



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

August 26th , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 11/8

[Ancient Pagodas damaged in Myanmar due to earthquake](#)

Mizzima| 25th August

A “diamond-shaped orb” and a “banana-bud” of two ancient pagodas in the archaeological area in Mrauk-U Township in Rakhine State fell to the ground and were destroyed due to the 6.8 magnitude earthquake that hit about 5:17 p.m. Myanmar local time. “Two pagodas were damaged due to the recent earthquake. Currently, we are still inspecting the area. We don't know exactly how many pagodas were damaged,” said the Mrauk-U Archaeological Department.

[22 Insurgents Killed, 21 Wounded During Military Operations](#)

Afghanistan Times|25th August

About 22 Taliban militants were killed and 21 were injured during mopping-up operations led by Afghan security forces in 11 provinces of the country in the past 24 hours. Ministry of National Defense press office stated BNA, the clearing operations were launched to suppress armed rebels and protect the lives and properties of people in insecure areas of Nangarhar, Laghman, Ghazni, Kandahar, Badghis, Takhar, Baghlan, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul and Helmand provinces.

[Army combs areas near Pak-Afghan border](#)

The Express Tribune|26th August

After Afghanistan claimed that an hours-long attack on a university in Kabul was orchestrated from Pakistan, the army carried out a combing operation to verify the presence of terrorists in areas straddling the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

AFGHANISTAN

[Afghanistan receives 4 new light attack helicopters from US](#)

Khaama Press|25th August

The Afghan Air Force (AAF) received four new light attack helicopters from the United States on Thursday as efforts are underway to boost the capabilities of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). The delivery of

the four new MD-530 Cayuse Warrior helicopters on Thursday brings the number of the total helicopters delivered to the Afghan forces to 27.

[Ghani asks Raheel Sharif to act against culprits of Kabul attack](#)

Khaama Press|25th August

The Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has asked the Pakistani Army Chief General Raheel Sharif to act against the culprits of Kabul attack based in Pakistan. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said President Ghani called Gen. Sharif during the National Security Council meeting and asked him to take actions against the culprits who are based in Pakistan.

[No more crossing of Afghans into Pakistan without travel documents: Pakistan](#)

Afghanistan Times|25th August

Those wishing to cross the Afghan border into Pakistan without travel documents will not be allowed in, Pakistan's adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs told the Senate standing committee on Thursday. Sartaj Aziz said facilities are being made available for more effective border management. He added that four gates are being erected on the Pak-Afghan border. The gates are being erected on the Pakistan side of the border Aziz told the committee.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladeshis are 'anti-India' because of its 'ties with Awami League', Khaleda advisor Emajuddin says](#)

bdnews24 | 26th August

Bangladeshis are 'largely anti-India', Professor Emajuddin Ahamed claims, and blames that country's relations with the Awami League for such sentiments. Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Emajuddin, one of the key advisors to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, made the remarks at an event in Dhaka on Thursday. On Wednesday, Khaleda spoke at a news conference protesting against the Rampal power plant project, an India-Bangladesh joint venture near the Sundarbans.

[Bangladesh Navy brings back 62 fishermen who entered India waters during storm](#)

bdnews24 | 26th August

Bangladesh Navy has brought back 62 fishermen who had entered Indian waters during a storm in the Bay of Bengal. Indian fishermen rescued the Bangladeshis on board four trawlers on Aug 16 and handed them over to the Indian Coast Guard. Two Bangladesh Navy vessels brought them back from Indian Coast Guard's Frazerganj Station on Thursday, the Navy said in a media release.

BHUTAN

[11th Bhutan-Japan consultations held](#)

Kuensel Online|24th August

The 11th Annual Consultations between Bhutan and Japan on Economic Cooperation was held in New Delhi on August 23. The two countries exchanged views on the status of Japanese assistance to Bhutan, including the progress of the 11th Plan and the preparation status of the 12th Plan. The Bilateral Development Assistance Needs Survey and other issues of mutual interest were also discussed during the annual meeting.

[Nu 500,000 for tourism development in Dagana, Tsirang](#)

Kuensel Online| 25th August

There are some positive developments in promoting balanced regional development in the tourism sector, the country's second largest industry. The government has allocated Nu 500,000 to facilitate development and promotion of tourism in Dagana and Tsirang dzongkhags. This is the only dzongkhag specific allocation of tourism budget for the current fiscal year.

