

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

July 25th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 11/7

[Rocket lands in Makroryan area of Kabul](#)

Khaama Press | 24th July
A relatively heavy explosion was heard in Kabul city causing panic among the city residents a day after a deadly attack left at least 80 dead. The security officials confirmed that a rocket landed in Makroryn area in the 9th police district of the city. Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, confirmed that the rocket landed in 3rd Makrorya but did not inflict any casualties.

[Prime Minister Oli resigns](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 25th July
KP Sharma Oli resigned as prime minister on Sunday evening moments before the scheduled voting on a no-confidence motion which he was certain to lose. With his resignation, deliberations on the no-trust motion also concluded on Sunday and the proposal, registered in Parliament on July 13, was withdrawn.

[Wang Yi's visit boosts China-Sri Lanka ties, sparks concern in India?](#)

Daily News | 25th July
China, Sri Lanka's biggest donor of foreign aid this year, has assured its 'fullest cooperation' to develop the South Asian island nation amidst increasing concern by India. During a recent meeting with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged his government's continued assistance to help develop the country. Yi, who was on a three-day official visit that concluded on July 10, was the first highest ranking Chinese official to visit Sri Lanka under Sirisena's administration.

AFGHANISTAN

[Atmar discusses military cooperation with Moscow](#)

Afghanistan Times | 24th July
The National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar on Sunday left for Russia on an official invitation by his Russian counterpart, where he would discuss mutual cooperation, his office said in a statement. He would stay in Russia for four days to discuss military cooperation. "Atmar will hold bilateral talks with his Russian counterpart, Nikolai Patrushev, where both sides would talk about procuring and providing Mi-17 and Mi-35 helicopters to Afghan National Defense and Security Forces," the statement said.

[Ghani Underlines Af-Pak Efforts for Regional Peace & Stability](#)

Pajhwok / Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 25th July
President Ashraf Ghani has once again underlined the need for joint efforts by Afghanistan and Pakistan for regional peace and stability. Afghanistan was pursuing a policy of good neighbourly relations with Pakistan, Ghani said in an interview with a Pakistan television channel on Saturday night. While calling for unity against terrorism, Ghani praised Afghan security forces for their bravery in combating the menace in partnership with their international allies.

[6,100 Foreign Terrorist Active in Afghanistan: Saikal](#)

Pajhwok / Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 25th July

Pakistan-based terror groups are attacking Indian interests and goals in Afghanistan, the Afghan ambassador to the United Nations has alleged, Mahmoud Saikal blamed Lashkar-i-Taiba (LeT), Taliban, Jaish-i-Mohammad (JeM) and al-Qaeda for seeking sanctuaries and safe havens in tribal areas on both sides of the border.

BANGLADESH

[Fighting terror tops agenda](#)

The Daily Star | 25th July

In the wake of two grisly militant attacks and amid fear of further strikes, the threat of terrorism will dominate the four-day annual conference of deputy commissioners set to begin tomorrow. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is scheduled to inaugurate the conference at her office, is expected to give directives to the DCs about the implementation of government decisions, policies and measures, including those to combat militancy.

[Delhi seeks duty waiver on billet export to Bangladesh](#)

The Financial Express | 25th July

India has requested Dhaka to allow duty-free export of their non-alloy steel billet to Bangladesh through a reversal of the recently levied regulatory duty and value added tax (VAT) on the item. To back up their desire, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka in a letter to the Bangladesh government cited the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) rules. The government has withdrawn the zero-duty benefit for the item under the SAFTA agreement in the budget for current fiscal year.

[Bangladesh's RMG progress can be a global role model: UNCTAD Secretary General](#)

The Financial Express | 21st July

Bangladesh's progress in the RMG sector can be set as an example for other countries, said UNCTAD Secretary General Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi. The UNCTAD Secretary General expressed this is a view exchange meeting with Industries Amir Hossain Amu in Nairobi, Kenya. He told Amu that he would highlight the issue in the closing session of World Investment Forum to disseminate the information to the world business leaders.

BHUTAN

[Heavy rains wreak havoc in south](#)

Kuensel | 24th July

Continuous rainfall over the last few days caused several landslides and sections of roads to be washed away along some of the country's major highways. At least two motorable bridges have been damaged and rendered inaccessible.

