



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

September 20th, 2017 | Volume: 3 - 08/9

[Ghani to brief UN regarding terrorism and regional support terror groups receive](#)

Khaama Press | 19th September
President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani will talk about terrorism, the threats it poses to the region, and regional support the terror groups receive during his speech at the UN General Assembly. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) spokesman Ahmad Shekib Moshtaghani told reporters that main topic included in President Ghani's speech at the UN General Assembly includes the menace of terrorism posing threats to the region.

[Suu Kyi appeals to global community, vows to repatriate some refugees](#)

Mizzima | 19th September
Aung San Suu Kyi said Tuesday she does not fear global scrutiny over the Rohingya crisis, pledging to hold rights violators to account and to resettle some of the 410,000 Muslims who have fled army operations in her country. But she offered no concrete solutions, according to Amnesty International which said the Nobel peace prize winner was "burying her head in the sand" by ignoring army abuses. Communal violence has torn through Rakhine state since Rohingya terrorists staged deadly attacks on police posts on August 25. Hundreds have been killed and hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya driven out of mainly Buddhist Myanmar into Bangladesh. Suu Kyi has been strongly criticised by the international community for failing to speak up publicly for the

[Bangladesh PM says she expects no help from Trump on refugees fleeing Myanmar](#)

bdnews24 | 19th September
Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she spoke to US President Donald Trump on Monday about Rohingya Muslims flooding into her country from Myanmar, but she expects no help from him as he has made clear how he feels about refugees. As Trump left an event he hosted at the United Nations on reforming the world body, Hasina said she stopped him for a few minutes. "He just asked how is Bangladesh? I said 'it's doing very well, but the only problem that we have is the refugees from Myanmar'," Hasina told Reuters in an interview. "But he didn't make any comment about refugees." A Myanmar military response to insurgent attacks last month in the country's Rakhine state sent more than 410,000 Rohingya Muslims fleeing to neighbouring Bangladesh, escaping what the United Nations has branded as ethnic cleansing.

stateless Rohingya or to urge restraint on the military.

AFGHANISTAN

[Abbasi Admits Kabul Truck Bombers 'Came from Pakistan'](#)

Tolonews / Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 19th September

Pakistan's new prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said the bombers behind a deadly truck bombing in the diplomatic zone of Kabul in May, which killed over 150 people, were likely to have come from Pakistan. In an interview with Financial Times, published Monday, Abbasi also admitted the limitations of its operations but said it was doing all it could to eliminate terror groups such as the Taliban and Haqqani Network.

[ANP Chief opposes US strategy for Afghanistan](#)

Afghanistan Times | 19th September

The Awami National Party Central President, Asfandiyar Wali Khan has said the new US policy on Afghanistan and South Asia is very much dangerous for Afghanistan and Pakistan, calling on the Trump administration to prioritize mediation instead of fueling war in Afghanistan. In his exclusive interview with Salim Safi in Jirga Program at Geo Television, Asfandiyar Wali Khan said, Pakistan is my country and Afghanistan is my motherland and safeguarding interests of these two countries is my responsibility. He said Pakistan's relations with three out of four neighboring countries are not going well. He emphasized on assessment for Pakistan's foreign policy to seek the right path. He urged President Trump to go through a durable solution to the Afghan conflict, rather than fueling war through its warrior policies which would ultimately result in massive destruction for both, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

[First UH-60 helicopters for Afghan army arrived in Afghanistan](#)

Afghanistan Times | 19th September

The first pair of UH-60s (Black Hawk) arrived in Afghanistan and will be soon submitted to Afghan Air Force, defense ministry said Tuesday. "Four fleets of UH-60s will be officially handed over to Ministry of Defense (MoD) in coming week," said Deputy Spokesman for MoD Mohammad Radmanish. He said that two of the UH-60s already arrived to Afghanistan. He said that these choppers are part of the US assistance through the four years plan made by ministry of defense to boost up Afghan army and AAF.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh urges Canada to mount pressure on Myanmar over Rohingya crisis](#)

bdnews24 | 20th September

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has asked Canada to keep "sustained pressure" on Myanmar military to end the Rohingya crisis in the Rakhine State. He met the International Development Minister of Canada Marie-Claude Bibeau in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday. Bibeau said Canada is concerned about the situation. Ali narrated the situation of Rohingyas and stated that since Aug 25 more than 400,000 Rohingyas has come to Bangladesh and the mass exodus is ongoing. As of now, Bangladesh is hosting over 800,000 Rohingyas, he said, urging Canada to take action in line with the EU resolution that was adopted recently following the exodus from Rakhine State.

