

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

July 6th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 3/7

TOP STORIES

[Pakistan denies intel agency's role in Dhaka carnage](#)

The Daily Star | 5th July
Pakistan's Foreign Office on Monday denied that Pakistan's premier intelligence agency ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) was behind the Dhaka carnage and described the allegations as "baseless and unfounded". "These are highly regrettable, irresponsible and provocative stories being carried in the Indian media. They are utterly baseless and unfounded. Pakistan strongly rejects such allegations," FO spokesman Nafees Zakaria said in a statement.

[Afghanistan to call on Warsaw conference for pressure over Pakistan](#)

AfghanistanTimes | 4th July
Afghan government will call on Warsaw summit to bring pressure on Pakistan to take right decision in anti-terror war in the country. The upcoming NATO summit is to be held in early July in Warsaw. "It will be impossible not to point at Pakistan's role when you talk about the war in Afghanistan or the region," said Hanif Atmar, National Security Advisor.

[Sri Lanka, India to start negotiations on ETCA on a fast track for early conclusion](#)

Colombo Page | 5th July
Sri Lanka and India have agreed to start negotiations on an expedited track for an early conclusion of the proposed Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement (ETCA).

AFGHANISTAN

[Terror plot foiled in Paktika](#)

AfghanistanTimes | 4th July
The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Monday said that a terror plot thwarted in southeastern Paktika province. Intelligence operatives succeeded to arrest a suicide bomber named Abdulwali through special crackdown in Urgon district of Paktika, it said in a statement.

[India-Japan Cooperation on Chabahar Could be a Game-Changer for Asia](#)

AfghanistanTimes | 4th July
Collaborating with Tokyo on the port project could serve as a springboard for New Delhi to develop credible partnerships with external stakeholders, and elevate its political and economic profile in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Iran drew a great deal of interest, largely on account of the tripartite agreement for the development of the Chabahar port a deal that lay in waiting for over a decade.

[Govt allocates 144 acres of land for the establishment of 6 factories](#)

KhaamaPress | 5th July
The Afghan government has allocated 144 acres of land for the construction of six factories as an agreement was signed for the handover of the land. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said the agreement was signed in the presence of President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

BANGLADESH

[Gulshan attackers members of local militant outfits: Bangladesh home minister](#)

The Daily Star | 5th July

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal today said the Gulshan cafe attackers were members of different banned and local militant outfits. According to their confirmed identities, all the militants are Bangladeshi citizens, the home minister told journalists at a press briefing this afternoon.

[Foreign Minister assures diplomats of security](#)

Prothom Alo | 5th July

Foreign minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali on Tuesday said that terrorism is a global challenge and Bangladesh will continue to work closely with other countries, regional organisations and the United Nations to fight this menace.

[Cops hunt for 6 accomplices of Dhaka cafe attackers](#)

Prothom Alo | 5th July

Bangladeshi police hunted on Tuesday for six members of a domestic Islamist group they suspect helped gunmen attack a Dhaka cafe, as officials began questioning families of the militants for clues as to what turned them into killers.

BHUTAN

[595 SDP projects approved](#)

Kuensel | 5th July

The Bhutan-India Small Development Project Committee approved the last nine projects worth Nu 181.28 million in the 11th Plan under this funding scheme at its fifth meeting yesterday. With the approval of the fifth batch of SDPs, the total committed Government of India (GoI) assistance of Nu 8.5 billion for SDPs has been allocated for 595 projects in the 11th Plan.

[Bangladesh President addresses Parliament](#)

Kuensel | 5th July

The President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid, said hydropower is one of the sectors that holds the “greatest potential” for cooperation between Bhutan and Bangladesh, during his address to the joint sitting of Parliament yesterday. The President expressed happiness that there has been some notable progress in hydro-power cooperation in the form of a tri-lateral hydro-power project among Bhutan, Bangladesh and India.

