

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

July 20th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 9/7

[India should accept defeat before Kashmiris' struggle, says Nawaz](#)

The Express Tribune|20th July  
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Wednesday said that India has two choices on Kashmir, either keep on with its aggression that has left over 45 people dead over the past 11 days or to give people of the disputed Himalayan valley their due rights which it had promised in the UN.

[WHO congratulates Maldives for elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem.](#)

Miadhu|19th July  
World Health Organization congratulates Maldives for elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem. Maldives is the first country in WHO South-East Asia Region to achieve this target.

[Over 260 found missing amid hunt for extremists](#)

Prothom Alo/ AFP| 20th July  
At least 261 people across Bangladesh are missing, officials announced early Wednesday, sparking fears many of them have joined homegrown Islamist extremist outfits or the Islamic State group in the Middle East. The country's elite security force, the Rapid Action Battalion, published the list on Facebook around midnight and called on citizens to report the whereabouts of the missing. "We have to find them," RAB spokesman Mufti Mahmud Khan told AFP.

## AFGHANISTAN

[Afghanistan sends 46 aviation personnel to India for training](#)

KhaamaPress| 19th July

The Afghan government has sent a group of 46 aviation personnel to India to participate in technical and professional training. A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority Qasim Rahimi has confirmed the deployment of 46 aviation personnel for training to India. Rahimi further added that the aviation personnel will resume their work in the airports of the country once they complete their training in India.

[Unity Govt. Remains Committed to Electoral Reform: Abdullah](#)

DailyOutlookAfghanistan|19th July

The national unity government remains committed to electoral reforms and eliminating the scourge of corruption, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah said on Monday. The CEO reaffirmed the government's commitment during a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto in Kabul.

### [Three suicide bombers killed by own bomb](#)

AfghanistanTimes| 19th July

Three suicide bombers were killed by their handmade explosive device in the Bagram district of Parwan province, officials confirmed Tuesday. District police chief Ahmad Khan Ahmadzai told media that these three suicide bombers attempted to target one of the important institutions in Parwan province. He added that the terrorists improvised the explosive material on a motorcycle in a home and they attempted to launch a bloody suicide attack in one of the important areas, fortunately they were killed by their handmade bomb, before to target intended place.

### [Taliban Issues Statement for the Central Asian Countries](#)

KhaamaPress| 19th July

The Taliban group in Afghanistan has issued a statement for the Central Asian countries amid concerns that the ongoing violence in Afghanistan could destabilize the Central Asian States. Insisting on group's policies to refrain from interfering in other countries' internal affairs, the group said "Its policy towards other nations is based on "Do not harm nor accept harm" which has been repeatedly announced in the statements by the Islamic Emirate as well as in the Eid messages of its leader."

## **BANGLADESH**

### [High Court verdict on Tarique Rahman's money laundering case on Thursday](#)

bdnews24|20<sup>th</sup> July

In November 2013, a Dhaka court acquitted Tarique, the elder son of BNP chief Khaleda Zia, over charges brought against him for allegedly siphoning off Tk 204.1 million to Singapore between 2003 and 2007. But his close business associate Giasuddin-Al-Mamun was sentenced to seven years in prison in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

### [Bangladesh Bank to announce new monetary policy to boost private sector investment](#)

bdnews24|20th July

The governor of the central bank, Fazle Kabir, will announce the half-yearly policy at 11am on July 26, Bangladesh Bank's Chief Economist Biru Paksha Paul told bdnews24.com on Tuesday. It will be Kabir's first after taking over as the governor in March. Paul said, "We are working on the new monetary policy while prioritising ways to ensure quality investment in the private sector." "We plan to alleviate the sufferings of the private sectors' investors through this policy."

### [Gulshan massacre tears at fabric of garment sector](#)

Prothom Alo| 20th July

Emdadul Islam's three-decade career in Bangladesh's garment trade has seen the industry hit by riots, labour unrest, power shortages and safety scandals, but he had never lost faith in its ability to weather the latest crisis and continue to grow.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Online programme to break down medical knowledge barriers](#)

Kuensel |20th July

To ensure the continuous professional development of health workers in the country, the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health under the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) launched the online Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme yesterday in Thimphu.

### [Creating a wholesome mental health system](#)

Kuensel | 20th July

In an effort to develop a comprehensive and responsive mental health system in the country, the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health under the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) introduced a Bachelor of Science programme in Clinical Counselling yesterday in Thimphu.

