

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

September 21st , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 9/9

[Bangladesh's Junaid Ahmad takes over as World Bank's India director](#)

bdnews24 | 20th September

Junaid Kamal Ahmad has taken over as the World Bank's new Country Director for India, replacing Onno Ruhl, who completed his four-year term, an official statement said in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ahmad, a Bangladeshi national, was formerly Chief of Staff to World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim.

[India backs off major retaliation over Kashmir raid, for now](#)

Reuters/The Express Tribune | 21st September

For all the shrill rhetoric immediately following Sunday's attack on an Indian army camp in Kashmir, which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan, the threat of a sudden escalation in hostilities between the nuclear-armed rivals has receded for now.

[Sri Lanka ready to launch first phase of 'Techno City' on September 22](#)

Colombo Page | 20th September

Western Province Megapolis Development plan has already commenced the largest urban development plan of the South Asian region while widening the horizons of city development in Sri Lanka.

AFGHANISTAN

[Afghanistan launches probe into alleged US airstrike on policemen](#)

Khaama Press | 20th September

Afghanistan has launched an investigation into the alleged airstrike by the US forces on Afghan policemen that left at least 8 policemen dead. The Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan (MoI) said an investigation is underway regarding the alleged airstrike that took place in southern Uruzgan province. The Ministry further added that the circumstances surrounding the alleged airstrike will be ascertained once the investigation concludes.

[Afghanistan in talks with UAE companies for \\$6b infrastructure projects](#)

Khaama Press | 20th September

Negotiations are underway between the Afghan government and some companies in United Arab Emirates to attract an investment of \$6 billion in infrastructure projects, it has been reported. The officials in the Ministry of Energy and Water of Afghanistan have said Afghanistan requires a total of \$9 billion investment in the energy sector. Water and Energy Minister Ali Ahmad Osmani told reporters in UAE that the donor partners of Afghanistan including the United States Agency for International Development have made a commitment of \$2 billion.

[Development Programs Fall Short of Helping Women: Ministry](#)

Tolonews/Outlook Afghanistan | 21st September

The Ministry of Finance said on Tuesday that women have largely been forgotten about in terms of development

around gender-related programs. According to the ministry, a recent survey has found that development programs have focused on only one percent of women in the country. The Finance Ministry's financial deputy Mustafa Mastoor said he suggests that development plans should be outlined in order to take the needs of all Afghans into consideration. He said so far the development programs have focused on women that work in offices but have not included others.

[Islamabad, Kabul Have Shared Interest in Peace: US Secretary of State John Kerry](#)

Pajhwok/Outlook Afghanistan | 21st September

US Secretary of State John Kerry, commending Pakistan's fight against terrorism, has said Islamabad and Kabul have a shared interest in peace and security in the region. At a meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in New York on Monday, Kerry said terrorist infrastructure had been dismantled and they were on the run because of the action taken by Pakistani forces.

[Sharif Urges Support for Safe Return of Afghan Refugees](#)

Pajhwok/Outlook Afghanistan | 21st September

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said Pakistan's hospitality remains unchanged despite a sharp decline in international aid for Afghan refugees living in his country. Pakistan has been host to millions of Afghan refugees for the past four decades, the prime minister told the UN General Assembly's first-ever Summit for Refugees and Migrants on Monday. "While financial support from the international community has waned, Pakistan's hospitality has not. Despite our modest resources, the people of Pakistan have opened their hearts to Afghan brothers and sisters."

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh to work with Myanmar on refugee issue: PM Hasina](#)

BSS/ The Daily Star | 21st September

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh looks forward to working with the Myanmar's new leadership to find lasting solution to the next door neighbour's refugee issue. "We look forward to working with the new Myanmar leadership to find lasting solution to this issue... I'm already in touch with Aung San Suu Kyi," she said while addressing a world leaders' summit on refugee issue held under the auspices of US President Barak Obama in New York.

[US should give duty-free access](#)

UNB/The Daily Star | 21st September

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said duty and quota free access of Bangladeshi apparel to the US market is imperative to expansion of Bangladesh's RMG industry, women employment and empowerment. "USA would then be as fair as the 52 other countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, China, Japan, India and the European Union that give Bangladesh duty and quota free access to their markets," she told the luncheon meeting of Business Council for International Understanding at Hotel Waldorf Astoria here on Monday.

