

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

July 18th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 8/7

[Major operation to kick off against ISIS in East of Afghanistan:](#)

[President Ghani](#)

Khaama Press | 16th July

The Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has ordered the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to launch a major offensive against the loyalists of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in eastern Nangarhar province. President Ghani was speaking to the Afghan forces during a visit to Nangarhar province and said the main purpose of the operation would be to eliminate the loyalists of the terror group from Nangarhar.

[Hasina says Bangladesh government has 'startling' information in probes into terror attacks](#)

Bdnews24 | 18th July

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the security forces are getting 'surprising information' in their investigations into the recent terror attacks in Bangladesh. But she would not say what those 'surprising information' are midway through the inquiries. Speaking at a media call at her Ganabhaban official residence on Sunday, she asked journalists not to try to tease out investigation details.

[Sri Lanka, Singapore to sign bilateral agreements during PM's visit](#)

Colombo Page | 17th July

Sri Lanka and Singapore will sign several bilateral agreements during the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's three-day official visit from 17 to 19 July to the East Asian nation at the invitation of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

AFGHANISTAN

[US delivers 5 new combat helicopters to Afghan Air Force](#)

Khaama Press | 17th July

The United States has completed the delivery of 5 more combat helicopters to the Afghan Air Force in a bid to improve the capabilities of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). "Five new MD-530 Cayuse Warrior helicopters arrived at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan, July 16, 2016, via a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash. The MD-530s were delivered to the Afghan air force increasing their fleet from 18 to 23," the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing said.

BANGLADESH

[National unity has been created against terrorism, militancy, says Hasina](#)

Bdnews24 | 17th July

Refusing to stand together with 'terrorists and war criminals', Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that the nation is already united against terrorism and militancy. "Don't you think national unity against terrorism and militancy has been forged? I think the nation is already united," she said at a press briefing at the Ganabhaban on Sunday.

[Bangladesh Bank general manager arrested](#)

The Daily Star | 18th July

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested a general manager of Bangladesh Bank in a case filed in connection with misappropriation of Tk 325 crore of AB Bank between 2011 and 2013 when he was a deputy managing director of the private bank. Though the Chittagong-based Rising Steel Mills (RSM) Ltd had failed to reimburse a large amount of debt, the then DMD of AB Bank Badrul Haque Khan and the then general manager of the bank's principal branch M Fazlur Rahman continued to disburse loans to the company against insufficient security money.

[\\$275m ADB loan for improving city's water supply system](#)

The Financial Express | 18th July

Bangladesh government will get \$275 million as loan from the Asian Development Bank for improving the capital's water supply network. To this effect a loan agreement was signed in this regard between the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at a programme Sunday held at the National Economic Council conference room.

BHUTAN

[His Majesty appoints Govt. secretaries](#)

Kuensel | 15th July

His Majesty The King appointed six government secretaries and the secretary general of the National Council yesterday.

[External market factors affect local industries: DoI](#)

Kuensel | 15th July

External market factors like economic conditions, change in market demand, change in government policy and the labour market, raw materials sourcing, foreign currency problem and change in the price of the electricity affected almost all local industries in the country.

MALDIVES

[CCCC: Construction of permanent foundation of bridge to start in August](#)

Sun Online | 17th July

CCCC Second Harbor – the company assigned the construction of China-Maldives Friendship Bridge between Male' and Hulhule' has said that construction of the permanent foundation of the bridge would begin in August. Giving a tour of the construction work to Maldivian reporters on Sunday, project manager Lin Shukui said that the permanent foundation of the bridge would be built within the next 7 months, and the bridge would then be visible above water.

[Civil Court says it cannot issue a hold on Maumoon decision during dispute resolution](#)

Sun Online | 17th July

Civil Court said on Sunday that it cannot Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) lawmakers' request for a hold on PPM leader Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's instructions not to hold any committee meeting without his permission.

Maumon had already retracted his instructions on July 14, instructing all PPM committees to carry out business as per usual in accordance with the party's constitution.