MALDIVES

[India: IS threat in region strongest from Maldives](#)

Sun Online | 5th July

Classified reports sent by Intelligence Bureau of India to multiple other Indian agencies says that the future threat of terrorist organization - Islamic State (IS) activities in the region was strongest in Maldives. News of the classified reports have hit Indian and Sri Lankan media, and it says that there are about 500 IS sympathizers in Maldives, in addition to those who have already travelled out of the country to join the organization.

[Maldives' Foreign Minister Resigns](#)

Sun Online | 5th July

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dunya Maumoon has resigned from her position. Foreign Ministry confirmed the resignation of the daughter of the President of PPM and the former President of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, to Sun Media. While the Foreign Minister resigned, the relationship between the President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and the former President Maumoon has taken a turn for the worse creating turmoil in the ruling party PPM.

MYANMAR

[Suu Kyi calls for all groups to be included in Union Peace Conference](#)

Mizzima | 6th July

State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi pushed to invite all stakeholders to the Union Peace Conference at the 21st Century Panglong Preparatory Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, state media reported. U Zaw Htay, spokesperson for the President's Office said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi suggested finding the means for participation of all political parties in the peace conference and that the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre-NRPC is set to handle international funds of the peace process.

NEPAL

[UN top official submits letter of credentials](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 6th July

The newly appointed Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Nepal and the Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Valerie Julliand, presented her Letter of Credentials to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kamal Thapa, on Tuesday.

[Nepal-India Eminent Persons Group agrees to review Nepal-India treaties](#)

RSS / The Kathmandu Post | 5th July

The first meeting of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) comprising diplomats from both Nepal and India has agreed to review a gamut of bilateral issues including the treaties and agreements since the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

[‘India ready to assist in Nepal’s tourism development’](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 6th July

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae on Tuesday said that India was ready to offer assistance to develop tourism in Nepal. Speaking at an interaction organised by the Nepal-India Friendly Association in Pokhara today, the Indian envoy said that initiatives for promotion of tourism in Nepal have to be taken at the ministerial level in both countries.

[Gorakha landslide survivors rescued, airlifted to Capital](#)

Rastriya Samachar Samiti / The Himalayan Times | 5th July

Personnel of the Nepali Army have rescued three landslide survivors from Keraunja-3 of Gorakha on Tuesday. According to the NA Directorate of Public Relations, the trio injured in the incident have been airlifted to the Capital for treatment.

PAKISTAN

[Pakistan renews security assurance to Saudi Arabia](#)

Dawn | 6th July

Pakistan renewed on Tuesday its security assurance to Saudi Arabia following a string of bomb blasts in the kingdom by extremists, including one outside Masjid-i-Nabwi in Madina, the second-holiest site in Islam.

[Huge investment by PEMRA in foreign banks comes to the fore](#)

Daily Times | 6th July

Investment to the tune of Rs 588 million made by PEMRA out of public funds in different banks has come to the fore and the finance ministry and the information ministry have sought an explanation from PEMRA on this count.

[Eastern route not part of economic corridor, claims NHA chief](#)

Dawn | 5th July

Chairman of the National Highway Authority (NHA) Shahid Ashraf Tarar has given a new twist to the controversy

over the eastern and western routes of the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by claiming that the eastern route is not part of the project.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka, India to start negotiations on ETCA on a fast track for early conclusion](#)

Colombo Page | 5th July

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[India, Sri Lanka discuss issues regarding railway network development](#)

Colombo Page | 6th July

India and Sri Lanka have discussed various issues regarding the overall development of the railway network in Sri Lanka, including upgrading the signalling and telecommunication systems, The New Indian Express reported.

[Twelve-hour water cut; areas in Colombo, suburbs affected](#)

Daily News Sri Lanka | 5th July

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) announced a 12-hour water cut in effect from 6.00 p.m. today (5), in several areas of Colombo and the suburbs.

[Japan pledges Rs.305 million grant aid to Sri Lanka for Human Resource Development Scholarships](#)

Colombo Page | 6th July

The Government of Japan has selected the 3rd batch of 15 prospective scholars under its Second Phase of 'Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resources Development Scholarship (JDS) Program - 2016', which commenced in September 2014, based on the official agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka.

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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