### [Addressing the skilled workforce shortage](#)

Kuensel | 19th July

The country has been facing severe shortage of skilled workforce. While unemployment among the young keeps increasing by the year, we continue to hire non-national workers for our projects in various sectors.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Immigration and MNDF signed MOU on information sharing](#)

Sun Online|19th July

Immigration and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) signed MOU for mutual cooperation on information sharing to enhance national security.

### [India, Maldives discuss developing economic, investment ties](#)

Miadhhu|20th July

India and Maldives held discussions on developing economic and investment ties. The discussions were carried out in a meeting held between Economic Minister Mohamed Saeed, visiting Joint Secretary Renu Pal and the Indian Ambassador to the Maldives Akilesh Mishra.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Myanmar Connect returns with a global vision for Myanmar's telecoms community](#)

Mizzima | 19th July

Capacity Media, a division of Euromoney Institutional Investor, has announced the fourth annual Myanmar Connect, to be hosted on September 13th and 14th in Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar Connect is the most important annual conference for the country's entire telecoms community, according to a statement on 18 July.

### [Lashio protesters call for end to killings](#)

Mizzima | 19th July

More than a thousand local residents in northern Shan State's Lashio Township on Saturday staged a protest demanding an end to the arbitrary killing of civilians in the area.

## **NEPAL**

### [Nepal Slides Back into Food Deficit](#)

The Kathmandu Post| 20th July

Nepal slid back into a food deficit this fiscal year after recording surpluses for the last five years, largely due to a sharp drop in cereal production triggered by multiple environmental and political stresses.

### ['Health services should be accessible to all'](#)

The Himalayan Times|20th July

Speaker Onsari Gharti today said it was unfortunate that the political parties instead of focusing their efforts on implementation of the new constitution were divided on the issue of forming a new government.

## **PAKISTAN**

### [New industrial cities to be set up to meet future needs of CPEC](#)

The Express Tribune|20th July

New industrial cities would be set up in close collaboration with the private sector and in line with future needs of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said New Economic City of Punjab Urban Unit Project Manager Ali Agha. Speaking to Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) members, he said the Punjab government was keen to incorporate inputs of the local industrial and business community to make the economic city fully operational as soon as possible.

### [Gwadar port to become fully operational by 2030, NA committee told](#)

DAWN|20th July

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reforms was informed here on Tuesday that the Gwadar port would become fully operational by 2030. The committee which met under the chairmanship of Abdul Majeed Khan Khanan Khail discussed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects initiated for the development of Gwadar.

### [Islamabad pessimistic about upturn in ties with Kabul](#)

The Express Tribune | 19th July

Pakistan expects the current stalemate in its ties with Afghanistan to continue after recent efforts to repair the strained relationship received a lukewarm response from across the border, The Express Tribune has learnt from senior officials.

### [Changes in group taxation rules to increase burden on corporate sector](#)

The Express Tribune | 20th July

Latest changes in group taxation rules are detrimental for the corporate sector, according to the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), a policy advocacy forum representing 48 private-sector businesses.

## **SRI LANKA**

### [EU reiterates plans to widen €210 million development program in Sri Lanka to include reconciliation and good governance](#)

Colombo Page | 20th July

The European Union Tuesday reiterated his plans to widen its €210 million (Rs. 34.4 billion) development program in Sri Lanka beyond rural development to provide grants for reconciliation and good governance.

### [Private sector financing opportunities for clean energy projects in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page | 20th July

Sri Lanka - Canada Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in keeping with its unwavering commitment to the membership and the community organized an interactive session recently with the participation of IFC, a member of the World Bank Group and the IFC-Canada Climate Change Program and the government of Canada to help Sri Lankan private sector companies grow and develop their businesses by using clean and green renewable energy solutions.

### [Singapore business community responds positively to Premier's invitation to invest in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page | 20th July

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is on a three-day official visit to Singapore, has extended an invitation to Singapore's Business Community to invest in the island nation as the government has embarked on an ambitious economic development program.

### [Officials instructed to consider fishermen's input and environment feasibility reports before constructing fishery harbours](#)

Colombo Page | 29th July

Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Mahinda Amaraweera has instructed his ministry officials to consider the suggestions of fishermen as well as environment feasibility reports before constructing fishery harbors.

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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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