



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

June 22nd, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 13/6

TOP STORIES

[Bangladesh doing its best: Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj](#)

Prothom Alo | 20th June
The Bangladesh government is doing its best against terrorism, said Indian external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj on Sunday, responding to a media query about attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh. "The Bangladesh government is not sitting idle over the attacks on minorities. They are taking proper steps in this regard," said Sushma at a press conference in New Delhi.

[UNHCR concerned over forced deportation of Afghan refugees](#)

Afghanistan Times | 21st June
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says it is concerned about forcibly deportation of Afghan refugees and expresses strongly its worry about lack of extension of refugee card by government of Pakistan. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi in a meeting with Mohammad Hanif Atmar, National Security Adviser, said that the UNHCR is concerned about recent decision of Islamabad about deportation and lack of extension of Afghan refugees in the country.

[Pakistan's NSA sees 'greater design' behind US support for India's NSG membership](#)

The Express Tribune | 22nd June
National Security Adviser Lt-Gen (retd) Nasser Khan Janjua on Tuesday viewed American efforts to include India in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) as part of a 'greater design' to contain China on the one hand and to prevent the resurgence of Russia on the other hand. Speaking at a seminar on 'Pakistan's case for NSA membership', Janjua said the current move by the US to induct India into the 48-nation exclusive nuclear club should be seen in the context of 'global power politics trends'.

AFGHANISTAN

[Infighting among Taliban in Herat leaves scores of militants dead](#)

Khaama Press | 21st June

At least 24 Taliban militants have reportedly been killed in the latest infighting among the rival groups in western Herat province which ended late on Tuesday. According to the local government officials, the incident took place in Pashtoon Zarghoon district after the supporters of Taliban Chief Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhundzada clashed with the dissident Taliban leader Mullah Rasool.

[Contracts for 3 Mega Road Projects Signed in Kabul](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 22nd June

The latest terrorist attack in Kabul underscored the difficult security situation in Afghanistan, the White House (WH) said on Monday, reiterating President Barack Obama's determination not to let terrorists use that country as a safe haven.

[Refugee Camps in Pakistan Safe Havens for Terrorists: Aziz](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 22nd June

Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan have become safe havens for terrorists, a senior diplomat alleged, calling for their early repatriation. Foreign Policy Advisor Sartaj Aziz said in an interview aired late on Monday, Pakistani armed forces had been able to dismantle the militants' infrastructure in the tribal region.

[Afghanistan Situation Far from Satisfactory: White House](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 22nd June

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BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh taking \\$165m 'pricey' AIIB loans](#)

The Financial Express | 21st June

Bangladesh is going to receive US\$ 165 million credit from the newly-established lender Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which will be costlier compared to the loans of other development partners, officials said on Monday. Officials said AIIB would charge nearly 2.50 per cent interest rate for the \$ 165 million loans against three projects, as the government completed negotiations with the Beijing-based lender early this month.

[Croatia shows interest in Bangladesh in first-ever ministerial visit](#)

Bdnews24 | 22nd June

Croatia has shown interest in deepening its relations with Bangladesh in the areas of bilateral trade, shipbuilding, energy, and sports, the foreign ministry says. This was conveyed to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam who is visiting Zagreb in the first-ever ministerial-level visit between the countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations 1997.

[Study: Bangladesh labour cost in auto industry lower than India, China](#)

Dhaka Tribune | 22nd June

To remain relevant in both internal and external market environment, manufacturing sector producers need to be cost competitive as costs have direct impact on price competitiveness. Bangladesh has the lowest labour cost in auto and auto components industry relative to India, Indonesia, China and Singapore, finds a study. It spends a mere 1.87% of its output value on wages and other benefits to workers, while India spends 8.29%, China around 7%, Indonesia 4.46%, and Singapore 13.13%.

[Rising Islamism in Bangladesh, a European concern too](#)

Prothom Alo | 21st June

Recognizing the steadily declining political, human rights and security conditions in Bangladesh, on June 7, 2016, the European Parliament (EP) in Strasbourg held a debate on the current situation in the South Asian country. In the lively discourse, several varying views were expressed by the members of the European Parliament (MEPs) regarding the causes and consequences of the deterioration in the societal and political space, foremost through rising Islamism, intolerance, political radicalization in the country.

BHUTAN

[Work on Druk Bindu hydropower begins](#)

Kuensel | 21st June

Works on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Druk Bindu Hydroelectric Power Project (DBHPP) in Tendu, Samtse kick-started on June 15. Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) is implementing the task.

[Govt. rejects Opposition's proposals](#)

Kuensel | 21st June

The government shot down the opposition's recommendations on Central Schools with the majority of parliamentarians voting against the proposals presented in the National Assembly yesterday.

[Monitoring retention of health workers and transformative education](#)

Kuensel | 21st June

To ensure free quality healthcare for all Bhutanese, officials from various organisations met yesterday to discuss key indicators in the monitoring progress in terms of transformative education and retention of health workers.

[Bhutan and India celebrate rich art and culture](#)

Kuensel | 20th June

To celebrate the rich heritage of Indian and Bhutanese art and culture and to learn from each other, a group of 10 artists came together in Paro during a five-day art camp that ended Saturday.