BHUTAN

[68 % of healthcare providers satisfied with their job](#)

Kuensel Online | 19th September

About 68 percent of healthcare providers in Bhutan are satisfied with their job, according to a survey conducted by the health ministry. The survey was conducted this year to measure staff satisfaction level and its associated factors in healthcare facilities in the country. Salary and incentives, supervisor, workload, faculty management and infrastructure; training and opportunities, and stress management were used to assess health staff satisfaction in the country. Of the 50 specific statements for job satisfaction, it was found that more than 50 percent of the healthcare providers were “most unsatisfied” with ex-country Continuing Medical Education (CME), career enhancement opportunities, duty travel opportunities; staff quarter allocation, promotion system, and in-country CME opportunities.

[Cultural events to mark 30 years of Bhutan-Korea relations](#)

Kuensel Online | 18th September

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and Bhutan, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka, Bangladesh will be organising several Korean Cultural Events from September 21 to October 2. A press release from the embassy states that the events symbolise the long-standing friendship between the two countries. The events include Korea Cup Taekwondo Championships 2017 from September 21 to 24 and Korea and Bhutan Friendship concert at the Clock Tower Square in Thimphu on September 24. According to the press release, four well known Korean musical performance teams will perform at the concert. Bhutan Film Association will organise a Korean film festival from September 22 to October 2. The inauguration will be at the Lugar Theatre on September 22.

MALDIVES

[Dr. Naseer: Maldives would push UN to enter Rohingya crisis](#)

Sun Online | 18th September

Permanent Appointee to the United Nations from the Maldives, Dr. Ali Naseer has said that the Maldives will push the UN to stop the human rights violations by the military of Myanmar against the Rohingya Muslims. Responding to the opposition claims that the Maldives did not take part in a UN vote involving the Rohingya crisis in a Skype interview with PSM from New York, Dr. Naseer said that the Maldivian government would always stand with the Rohingya Muslims on the international stage at the UN. He said that the Maldives have taken part and voted in every resolution to stop the human rights violations against the Rohingya Muslims so far.

[China donates USD 22,000 to the Youth Ministry](#)

Sun Online | 19th September

The Chinese government has donated USD 22,700 (MVR 350,261) to the Maldivian Youth Ministry. At a special ceremony held at the Youth Ministry today, the donation cheque was presented by the Chinese Ambassador to the Maldives, Zhang Lizhong and was accepted by the Youth Minister, Iruthisham Adam.

MYANMAR

[Britain suspends Myanmar military training](#)

Mizzima | 19th September

Britain said Tuesday it had suspended its educational training courses for the Myanmar military due to the ethnic violence in Rakhine state. London said it had "deep concern" about human rights abuses and would not be resuming the military courses unless there was an "acceptable resolution" to the ongoing Rohingya crisis. Communal violence has torn through Myanmar's western Rakhine state since Muslim minority Rohingya terrorists staged deadly attacks on police posts on August 25. "The action the military are taking against the Rohingya people needs to stop," British Prime Minister Theresa May told the UK's Sky News in New York. "There will be no further defence engagement or training of the Burmese military by the Ministry of Defence until there's a resolution of this issue."

[Bangladesh to buy 100,000 tonnes of white rice from Myanmar](#)

Mizzima | 19th September

Bangladesh is to buy 100,000 tonnes of white rice from Myanmar at \$442 a tonne, putting aside worsening relations over the Rakhine refugee crisis as the government races to overcome a shortage of the country's staple food. Normally the world's fourth biggest rice producer, Bangladesh has become a major importer this year after floods hit its crops, sending domestic rice prices to record highs. The deal with Myanmar is the first state-to-state rice deal between the two countries, and comes amid increasingly strained relations.

