

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

August 29th , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 12/8

[Afghanistan departs 250 Pakistani workers as deadlock persists near Chaman](#)

Khaama Press| 28th August
Afghanistan has reportedly deported 250 Pakistani workers as deadlock persists along the Durand Line near Chaman with the crossing remaining closed for the 10th consecutive day.

[PM to nominate more envoys to highlight Kashmir issue](#)

DAWN|29th August
After facing criticism from the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and some political circles over the prime minister's act of ignoring opposition parties in the nomination of parliamentarians as special envoys on the Kashmir cause, the government has now decided to nominate more envoys, giving representation to other parties as well.

[Pakistan expresses commitment to strengthen relations with Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page| 27th August
Pakistan and Sri Lanka have "tremendous scope" to further strengthen the bilateral economic and trade relations, Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said when he met with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ravi Karunanayake in Islamabad on Saturday.

AFGHANISTAN

[Pakistan concerned as Afghanistan expects more weapons from India](#)

Khaama Press| 27th August

The Foreign Office of Pakistan expressed concerns regarding the growing military cooperation between Kabul and New Delhi as Afghanistan expects delivery of more weapons from India.

[ISIS coordinator arrested in Jalalabad city](#)

Khaama Press|28th August

A militant coordinating the movement of fighters for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group was arrested in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital of eastern Nangarhar province. The Afghan Intelligence, National Directorate of Security (NDS), said Abdul Rahman also known as Badam son of Bahram was arrested from the 2nd police district of Jalalabad city.

[Political Pact to be Enforced with Understanding: CEO](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan| 28th August

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on Saturday said all terms of the national unity government deal would be implemented through consultation and understanding.

[We can't Build Afghanistan through Begging: Ghani](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan|29th August

President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday said he personally interviewed and appointed 21 mayors for their commitment and mentality to develop the country through hard work, not through begging for foreign aid.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh explores jute market in US, Mexico](#)

Bdnews24 | 27th August

A Bangladesh delegation led by Minister for Textiles and Jute Md Emaj Uddin Pramanik is currently visiting the US as part of the government's strategy to expand jute and jute products' market. Bangladesh Consulate General in New York said the six-member delegation would also visit Mexico to explore the market.

[Foreign minister encourages British businesses to invest in Bangladesh](#)

Bdnews24 | 28th August

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has invited British businesses to invest in Bangladesh as he said trade is one of the "key" elements for strengthening bilateral relations. He has also encouraged a visiting British minister to ask their businesses to take the "opportunity" arising from Bangladesh's steps to establish 100 'Economic Zones' (EZs).

[Bangladesh stresses on SAFTA implementation at SAARC finance ministers' meet](#)

Bdnews24 | 28th August

Bangladesh has stressed on "effective" implementation of South Asian free trade agreement or SAFTA and other trade related treaties within the SAARC at the finance ministers' meeting in Islamabad. State Minister for Finance Affairs MA Mannan said many "institutional and legal framework" for regional cooperation had been built up through agreements and programmes covering wide range of areas of importance to the region.

[2 'JMB men' killed in Bogra 'gunfight'](#)

Prothom Alo | 29th August

Two suspected militants of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were killed early Monday in a reported gunfight with police in Sherpur's Bishalpur. One of the deceased was identified as Khaled Hasan aka Badar Mama, 30, son of Enamul Haque of Hamidpur village in Nachol upazila of Chapainawabganj while the identity of the second suspect could not be known yet.

BHUTAN

[Loopholes in election process affect candidates](#)

Kuensel Online | 28th August

As chiwog zomdus for the second local government (LG) continues, loopholes in the electoral laws and process have emerged. In the recently held zomdu at Damji chiwog in Khamaed gewog of Gasa, a former monk, Kinley Penjore, was selected as the nominee for the post of gup. However, his happiness was short-lived.

[Bhutan seeks more economic cooperation with Thailand](#)

Kuensel Online | 26th August

Bhutan wants to increase bilateral cooperation in trade and investment with Thailand. Economic affairs minister Lekey Dorji pointed out that the two countries already enjoy have "excellent cooperation" in sectors like education and health at the first Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting between the two countries held in the capital, yesterday.