MALDIVES

[Police admits Adheeb's DNA was found on the Pistol from Nazim's residence.](#)

Sun Online | 21st June

Police have admitted to finding the DNA of the former Vice President Ahmed Adheeb Abdul Gafoor on the pistol that was found at the residence of the former Defence Minister, Colonel-retired Mohamed Nazim. Speaking at a press conference at Iskandharu Koshi tonight, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Abdulla Navaz said that one of the DNA profiles taken from the pistol found at the residence of the former Defence Minister matches that of the former Vice President Adheeb.

[Home Minister Umar Naseer has resigned](#)

Sun Online | 21st June

Umar Naseer has resigned from his position as the Home Minister. In a tweet he sent out tonight confirming the resignation, he thanked the President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and all the people who supported him.

MYANMAR

[Myanmar officials banned from saying 'Rohingya' as UN envoy visits](#)

Mizzima | 22nd June

Myanmar officials must refer to the oppressed Rohingya Muslim minority as "people who believe in Islam" rather than by their name, according to a letter seen by AFP Tuesday, as a UN rights envoy prepares to visit the disadvantaged group. Buddhist nationalists bitterly oppose the use of the term Rohingya to describe the roughly million-strong minority -- most of whom live in strife-torn western Rakhine State.

[382 Myanmar military personnel punished for recruiting minors](#)

Mizzima | 22nd June

Myanmar military authorities have recently punished 382 military personnel including 73 officers for recruiting child soldiers, Xinhua reported on 21 June quoting the Committee for Prevention of Minors from Military Service. The committee disclosed that it has been cooperating with the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) since 2012 and up until now the committee had returned 744 minors back to their families.

NEPAL

[NAC plane reaches Kabul to bring home bodies of dead \(Update\)](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 22nd June

The special aircraft chartered to bring the mortal remains of Nepali nationals who lost their lives in Kabul attack on Monday has reached the Afghan capital on Wednesday, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Nepal Investment Bank moves Press Council against ArthikAbhiyan](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 22nd June

The top management of Nepal Investment Bank Ltd has filed a complaint before the Press Council accusing the business daily ArthikAbhiyan of publishing a number of defamatory stories to tarnish the image of the bank, which happens to be one of the country's largest banking and financial institutions.

[House sends BAFI Bill back to panel following criticisms](#)

The Himalayan Times | 22nd June

Severe criticisms lobbed at lawmakers for altering some of the crucial provisions in the Bank and Financial Institution (BAFI) Bill has prompted the House of Representatives to send the legal framework back to the Parliamentary Committee on Finance for further review.

[Nepal, Bangladesh sign MoU on cooperation in fields of arts and culture](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 21st June

The Nepal Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in Kathmandu on Tuesday. With the signing of the MoU, the two premier institutions working in the fields of arts and culture in their respective countries, will undertake exchange of cultural artists and delegations, exchange exhibitions and exchange academicians and trainers with a view to enhance knowledge and awareness of the varied and rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh and Nepal.

PAKISTAN

[Pak-telecom sector escalates, offers opportunities for investors](#)

Daily Times|22nd June

The telecom business in Pakistan has shot up yielding big taxes for the government, pushing the economy to expand and offering big opportunities to investors, said a new report. According to Kahleej Times, the telecom sector in Pakistan is doing prospering business with revenues of Rs. 333.2 billion for July to March FY-16 after travelling a bumpy road a year ago.

[‘Pakistan only opposed to exclusive membership of NSG for India’](#)

DAWN|22nd June

Former permanent representative at the United Nations in Geneva Zamir Akram said on Tuesday that Pakistan was only opposed to “exclusive membership” of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for India. He was speaking at a roundtable discussion organised by the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), a think tank, on the implications of the upcoming plenary session of the NSG, which is expected to deliberate on membership for non-NPT states, including Pakistan and India. The NSG plenary session is being held on June 23-24 in Seoul.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka Tamil party against a domestic mechanism to probe war crime allegations](#)

Colombo Page | 21st June

Sri Lanka’s main Tamil party, Tamil National Alliance (TNA), strongly opposes a domestic mechanism to probe the war crime allegations, of North Province, C.V. Wigneswaran says.

[India insists it will respect agreement with Sri Lanka on island](#)

Colombo Gazette | 22nd June

The Indian Government says it will respect the deal with Sri Lanka on the Katchatheevu island. India’s Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways, Shipping, Pon Radhakrishnan said that the BJP never wanted to see even an inch of land belonging to the country going into the hands of others.

[India awards Mahatma Gandhi scholarships to 150 Sri Lankan students](#)

Colombo Page | 21st June

India has awarded prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships for 2015-16 to 150 high school students from all 25 districts across Sri Lanka.

[Indonesia lets aid groups assist stranded Sri Lankan Tamil refugees](#)

Colombo Gazette | June 22nd

Indonesia has allowed international humanitarian organisations to assist Sri Lankan Tamil refugees stranded in Aceh after bad weather foiled much-criticised plans to tow the group’s boat back into international waters, the Associated Press reported.

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