



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

**June 9th, 2017 | Volume: 3 - 4/6**

[Bangladesh bucks global reverse to record FDI growth](#)

bdnews24 | 8<sup>th</sup> June

Bangladesh witnessed a “modest” increase in the foreign direct investment or FDI last year despite a 2 percent global decrease and 14 percent decline in developing countries, the World Investment Report 2017 shows. The report released in Dhaka on Thursday said that barring India, Bangladesh was the “best performer” in South Asia as the FDI amount was much higher than Sri Lanka and Pakistan, countries that are in a better position than Bangladesh in the World Bank’s ease of doing business ranking. The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority or BIDA that aimed at improving Bangladesh’s ease of doing business ranking to take it to below 100 from the current level of 176 in next five years launched the UNCTAD report.

[Former Interior Minister Malik wants judicial commission to probe WikiLeaks’ claim](#)

Dawn | 9<sup>th</sup> June

Former interior minister Rehman Malik has written to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, seeking formation of a judicial commission to probe WikiLeaks’ allegation that the US was given access to Pakistan’s national identity database during his tenure. Speaking to reporters outside Parliament House on Thursday, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senator was reacting to a WikiLeaks tweet from June 6, where it recalled a diplomatic cable, leaked in 2011, which contained an account of meetings between former US Department of Homeland Security secretary Janet Napolitano and top Pakistan officials, including Mr Malik.

[Sri Lanka defends China’s Belt and Road project](#)

Colombo Gazette | 8<sup>th</sup> June

Chinese investment in Sri Lanka is reviving a “3,000-5,000-year-old shipping route”, said Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake, defending his Government’s decision to join the Belt and Road Initiative, The Hindu newspaper reported. “The fact is that regional trade needs to move forward. If one country is doing a project, that is not against another country,” Karunanayake told journalists in India at the end of his two-day visit to New Delhi. “Like Hong Kong was a launching pad for China, Sri Lanka would like to be a hub of economic activity for India,” he added.

### [10 ISIS militants killed in latest airstrikes in Nangarhar province](#)

Khaama Press | 8<sup>th</sup> June

At least ten militants affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in the latest airstrikes carried out in the eastern Nangarhar province. According to the local officials, the airstrikes were carried out in the past 24 hours in the vicinity of Kot district, once of the main strongholds of the terror group.

### [Afghanistan, Turkmenistan Discuss Ongoing Electricity Projects](#)

Pajhwok/Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 8<sup>th</sup> June

Energy and Water Minister Ali Ahmad Usmani during his trip to Turkmenistan held talks with his Turkmen counterpart on the sideline of Energy Charter meeting, a statement from the Ministry of Energy and Water said on Wednesday. Six development projects coming from Turkmenistan had been discussed during the meeting while the import of electricity to Badghis province was finalised, the statement said.

### [Global Response to Terrorism Inadequate: President Ghani](#)

Pajhwok/Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 7<sup>th</sup> June

Speaking at the maiden meeting of the Kabul Process, the president told participants: “You are in a city whose people are mourning hundreds of their sons lost to terrorist violence.” However, the president explained the Afghans were appreciative of the global fraternity’s support and demanded justice. These terrorist attacks were in fact a strong slap in the face of justice, Ghani commented.

## **BANGLADESH**

### [The Future of Asia 2017: Bangladesh invites investors](#)

bdnews24 | 6<sup>th</sup> June

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has urged Asian investors to come to Bangladesh and use the advantage of both geographical locations and the government’s support. He was speaking at a panel discussion in Tokyo on Tuesday at “The Future of Asia 2017” conference. The Nikkei Corporation organised the international conference with the participation of leaders from the Asian countries.

### [Bangladesh worries about falling remittances](#)

The Financial Express | 9<sup>th</sup> June

The Economist says in an article that much of the blame lies with a dodge used by its importers as Bangladesh's remittance inflow is falling. The full article is as follows: IT IS a mystery. Last year Bangladesh's army of migrant workers abroad increased by a record 750,000, to reach 8m-odd. They travel to earn money for their families.

### [Registration of Bangladeshis abroad begins](#)

Prothom Alo | 9<sup>th</sup> June

The registration of Bangladeshi diaspora living abroad opened on Thursday. Expatriate’s Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam inaugurated the online registration. Through the registration, the Bangladeshis diaspora will be included in the database of Wage Earners Welfare Board and they will be entitled to get all welfare services provided by the board. Expatriate’s Welfare secretary Begum Shamsun Nahar and WEWB Director General Gazi Mohammad Julhas were, among others, present.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Construction industry should be corruption free: PM](#)

