

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

September 19th , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 8/9

[Besides \\$1b Aid Pledge, New Delhi Signs 3 Accords with Kabul](#)

Pajhwok/Outlook Afghanistan | 17th September

Besides pledging another \$1 billion in development aid, India has signed with Afghanistan three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on cooperation in areas of prisoners' extradition, judicial system and technology during President Ashraf Ghani's two days visit to New Delhi. President Ghani left for India three days ago and on Wednesday he met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the two countries signed the three agreements. India pledged \$1 billion towards development activity in Afghanistan.

[Vice President Pun holds talks with Venezuelan President Maduro](#)

Rastriya Samachar Samiti / The Himalayan Times | 19th September
Vice-President Nanda Bahadur Pun held talks with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on the sidelines of the 17th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Venezuela. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two discussed the non-aligned movement and subjects of mutual interest. VP Pun also met with Indian Vice President, Mohammad Hamid Ansari and discussed Nepal-India relations.

[Islamabad rejects Indian charge as 'unfounded'](#)

The Express Tribune | 19th September
Pakistan strongly denied any role in Sunday's pre-dawn deadly attack on the Indian military base in the disputed Kashmir region as it put border guards on 'high alert' amid fears of potential military escalation between the two countries.

AFGHANISTAN

[UN Calls for \\$150m to Help Internally Displaced Afghans](#)

Tolonews/Outlook Afghanistan | 17th September

The UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, Stephen O'Brien Friday raised concerns over what he called a rising trend of internally displaced Afghans in the country, calling on the international community to step up efforts to help. The UN official has asked for \$150 USD in aid within four months to facilitate over one million internally displaced Afghans.

[US Senator Accuses Pakistan for Being a Duplicitous Partner in Afghanistan](#)

Pajhwok/Outlook Afghanistan | 17th September

Expressing concern over the security situation in Afghanistan, top American Senators on Thursday alleged that neighboring Pakistan continued to play a duplicitous role there. "Pakistan continues to be tremendously duplicitous partner in this. They are working against our interest there (in Afghanistan). They are supporting the Haqqani network," Senator Bob Corker, Chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations said during a Congressional hearing in Afghanistan.

[Afghanistan urges isolation of terror sponsors after attack on Indian base](#)

Khaama Press | 18th September

Afghanistan condemned a deadly attack on the Indian army base in the Indian-administered Kashmir urging to isolate those sponsoring terrorism in the region. "Terrorism is a common threat to the entire region & world; thus, requires joint fight to eliminate terrorists & isolate those who sponsor them," the Afghanistan National Security Council (NSC) said in a statement. The statement further added that "the people of Afghanistan been long victims of terrorism, so we can feel the pain of those who have lost their loved ones in today's attack at Uri."

[Afghanistan hosts international summit on energy in Dubai](#)

Khaama Press | 18th September

Afghanistan is hosting a 2-Day international summit in Dubai city of the United Arab Emirates on energy sector of the country, the officials said on Sunday. The international summit has been organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water of Afghanistan with an aim to attract foreign investments in energy sector of Afghanistan. Officials in the Ministry of Energy and Water said the summit will be attended by representatives of more than 120 international companies.

BANGLADESH

[Mobilise public opinion for extradition of Bangabandhu's killers: PM](#)

UNB/The Daily Star | 18th September

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday called upon the expatriate Bangladeshis living in Canada and the USA to mobilise public opinion for the extradition of convicted killers of Bangabandhu from the two countries. "I'm leaving a demand before you to write letters to public representatives of those countries where you're residing and ask why those countries would give shelter to the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," she said.

[BB heist probe report to be made public on 22 Sept](#)

BSS / Prothom Alo | 18th September

The probe body report on the cyber heist of Bangladesh Bank's (BB) account with New York's Federal Reserve Bank will be made public on 22 September, finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said here today. "The report will be made available online on 22 September so people can have easy access to the document," the minister told newsmen at a briefing at his office.

[Asian Development Bank to give BR \\$200m](#)

The Financial Express | 18th September

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is set to give \$200 million as loan to Bangladesh Railway in a bid to increase its passengers and goods transport capacities. ADB is providing the loan under the 'Railway Rolling Stock Project', reports BSS. To this end, an agreement will be signed between the two parties on September 28.