BHUTAN

[Bhutan condemns Uri attack](#)

Kuensel Online | 20th September

The government condemned the terrorist attack on the Uri Army base in Kashmir, India on September 18. "Bhutan is deeply concerned by the despicable terrorist attack," the foreign ministry stated in a press release yesterday. It stated that in this hour of distress, the people and the Royal Government of Bhutan express their solidarity with the people and government of India.

MALDIVES

[Former Chairperson of MDP Moosa: Opposition coalition lack strength to topple government](#)

Sun Online | 21st September

Former Chairperson of MDP and current MP for Hulhu-Henveiru constituency, Riko Moosa Manik has said that the opposition coalition has a failed leadership and does not have strength to overthrow the PPM government.

MYANMAR

[Growing 'culture of intolerance' in India: writers' group](#)

Mizzima | 20th September

India must overhaul its antiquated laws and cumbersome legal system which are increasingly being misused to silence dissent in the Hindu majority country, a global writers group said in a report Monday. Hardline Hindu groups have been accused of fomenting intolerance of religious and other minorities since nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi swept to power at general elections in 2014.

NEPAL

[Maldivian Ambassador calls on President Bidya Bhandari](#)

The Himalayan Times | 20th September

Maldivian Ambassador to Nepal Ahmed Saleem paid a courtesy call on President Bidya Devi Bhandari at the latter's office in Sheetal Niwas, on Tuesday. Ambassador Saleem discussed diplomatic relationship between the two countries with President Bhandari during the meeting.

[Sharing views on common interest and issues usual, clarifies MoFA](#)

The Himalayan Times | 20th September

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today claimed that sharing views and taking common positions with other countries on pressing international issues was not a great deal. Referring to media criticism on the Nepal-India joint statement issued during Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's India visit last week, MoFA said that Nepal, earlier as well, had been cooperating and coordinating with neighbouring countries, including India and China as well as with other countries on global issues of mutual interest.

[Foreign Minister Mahat attends UN high-level summit for refugees and migrants](#)

Rastriya Samachar Samiti / The Himalayan Times | 20th September

Minister for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharan Mahat, who is presently in New York City leading the Nepali delegation to the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, attended the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly organised by the President of the General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York today to address the large movements of refugees and migrants.

[IBN to sign Rs8b waste management contract](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 21st September

Investment Board Nepal (IBN) has prepared a draft of the project development agreement (PDA) it plans to sign with two companies that have been approved to manage solid waste in the Kathmandu Valley. Last April, IBN agreed to let Nepwaste and Clean Valley Company implement the Kathmandu Valley Integrated Solid Waste Management Project.

PAKISTAN

[Indian claim of ceasefire violation rejected](#)

DAWN | 21st September

ISLAMABAD: A military official on Tuesday dismissed as propaganda the Indian claims of ceasefire violation by Pakistan on the Line of Control (LoC) and having foiled an infiltration bid.

[Trade body chief urges completion of Iran-Pakistan pipeline](#)

APP/The Express Tribune | 21st September

Pakistan needs to complete the 785km of its own portion of the 2,775km Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline, said a trade body chief, adding that it would help boost bilateral trade between the countries.

[Two laws passed: K-P Development Authority shut down](#)

The Express Tribune | 21st September

The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Assembly on Tuesday passed the 'K-P Taking Over of the Industrial Estates or Economic Zones Act, 2016', a law shutting the K-P Development Authority (K-PDA) or the former Sarhad Development Authority (SDA).

SRI LANKA

[ETCA, FTAs no threat to Lanka's growth - Dr. Kelegama](#)

Daily News | 21st September

The proposed Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement (ETCA), China-Sri Lanka, Singapore - Lanka FTAs should be viewed as widening opportunities and not as a threat for nation's growth and development, Institute of Policy Studies Executive Director Dr.Saman Kelegama said.

[Sri Lanka seeks early solution to Indo-Lanka fishermen issue](#)

Colombo Gazette | 21st September

Sri Lanka has called for a speedy solution to the Indo-Lanka fishermen issue, President Maithripala Sirisena's media division said today. Indian Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar called on President Sirisena at the UN Headquarters in New York.

[Millennium Challenge Corporation team in Sri Lanka to decide on assistance for the projects to be implemented](#)

Colombo Page | 21st September

A team of the United States Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is already in Sri Lanka to decide on the projects to be implemented with the assistance from the MCC, its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Dana J Hyde has told the Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena.

About Ananta Aspen Centre

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