[Unemployment situation reaching crisis level: Opposition](#)

Kuensel | 24th July

The government's failure to create employment opportunities is pushing the unemployment situation to a crisis level, the opposition party has said.

[Contractor demands Nu 330 million for contract termination](#)

Kuensel | 24th July

The opposition party said that the government had been penny wise and pound foolish, in deciding to terminate the Dagapela-Dalbari highway construction contracts. The government offered compensations to the two contractors whose contracts it terminated in December 2014 months after works had started.

MALDIVES

[MMC: Major concerns on the bill, priority is discussion](#)

Sun Online | 24th July

Maldives Media Council (MMC) has said that there are major concerns regarding the new bill on Anti-defamation and Freedom of Expression and to resolve them, the priority is going to a discussion. Speaking at a press conference at the Media Council this afternoon, the President of MMC, Mohamed Asif (Mondhu) said that small changes were made when the bill came to the Parliament for a second time but the main amendments suggested by the MMC are still missing on the bill.

[Islamic Ministry: Religious literature requires permit](#)

Sun Online | 24th July

Ministry of Islamic Affairs has announced that its permission needs to be obtained before publishing religious literature in the country. Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced on Sunday that those who wish to give religious lectures and advise, and publish religious books need to obtain a letter of permission from the Ministry first – in compliance with amendment to Protection of Religious Unity Act.

MYANMAR

[Peace activists hold rallies in Yangon in support of 21st Century Panglong](#)

Mizzima | 25th July

Peace activists held mass rallies in support of the upcoming government-led Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong) in Yangon, local media reported. The activists called for support of the peace conference and an end to armed conflict. The activists also signed a petition for the peace conference, which would be presented to the Pyithu Hluttaw, the United Nations and international agencies.

NEPAL

[Four-point agreement forged, Dr KC to end hunger strike](#)

The Himalayan times | 24th July

The government on Sunday night forged a four-point agreement with Prof Dr Govinda KC, who has been on the fast-unto-death demanding reforms in Nepal's medical education for the past 15 days. After the agreement, the veteran orthopaedic surgeon is set to formally end his hunger strike tomorrow.

[Govt urges prez to remove constitutional hurdles for new govt formation](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 24th July

The government has recommended President Bidya Devi Bhandari to invoke Article 305 of the Constitution to remove the constitutional the hurdles for the formation of a new government. A Cabinet meeting on Sunday decided to make the recommendation before the president after it concluded that a new government cannot be formed after Prime Minister Oli resigns according to Article 298 of the Constitution, Tourism Minister Anand Pokharel informed.

PAKISTAN

[US oil, gas services firm to wind up Pakistan operations](#)

Dawn | 25th July

A leading international oil and gas services firm is reportedly winding up its operations in Pakistan, causing a setback to exploration and development companies operating in the country and rendering more than 60 professionals jobless.

[Only Kashmiris can decide the future of Kashmir, Aziz tells Swaraj](#)

Dawn | 24th July

Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, reacting to Indian Minister for External Affairs Sushma

Swaraj's statement on Kashmir, stated on Sunday that a verdict on the future of Kashmir can only be given by the people of Kashmir.

[Decline in exports indicates economic emergency in Pakistan](#)

The Express Tribune| 24th July

There is a disconcerting trend in exports as from a peak of \$25.3 billion in 2011 the value of exports from Pakistan has fallen to \$22 billion in 2015.

SRI LANKA

[Malaysia offers employment opportunities for Sri Lankan professionals, considers investing more in development projects](#)

Colombo Page| 22nd July

The Government of Malaysia has agreed to provide more employment opportunities for Sri Lankan professionals and skilled workers in Malaysia and consider more investments in development projects in the island nation, the government of Sri Lanka said.

[Iran to seal post-sanction oil sale deal with Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Gazette| 24th July

Iranian and Sri Lankan oil ministers have begun a fresh round of oil talks over signing the first oil sale contract in the post-sanction era, Iran's MNA news service reported.

[USS New Orleans arrives in Sri Lanka to provide training and disaster relief](#)

Colombo Page| 25th July

The United States Navy vessel USS New Orleans (LPD 18) with embarked 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived at the Port of Colombo in Sri Lanka on July 24 on a goodwill visit. Sri Lanka Navy in accordance with naval traditions welcomed the US ship on her arrival.

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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