhags.

[Farmers learn how to manage their land](#)

Kuenselonline | 19th June

Joining the rest of the 194 countries of the United Nations to Combat Desertification, Bhutan observed the World Day to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation in Wooling Chiwog in Oronggewog, on Saturday. National Soil Service Centre (NSSC) organised the land management programme to celebrate the day with farmers with financial support from Bhutan Trust Fund and the government.

[Teacher graduates need not worry about jobs: Minister](#)

Kuenselonline | 19th June

Labour and human resources ministry is in the process of setting up a teacher knowledge test to qualify them for jobs anywhere in the world. The test is similar to International English Language Test System and will be conducted in Royal Institute of Management in Thimphu. The government has drawn a plan to employ the teacher graduates for until 2020.

[NC returns budget report to Assembly with recommendations](#)

Kuenselonline | 19th June

The National Council wrapped up its deliberation on the annual budget and submitted it to the National Assembly with some recommendations. The annual budget report was introduced in the NC on June 14 by finance minister NamgayDorji. The recommendations were made in the areas of tourism development, roads and hydropower development, among other sectors. Members said that the tourism industry should benefit the people directly although some benefits return to the gewogs in the form of annual budgets.

MALDIVES

[Umar: Order will be issued by Committee, order will be sustained as seen fit](#)

Sun Online | 19th June

Home Minister Umar Naseer has said that he would act on the Committee's decision to issue a Monitor and Control (MoniCon) Order against individuals deemed dangerous to society but he will maintain and extend that MoniCon order as he sees fit. The power to request for MoniCon Orders was taken from the Home Minister and placed upon a committee consisting of three Ministers and the Commissioner of Police on Thursday.

[Committee holds first discussion on issuing a MoniCon order](#)

Sun Online | 19th June

The Committee formed by the President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom has met and discussed for the first time on issued a Monitor and Control (MoniCon) Order to put a tracking tag on a person. The Committee consists of Home Minister Umar Naseer, Fisheries Minister, Dr. Mohamed Shainee and the Finance Minister, Abdulla Jihad.

MYANMAR

[NLD Government must prioritize rule of law and respect for human rights – ICJ](#)

Mizzima | 20th June

The new Government of Myanmar, led by the National League for Democracy, must establish a clear plan for strengthening the rule of law and protection of human rights, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said today, 20 June, as it released its 14 General Recommendations to the new Government

and Parliament. "The NLD has a tremendous opportunity and obligation to reverse years of official rejection and neglect of the rights of the people of Myanmar," said Sam Zarifi, ICJ's Asia Director.

[Myanmar trade union organisation calls for ILO to open country office](#)

Mizzima|20th June

The Confederation of Trade Unions - Myanmar (CTUM) has requested the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to open a country office here, according to state media. The request was made during the 105th Session of the International Labour Conference which was held between May-June. The ILO currently has a liaison office and an office focusing on the elimination of child soldiers.

[UN special rapporteur on human rights arrives in Myanmar](#)

Mizzima|20th June

Ms Yanghee Lee, United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar has arrived in Yangon as part of her mission to compile a report to submit to the 71st UN General Assembly in September. Ms Lee will visit Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Sittwe, Myitkyina and Lashio. This is her fourth visit to the country and the first with the new NLD led government.

NEPAL

[Kabul attack victims are all Nepalis, Afghan ministry confirms](#)

The Kathmandu post | 20th June

A suicide attacker hit a minibus in the Afghan capital, Kabul, early on Monday, killing 14 Nepali security guards, Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior Affairs confirmed.

[Misunderstanding with Nepal ended with Oli's visit, says India](#)

The Himalayan Times | 20th June

Indian Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj said India's misunderstanding surfaced with Nepal last year had already ended with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's visit to New Delhi.

[House rules passed, finally](#)

The Kathmandu post | 20th June

In a major breakthrough, the House on Sunday finally endorsed the Legislature Parliament Business Operation Regulations-2016, clearing the hurdle for parliamentary endorsement of the chief election commissioner, apex court justices and ambassadors.

PAKISTAN

[Pakistan unlikely to budge on new border rules](#)

DAWN|20th June

Pakistani and Afghan officials are scheduled to discuss last week's border skirmishes today (Monday) but Islamabad is unlikely to budge on a new border management mechanism it is putting in place to ensure terrorists do not sneak in from Afghanistan. An Afghan delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, will be visiting Islamabad at the invitation of the prime minister's foreign policy adviser Sartaj Aziz to discuss a nearly week-long standoff at the Torkham border.

[Balochistan Budget 2016-17: Proposed outlay of Rs282bn aims to boost infrastructure](#)

DAWN|20th June

Balochistan's Rs282.77 billion budget for the next financial year aims to massively boost its investment in transport, education, health, infrastructure and productive sectors and security to attract foreign investors and turn the province into a regional commercial and industrial hub. Chief Minister NawabSanaullah Khan Zehri unveiled the deficit budget in the Balochistan Assembly on Sunday evening.

['We cannot fight Afghanistan's war on our soil'](#)

DAWN|20th June

Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Sunday said the United States wants Pakistan to act against the Afghan Taliban but "Pakistan cannot fight Afghanistan's war on its own soil". In an interview with the state-owned Pakistan Television (PTV), Aziz maintained that US authorities have the "misconception" that Pakistan is backing certain Taliban groups or the Haqqani network, while in reality Pakistan has effectively demolished their whole infrastructure during Operation Zarb-i-Azb.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lankan President issues new directives to police and armed forces on arrests under PTA](#)

Colombo Page| 19th June

Sri Lankan President MaithripalaSirisena has issued a series of new directives to the police and security forces to follow when arresting and detaining persons suspected of terrorism related offences.

[Sri Lanka's Litro Gas saves Rs 1.7 Bn public funds in transparent LPG contract award](#)

Colombo Page| 20th June

Litro Gas, the largest national importer and market leader of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in Sri Lanka, has made an enormous saving of Rs 1.7 billion from an unprecedentedly transparent tender award for the first time in the company's history.

[China donates Rs. 1 million and books to the Jaffna Library](#)

Colombo Page| 20th June

China has donated Rs.1 million to the Jaffna Library as part of Chinese assistance to the North.The Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yi Xianliang donated

Rs.1 million and a batch of books about China to the Chief Librarian Mrs. Suganthi, which will support development of the Library, the Chinese Embassy in Colombo said.

[NarendraModi says India will walk side by side with Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Gazette| 18th June

Indian Prime Minister NarendraModi today said that India will walk side by side with Sri Lanka.Modi and President MaithripalaSirisena jointly inaugurated a state-of-the-art stadium that was recently renovated with India's help in Jaffna today.

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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