MALDIVES

[Chamber of Commerce asks for ban on permanent foreign reporters](#)

Sun Online | 28th August

Maldives National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) has requested the government to issue a ban on foreign reporters working on a permanent-basis in Maldives. MNCCI issued a press conference on Sunday, in which it said that Maldivian reporters worked hard day and night in the media industry, and asked that the government ban foreign reporters working in the country on a permanent-basis so that the benefits and opportunities fall solely on local reporters.

[10 officers sent to India for higher education](#)

Sun Online | 28th August

10 Maldivian police officers have gone to India for higher education in a scholarship opportunity provided by Lovely Professional University of India. The officers traveled to India on August 19 and August 226. Lovely Professional University provided one scholarship spot for Master's Degree and nine spots for Bachelor's Degree.

MYANMAR

[Myanmar's Suu Kyi faces test at ethnic peace conference](#)

AFP/Mizzima|29th August

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi faces what could be the toughest test of her leadership yet when she opens a major ethnic peace conference Wednesday aimed at ending wars that have blighted the country since its independence. The five-day talks will bring hundreds of ethnic minority rebel leaders to the capital, along with military top brass and international delegates such as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

[Visiting UK Minister optimistic about Myanmar government's progress](#)

Mizzima|29th August

Visiting UK Minister Rory Stewart has expressed his optimism over Myanmar's future and called for patience as the Myanmar government attempts to deal with a raft of challenges. In an exclusive interview with Mizzima, the UK Minister of State at the Department for International Development offered a brief insight into the findings of a three-day official State visit at the end of his trip on August 27.

NEPAL

[Local survey on effectiveness of foreign aid concludes](#)

Himalayan Times| 27th August

The country has concluded the survey on effectiveness of foreign aid for the purpose of submitting the findings for the second Global Monitoring Survey on aid effectiveness.

['Foreign relations to be shored up on basis of trust'](#)

RSS/Kathmandu Post| 28th August

Minister for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharan Mahat has said he would advance country's international relations on basis of trust and by securing national interest. Speaking at an interaction in the Capital on Saturday, Minister Mahat said, "We need to benefit from the development of our two neighbours. Nepal will move ahead on path of prosperity by shoring up mutual relations on basis of trust."

[Amendment proposal registration before PM visits India: Nidhi](#)

My Republica| 29th August

Deputy Prime Minister Bimalendra Nidhi has assured the leaders of Madhes-based parties that the constitution amendment proposal will be registered at Parliament prior to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's visit to India.

[FDI pledges plunges 76 percent to Rs 15.4 billion](#)

My Republica| 29th August

Foreign direct investment pledges went down by a whopping 77.5 percent in the last Fiscal Year 2015/16 compared to 2014/15.

PAKISTAN

[SAARC moot: Pakistan for EU style South Asia](#)

The Express Tribune|26th August

Pakistan has emphasised upon devising the roadmap for a South Asian regional market on the lines of the European Union as an earlier trade agreement has fallen short of expectations owing to competing interests of Saarc countries. "A lot of progress is still due on the Regional Economic Integration Study (Phase-II)," said Finance Secretary Dr Waqar Masood while chairing the 8th Saarc Finance Secretaries meeting on Thursday.

[Fresh campaign launched for NSG membership](#)

DAWN|29th August

Pakistan has re-launched its campaign to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), as its envoy in the US capital approached the White House this week with a request to support its bid.

[Islamabad, Riyadh to scale up efforts to counter Islamic State threat](#)

The Express Tribune|29th August

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Sunday agreed to redouble their efforts to deal with the threat posed by terrorist groups, particularly Da'ish (Islamic State), which is said to be involved in recent terrorist attacks in the Kingdom. The agreement was reached during high-level talks between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Saudi Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister Mohammed bin Salman, who made a stopover in Islamabad late Sunday on his way to China.

SRI LANKA

[U.S. Navy submarine tender to arrive in Sri Lanka tomorrow](#)

Colombo Page| 28th August

The United States Navy ship, USS Frank Cable (AS-40) will arrive in Sri Lanka for a routine refueling and port visit on August 29, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo said.

[ETCAs and FTAs will be useless if skill shortages in the economy not sorted - PM](#)

Daily News| 29th August

The Sri Lanka Human Capital Summit (HCS) served as a platform for a dialogue between Policy makers, business leaders, industry experts and global thought leaders. The conference also served as a platform to identify solutions to bridge the skill gaps which would enable Sri Lanka build a future ready workforce.

About Ananta Aspen Centre

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