MALDIVES

[President Nasheed and top officials of his government ordered to pay the state what is owed](#)

Sun Online | 25th August

Finance Ministry has ordered the top of officials of the Nasheed Presidency, including the former President himself, to pay back to the state what is owed according to the Audit Report. In a statement publicized by the Finance Ministry, they named seven people including the former President Nasheed, to pay back the money.

[Maldives Investment Forum confirmed for October, in Delhi](#)

Sun Online | 25th August

Ministry of Economic Affairs has confirmed that Maldives Investment Forum 2016 will be held in the Indian capital - New Delhi, in October. Minister of Economic Affairs, Mohamed Saeed said that the ministry was coordinating with the Maldivian High Commission in India on making the necessary arrangements to set up the forum.

MYANMAR

[Former UN chief to advise Myanmar on troubled Rakhine state: gov't](#)

AFP/Mizzima|25th August

Former UN chief Kofi Annan will advise Myanmar's new government on resolving conflicts in Rakhine, a region divided on religious grounds and home to the stateless Muslim Rohingya, it was announced Wednesday. The western state is deeply scarred by bouts of sectarian bloodshed in 2012 that forced more than 100,000 Muslim Rohingya into squalid displacement camps.

[USDP newspaper claims crime 'rampant' under NLD](#)

Htet Khaung Linn Myanmar Now/Mizzima|25th August

A newspaper published by the former ruling party of ex-generals has claimed that crime has sharply risen under the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, and that her efforts to impose rule of law have failed. The Union Daily, a little-read publication owned by the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), said in an editorial Monday that, "Organized crimes, rapes and robberies have become rampant across the country.

NEPAL

[Amendment meaningless without implementing constitution, says Oli](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 26th August

Speaking at a press meet at Tribhuvan International Airport before his departure to Bangkok on Thursday, former prime minister Oli said, "It is meaningless to amend constitution without setting the purpose. My party has not been approached formally on amendment of constitution. But I've heard that some parties agreed to amend it." Pointing to the present government's inability to get a full shape even after three weeks of prime minister's election, Oli expressed doubts over its functioning.

[Around 20,000 Nepalis to benefit from Qatar's amnesty programme](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 26th August

Qatar has announced three-month grace period for foreign workers without legal status to leave the country without legal consequences as part of its mass amnesty plan that seeks to flush out undocumented workforce living in the Arab country. An estimated 20,000 Nepali migrant workers are expected to benefit from the amnesty. In the announcement made by Qatar's Ministry of Interior on Thursday through the social networking site Twitter, it has said that the three-month amnesty period begins from September 1 and lasts until December 1.

[NC's ministerial berth pangs finally over](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 26th August

An internal dispute in the Nepali Congress (NC) over the distribution of ministries was settled on Thursday after party President Sher Bahadur Deuba gave in to the demand of senior leader Ram Chandra Poudel that his camp be allotted five ministerial portfolios. The party, according to NC leaders, has already decided on the list of ministers and they will take the oath of office on Friday morning.

PAKISTAN

[India refuses talks over Kashmir issue with Pakistan](#)

DAWN|25th August

India on Thursday formally rejected Pakistan's proposal to hold exclusive talks on the issue of Kashmir and said it will only discuss the issue of terrorism alleged infiltration of militants with Pakistan, it has been learnt.

[Pak-Afghan border remains shut for seventh day](#)

The Express Tribune|26th August

Talks between Pakistani and Afghan border officials on the reopening of the Chaman border ended inconclusively on Thursday after another impasse-hit flag meeting at the Friendship Gate.

[\\$5.3 billion paid in debt servicing in 2015-16](#)

DAWN|26th August

Pakistan paid \$5.3 billion in debt servicing during the fiscal year 2015-16, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said on Thursday, as compared to \$5.417bn in the preceding fiscal year.

SRI LANKA

[India to provide Sri Lanka Rs 300 million for development activities in Hambantota District](#)

Colombo Page| 24th August

India will provide an assistance of Rs 300 million to Sri Lanka for livelihood development, including the fisheries sector, in the southern Hambantota district, the government said today.

[Indonesia, Sri Lanka sign MOU on election management cooperation](#)

Colombo Gazette| 25th August

The General Elections Commission (KPU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sri Lanka's Election Commission on cooperation in the management of elections. The ceremony was held on Wednesday during the Asian Electoral Stakeholder Forum III in Bali, the Jakarta Post reported today.

[UN Secretary General to visit Sri Lanka next week](#)

Colombo Page| 26th August

The United Nations Secretary General ban Ki-moon is scheduled to arrive in Sri Lanka next week, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced at the press briefing on Thursday.

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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