Kuensel | 8<sup>th</sup> June

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, in his keynote address to the participants of the eighth conference of the engineers, architects and planners yesterday, said corruption should be rooted out of the construction industry. He said that it is an exaggeration to say that corruption has taken irreversible roots in the sector, but it is also a lie to say that it is free of corruption. "It is your job and my job to ensure that corrupt practices are not tolerated." Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay also said planning, building, and maintaining infrastructure is fundamental to the progress of Bhutan.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Massive losses after vessel carrying cargo to seven islands crash on reef](#)

Sun Online | 8<sup>th</sup> June

A vessel carrying cargo to seven islands of Laamu Atoll has crashed on a reef causing massive losses. Maldives Police Service said that they received the report of the vessel "Basmaa" of Laamu atoll Dhambidhoo came in at 6:30 p.m. and police are active at the scene. Vice President of the Dhambidhoo Island Council, Ahmed Shareef told Sun Media that the vessel crashed on the reef in an attempted to enter the island's lagoon.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Aung San Suu Kyi pledges Myanmar's active participation in BIMSTEC integration process](#)

Global Times/Xinhua/Mizzima | 9<sup>th</sup> June

Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has pledged the country's continued active participation in the BIMSTEC region's integration process to fulfil the objectives of the organization and to meet the aspiration of the people of the region. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) groups Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. Suu Kyi made the remarks in her message on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of BIMSTEC.

## **NEPAL**

### [Nepal-India border security meeting held](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 9th June

Security chiefs of districts bordering India held a meeting with their Indian counterparts yesterday in order to convey their security concerns about the upcoming second phase of local level elections scheduled for June 28.

### [New FM calls companies to tap private capital](#)

My Republica | 9th June

Newly-appointed Finance Minister Gyanendra Bahdur Karki has urged the manufacturing and other real sector companies to tap into private capital for funding. Speaking at the silver jubilee celebration function of the Securities Board of Nepal (Sebon), Finance Minister Karki also called for mobilizing capital from the public to expand their businesses, projects and operations.

### [Panchakoshi Highway linking Surkhet-Dailekh-China](#)

My Republica | 8<sup>th</sup> June

The Panchakoshi Highway is to be constructed to explore identity and development opportunities of historically important Dailekh district. There is no bound of happiness among the local folks when the government came up with an important plan in the national budget to expand the road stretch leading to Nankche-Nagla. The road expansion drive would also offer opportunity to widen linkage with China through the construction of road stretch from Mahabu-Jumla to Rara Lake.

## PAKISTAN

### [Sharif-Modi exchange pleasantries in Kazakh capital](#)

The Express Tribune | 9<sup>th</sup> June

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif exchanged pleasantries with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at a reception in the Kazakh capital on Thursday night amid escalating tensions between their two countries over a range of issues. According to Outlook India, Modi and Sharif exchanged greetings when they were in the leaders' lounge for the reception at the Astana Opera organised to welcome the leaders who are participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

### [China 'gravely concerned' as teachers reported killed in Pakistan](#)

The News | 9<sup>th</sup> June

China said on Friday it was "gravely concerned" at Daesh claims that the group killed two Chinese teachers it kidnapped in Pakistan's Balochistan province last month, where Beijing is investing billions of dollars in infrastructure projects. China said it was working to verify the claim. Armed men pretending to be policemen kidnapped the two language teachers in Quetta on May 24. The kidnapping was a rare security incident involving Chinese nationals in Pakistan, where Beijing has pledged \$57 billion under its massive "Belt and Road" initiative to build rail, road and power infrastructure.

### [Delegations from Pakistan, India meet ICJ President](#)

Geo.tv | 8<sup>th</sup> June

Delegations from Indian and Pakistan met with President of International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Thursday. According to the statement from Attorney General of Pakistan's office, the court would soon release timetable for the case of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav. Earlier, a five-member legal team reached The Hague on Thursday in relation to the case of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav in the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

## SRI LANKA

### [Over 450,000 children in 5-17 age group not attending school: Survey](#)

Daily News | 9<sup>th</sup> June

A total of 452,661 children in the 5-17 school going age group are not attending school and 51,249 children among them have never attended school, a survey by the Department of Census and Statistics reveals. The survey titled 'Child Activity Survey 2016' reveals that the main reasons for children not to attend school are awaiting for G.C.E (O/L) results, disinterest in education, non consideration of the value of education, too young (not eligible to enter school), disability, financial difficulties, Studying at home for G.C. E (O/L), leaving school before completion of studies to support families.

### [UN assures support for Sri Lankan government's plans for national reconciliation](#)

Colombo Page | 8<sup>th</sup> June

June 08, New York: The United Nations has assured to support the Sri Lankan government's plans for bringing

about reconciliation and the conditions for lasting peace when Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe called on the UN Secretary General António Guterres at the UN headquarters in New York Wednesday. During a special discussion held with yesterday, the Prime Minister briefed the UN Secretary General on measures being adopted by the government to promote reconciliation among communities.

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### ***About Ananta Aspen Centre***

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