NEPAL

[Indian prez, PM send messages of felicitation](#)

The Himalayan Times | 19th September

On the occasion of the Constitution Day of Nepal, President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba have received separate messages of felicitations from President of India Ram Nath Kovind, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi respectively. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in his message to President Bhandari, the president of India stated India-Nepal bilateral relationship is unique, time tested and multifaceted, which is steeped in both countries' strong cultural ties and civilisational bonds.

[Major parties agree on two ballot papers for provincial, parliamentary elections](#)

The Himalayan Times | 19th September

Major political parties — the Nepali Congress, the CPN-UML and the CPN-Maoist Centre today agreed to make only two ballot papers for provincial and parliamentary polls slated for November 26 and December 7. During the meeting held at the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers in Singha Durbar, the parties agreed to use two ballot papers as proposed by the Election Commission. According to UML leader Rajendra Pandey, voters, however, have to cast votes separately for the first-past-the-post election of the province and of the parliament in one ballot paper and they will have to cast votes separately for provincial and parliamentary proportional representation election in the second ballot paper. According to a press release issued by EC Spokesperson Nabaraj Dhakal, CEC Yadav informed senior leaders of the big three parties that the polls panel had prepared initial design of the ballot papers.

[High women participation](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 19th September

Participant of female voters was remarkable during the third phase local polls in Province 2. Birendra Prasad Sah, associate professor of Thakur Ram Multiple Campus, said that more women participated in the elections because the new constitution has ensured greater women representation at local units. According to the Local Level Election Act-2015, every village council and municipal council has to elect at least four woman representatives, while political parties should guarantee 50 per cent women candidates for the posts of either chairperson or vice-chairperson of the village council, mayor or deputy mayor of the municipal council and chief and deputy chief of the District Coordination Committee.

PAKISTAN

[Panama Papers case verdict not a 'divine scripture': Rana Sanaullah](#)

Dawn | 20th September

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah has urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take notice of the alleged use of the Supreme Court name for political purposes. Talking to journalists, he criticised the opposition, claiming that it had been reported that Imran Khan introduced the Supreme Court as a 'political party' in the NA-120 by-election, which the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won despite difficulties. He said Mr Khan had asked voters if they stamped on his side of the ballot then they were casting their votes in favour of the apex court and if they voted for the other side — the PML-N — then they were exercising their right of franchise against the SC.

[Oil, gas findings: committee endorses producer province's first right](#)

Dawn | 20th September

The Inter-Provincial Coordination Committee (IPCC) on Tuesday recommended with a majority vote to give rights over all future oil and gas findings to the respective producer provinces so that Article 158 of the Constitution is implemented in its true spirit. The IPCC meeting was presided over by Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Riaz Hussain Pirzada. Chief minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pervez Khattak and representatives of Punjab and Balochistan attended the meeting. Mr Shah told journalists after the meeting that KP, Balochistan, Sindh and IPCC chairman endorsed the view that Article 158 of the constitution should be implemented in its true spirit by giving the priority of use to the producer provinces of the reserves.

SRI LANKA

[President urges international Community to consider Sri Lanka's progress in reconciliation, Human Rights](#)

Colombo Page | 20th September

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena called upon the international community to seriously consider the tremendous progress made by the government towards reconciliation, restoration of democratic freedoms, human rights and the rule of law. Addressing the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, September 19th, the President asked the international community to extend the fullest support to the slow, but the steady forward march of Sri Lanka to build a "progressive, democratic, free and equal society with high morals and discipline."

[Sri Lanka Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy says power supply in the country normal amid strike](#)

Colombo Page | 19th September

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy says the power supply in the country is being carried out as usual despite the strike launched by the workers union of the power supplier Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB)

entered its seventh day today. The Ministry has said that all the power generating plants including thermal and hydro power plants are functioning as usual while there may be small scale power failures in some areas and those will be restored without delay. According to the Ministry many employees who resorted to the trade union action have now reported for duty. The Ministry has stressed that there will be no room to cause problems for the electricity consumers.

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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