MYANMAR

[Myanmar's Suu Kyi holds landmark rebel talks](#)

AFP / Mizzima | 18th July

Myanmar's de facto premier Aung San Suu Kyi held landmark talks with senior rebel leaders, as she strives to seal a ceasefire with a patchwork of ethnic minority militias that have battled the national army for decades. Suu Kyi has made peace a flagship policy of her newly installed civilian-led government which replaced decades of junta rule earlier this year.

NEPAL

[DoE sets up first of proposed 12 air quality monitoring stations in Valley](#)

The Kathmandu post | 18th July

Amid growing public concern over the deteriorating air quality and laxity of the government to monitor the air pollution, the Department of Environment (DoE) has set up an automated air quality monitoring station inside Shantibatika, Ratnapark.

[Experts suggest three options to PM to resolve constitutional complexities](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 17th July

Legal experts have suggested three options to the Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to form a new government in the midst of constitutional complexities. A day after Nepali Congress and CPN (Maoist Center) held consultations with legal expert to seek the resolution of the constitutional complexities, PM Oli on Sunday called a meeting of legal experts to solicit their views on how on move ahead after key ally of the government--Maoist-- pulled out its support from the government.

[TRC has over 52k cases to decide in 7 months](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 18th July

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has received 52,545 complaints from the conflict victims, as the three-month deadline for cases registration ended on Sunday. With less than seven months remaining for the commission to investigate the cases, questions remain how the task will be handled and justice delivered to the victims.

PAKISTAN

[PML-N unwilling to share CPEC control?](#)

DAWN|18th July

With the controversy surrounding Panamagate and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's extended stay in London following heart surgery dominating headlines, progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) seems to have taken a backseat. The project seems to have become another source of tension between the civilian and military leaderships, and security sources tell Dawn that, as of late, the Chinese have been suggesting that the government formally rope in the army to ensure smooth execution of the project.

[All Pakistanis stuck in Turkey return home safely, says Foreign Office](#)

The Express Tribune|17th July

All Pakistanis stuck in Turkey following the failed coup attempt in Turkey have returned to the country after being facilitated by authorities, the Foreign Office said on Sunday. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan regained control over the country after a coup bid by discontented soldiers. Over 200 Pakistani passengers were stranded at Ataturk Airport, an official of the Pakistani embassy had told The Express Tribune Saturday.

[Geelani calls for global intervention in Kashmir](#)

The Express Tribune|18th July

As clashes continue to rage in Indian-held Kashmir and the death toll from the violence hitting 42 in 10 days, a veteran leader in the disputed Himalayan valley has sought the intervention of the international community against 'a new wave of state terror'. New Delhi also rushed hundreds of troops to the troubled region.

[Property market expects govt to take back controversial tax decisions](#)

The Express Tribune|17th July

Real estate markets of Pakistan are likely to resume business in full swing this week after remaining somewhat stagnant for about a month as market players are confident they will be able to get maximum relief from Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in a meeting slated for Monday. At present, real estate agents of Lahore and Karachi – two big markets of the country – are protesting against the increase in taxes and revision in the land evaluation mechanism in the 2016-17 budget announced in early June.

SRI LANKA

[WHO declares Sri Lanka filaria free country](#)

Colombo Page| 17th July

The World Health Organization has declared Sri Lanka as a Filaria free country and the certificate in this regard will be awarded this week. Director of South Asian Affairs of the World Health Organization Poonam Singh who is scheduled to visit the country on 21st of this month will present the certificate to the Ministry of Health Dr. Rajitha Senaratne.

[Sri Lanka will accept refueling visits by China's navy](#)

Colombo Gazette| 18th July

The Government says it will accept refueling visits by China's navy as long as they follow the proper procedures. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told Bloomberg Sri Lanka is agnostic about what countries it accepts foreign investment from, including China.

[Large number of Omani firms to participate in World Export Development Forum in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page| 18th July

A large number of Omani companies are expected to take part in the World Export Development Forum (WEDF), the flagship event of the Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC), to be held in the Sri Lankan capital in October, Times of Oman reported.

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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