BHUTAN

[Bhutan on track to phasing out ozone depleting substances](#)

Kuensel Online | 18th September

Bhutan observed World Ozone Day in the capital yesterday. Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced the event. Besides being the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Ozone Ambassador, Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen also works closely with various environment agencies and organisations. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, along with representatives from various ministries, agencies and schools also participated in the event.

MALDIVES

[Two former Defense Ministers ordered to appear at the Police Station.](#)

Sun Online | 18th September

Maldives Police Service has ordered the former Defense Minister in the Nasheed Presidency, Ameen Faisal and the second Defense Minister of the Presidency of President Yameen Abdul Gayoom, Moosa Ali Jaleel, to appear at the Police Station tomorrow. Information Officer of the Police, Ismail Ali told Sun Media that the two are being summoned to be questioned in an ongoing investigation.

MYANMAR

[Myanmar soldiers jailed for killing villagers](#)

Mizzima | 16th September

Seven Myanmar soldiers have been sentenced to jail for killing villagers during an interrogation, the military said, a rare ruling in the former junta-run country where the army has long operated with impunity. The army controlled Myanmar for half a century in a brutal reign rife with rights abuses, including allegations of torture, rape and recruiting child soldiers.

NEPAL

[PM says his India visit successful](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 19th September

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal said his visit to India was successful, as it helped take bilateral ties to a new height. Addressing a press conference at Tribhuvan International Airport upon his arrival from New Delhi today, the PM said dimensions of Nepal's relation with India were different from the dimensions of Nepal's relation with China and hence Nepal's deep relations with India would not affect the bilateral relations between Nepal and China.

[Finance panel to hold talks before amending Bafi Bill](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 19th September

The parliamentary Finance Committee said it would hold a final round of discussions with the finance and law secretaries and central bank officials before amending controversial provisions in the Bank and Financial Institution (Bafi) Bill.

[Minutes of Karki's appointment safe](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 19th September

The minutes of the Constitutional Council that recommended Lokman Singh Karki as the chief commissioner of the Commission for Investigation for Abuse of Authority are archived in the President's Office, the Prime Minister's Office and other related government entities such as the Ministry of General Administration, informed officials said. With the PMO's response to the Supreme Court that the file related to Karki's appointment was lost in the earthquake last year, the government's archiving system has come under scrutiny. A case concerning Karki's controversial appointment is pending in the apex court, which had sought the related papers.

PAKISTAN

[Civil-Military differences hold up CPEC security plan](#)

DAWN | 19th September

Plans for operationalising the Special Security Division (SSD) for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been held up by civil-military wrangling, multiple sources told Dawn.

[Border security discussed](#)

DAWN | 19th September

Senior officials of the Frontier Corps Balochistan on Sunday held a meeting with notables, tribal elders and local traders in the border town of Chaman and briefed them on the border situation and the agreements signed between the Afghan and Indian leaders in New Delhi recently.

SRI LANKA

[Pakistan President confers high civil award to prominent Lankan personality](#)

Colombo Page | 17th September

The Government of Pakistan has conferred the prestigious Medal of Services "Tamgha-i-Khidmat" to Mr. Ifthikhar Aziz, for his meritorious services towards the promotion of Pakistan-Sri Lanka friendly relations as well as his great contribution towards enhancing Trade, Investment and strengthening Educational and Cultural Links between the two friendly nations.

[Sri Lanka makes push for convention on terrorism](#)

Colombo Gazette | 17th September

Sri Lanka has underscored the need to strengthen cooperation to fight the scourge of terrorism and reaffirmed the importance to conclude a comprehensive convention on International Terrorism at the earliest.

[Sri Lanka President seeks IMF assistance to increase tax revenues without burdening low income earners](#)

Colombo Page | 18th September

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena said that his government would take gradual steps to broaden revenue collection without levying any burden on lowest bracket of the taxable income earners.

[Power devolution to grassroots level: PM](#)

Daily News | 19th September

The new constitution is being formulated by parliament sitting as a constitutional council. Once the new constitution is passed in parliament it has to be adopted by the people at a referendum, said Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe when he opened the new administrative complex of the Jaffna Kachcheri on September 17.

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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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