

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

September 14th , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 6/9

[Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina begins her 12-day tour of Canada, US](#)

bdnews24 | 14th September

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka this morning for London on a 12 day visit to Canada and the USA. She will attend the 5th Global Fund Replenishment Conference in Montreal and the 71st UN General Assembly session in New York. A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the Prime Minister and her entourage took off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:35 am.

[Signing of peace deal with Hezb-e-Islami delayed due to technical issues](#)

Khaama Press | 12th September

The signing of peace deal with Hezb-e-Islami led by Gulbuddi Hekmatyar has been delayed due to technical issues, the Afghan High Peace Council (AHPC) said Monday. According to a statement by AHPC, the signing of the peace agreement was postponed due to Eid holidays but a final agreement has been concluded between the Afghan government and the party.

[At least 13 injured as police foil suicide blasts targeting Eid prayers in Shikarpur](#)

DAWN | 13th September

At least 13 people, including five cops, were injured as police foiled two separate suicide blasts during Eid prayers in Shikarpur's Khanpur tehsil on Monday. Police sources said four suicide attackers infiltrated Khanpur during Eid prayers.

AFGHANISTAN

[Iran says detained migrants exhibited in cages 'were not Afghans'](#)

Khaama Press | 12th September

A top Iranian diplomat based in Kabul has rejected the detained migrants exhibited in cages by Shiraz city police were Afghan nationals. The Iranian Chargé d'affaires Ali Reza Hajizada clarified the issue during a meeting with the second deputy foreign minister for political affairs of Afghanistan Syed Javid Hashemi. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan (MoFA) in a statement said Mr. Hashemi met with Hajizada today to sought clarification regarding the viral photos which purportedly shows some migrants put on display inside the cages.

BANGLADESH

[PM calls for constant vigilance against militancy, terrorism](#)

UNB/ the Daily Star | 13th September

Reiterating her call to all to remain alert against terrorism and militancy, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said there is a need for constant vigilance by everyone so that conspirators cannot foil the country's hard-earned independence.

[Ties with Bangladesh at new heights: India](#)

The Daily Star | 13th September

Ties between Bangladesh and India have reached new heights and both countries are now keen in sub-regional cooperation in different sectors, Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Harshvardhan Sringla has said.

[Bangladesh eyes self-sufficiency in power generation soon](#)

The Financial Express | 13th September

Bangladesh has already achieved a tremendous success in increasing power generation capacity in its way to attain self-sufficiency in electricity soon in the coming years. Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Ministry Tipu Munshi has said this after switching on of newly built power supply lines at a ceremony in Ratanpur village under Pirgachha upazila in Rangpur.

BHUTAN

[Govt. refunds Weeling village](#)

Kuensel Online | 13th September

Works and human settlement secretary, Phuntsho Wangdi, returned the urban tax that was collected from the people of Weeling village in Trongsa on September 10. The secretary handed over a check worth Nu 317,687 to Trongsa Dzongdag Sonam Rinchen in the presence of the people of Weeling and municipal officials. Trongsa municipal officials collected the urban land tax in December 2015.

MALDIVES

[MDP calls for the release of the members of their National Council](#)

Sun Online | 13th September

MDP has called for the release of three of the members of the MDP National Council currently in prison. A statement issued by the party yesterday said that the three members in prison, Ahmed Eesa, Mohamed Waheed and Assad Ali are in prison unjustly and are being subject to cruelty.

MYANMAR

[White House trip marks Suu Kyi's journey from icon to politico](#)

Mizzima | 14th September

President Barack Obama rolls out the red carpet for Myanmar's elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Wednesday, a visit that will signal her transition from democratic idol to politician. The 71-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate is barred by military constitution from heading Myanmar's government, but she will still get a leader's welcome in Washington.

NEPAL

[PM's India visit agendas may include Pancheshwar Project](#)

Rastriya Samachar Samiti / The Himalayan Times | 13th September

Matter relating to the implementation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Development Project is likely to be one of the agendas of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's forthcoming state visit to India. With this, preparations have started for holding in-depth discussions on the issue. The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit India on Thursday.

[India woos new Nepali PM to claw back ground from China](#)

REUTERS / The Himalayan Times | 14th September

India is likely to offer Nepal's new prime minister help building an east-west railway line and better access to its ports on his first visit this week, as it tries to regain ground lost recently to China. Prachanda, a former Maoist rebel commander, has chosen New Delhi as his first foreign stop, seeking to rebalance ties that chilled under his pro-China predecessor. KP Sharma Oli had sealed trade deals that sought to reduce landlocked Nepal's economic dependence on India.

[New chapter will be added in Nepal-India relations: FM Mahat](#)

RSS / The Kathmandu Post | 13th September

Minister for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharan Mahat has said that a new chapter would be added in Nepal-India relations. Minister Mahat said that he held friendly meetings with Indian leaders including External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj, Energy Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister for Water Resources Uma Bharti regarding bilateral relations and cooperation.

[‘Take up pending projects in Delhi’](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 14th September

Political leaders on Tuesday warned Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal not to make his India visit controversial while leaders of the Madhes-based parties urged him to resolve their issues before leaving for New Delhi. “The PM has said he will hold talks with the Madhesi leaders at 1pm on Wednesday,” said Anil Jha of the Sanghiya Sadbhawana Party. Jha said the government should also pay attention to the Ramayan and Buddhist Circuits being developed by India.

PAKISTAN

[Abandoned by world, low-grade petrol runs Pakistan](#)

The Express Tribune | 13th September

The standard petrol used by the majority of Pakistanis is of such low grade that it is only consumed in Somalia in the world. This startling disclosure was made by Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a recent meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), the country’s highest economic decision-making body.

[CPEC set to attract \\$150b investment](#)

The Express Tribune | 12th September

The connectivity through mega CPEC project will enhance trade opportunities for Pakistan with 70 per cent of the international maritime trade via Pakistan’s two big ports of Karachi and Gwadar.

[Govt to challenge SC verdict clipping PM’s powers](#)

The Express Tribune | 13th September

The government has prepared a review petition against a Supreme Court judgment that curtailed powers of the Prime Minister in fiscal matters. The apex court declared on August 18 that the Prime Minister could not act unilaterally on financial issues and neither can he approve any ordinance without prior approval of his cabinet.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka scraps coal power plant project with India](#)

Colombo Page | 13th September

Sri Lanka today told the Supreme Court that the government has decided not to build coal power plants in the country and therefore not to proceed with the joint venture with India to build a 500 Megawatt coal power plant in Sampur in the East.

[Sri Lanka, Maldives to enhance cooperation in health sector](#)

Colombo Page | 13th September

Maldives Minister of Health Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, who was in Sri Lanka recently to attend the 69th session of the World Health Organization South-East Asia Region, held bilateral discussions with Sri Lanka’s Minister Health and Indigenous Medicine Dr. Rajitha Senarathne on the sidelines of the forum.

[Urgent Cabinet reshuffle to remove 'underperforming ministers'?](#)

Daily News | 14th September

Civil society groups and trade unions urged President Maithripala Sirisena to go for an immediate cabinet reshuffle to remove whom they termed as "underperforming ministers". They also requested the President to expedite judicial processes with regard to the cases of Wasim Thajudeen, Lasantha Wickrematunge and Prageeth Eknaligoda.

[VAT increase only for nine months: Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Minister Rajitha](#)

Daily News | 14th September

The VAT increase will be imposed only for nine months, said Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Minister Rajitha Senaratne yesterday. The minister participating at a sports meet for state employees in the Kalutara District, said that the Budget 2017 was proposed to be submitted to Parliament on November 10.

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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