

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

**August 30th, 2017| Volume: 3 - 09/8**

[PM Deuba stresses on timely elections for constitution implementation](#)

The Himalayan Times | 29th August

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba addressing Gaura Festival, said Nepal would strive in development paths after successfully holding all elections for the implementation of Constitution and Federalism, in Tundikhel, Kathmandu, on Tuesday. As per the constitutional requirement, Nepal should hold all tiers of local polls including Provincial and Parliamentary elections by January 21, 2018.

[Letter criticising envoy 'comes at a difficult time'](#)

Dawn|30th August

A scathing letter allegedly written by a former Pakistani envoy to the country's ambassador in Washington comes at a time when the embassy is busy countering a slew of statements, articles and TV talks targeting the country. "Discrediting [Pakistan's] Ambassador [to the United States] Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry at a time when he is dealing with a very difficult situation is no service to Pakistan," said a senior diplomatic observer in Washington. "It will definitely not help promote Pakistan's cause."

[Bangladesh gets \\$515 million from WB to improve health services](#)

bdnews24 | 28th August

Bangladesh has signed a \$515 million financing agreement with the World Bank for development of health and nutrition services. The fund under the Health Sector Support Project will focus on service improvements in Sylhet and Chittagong divisions, where key health indicators are below national averages, the World Bank said in a statement. The project is financed by a \$500 million credit from the International Development Association or IDA, the World Bank's concessional lending arm, and a \$15 million grant from the Global Financing Facility.

### [Hekmatyar urges Pakistan not to turn Afghanistan into its regional rivalry hub](#)

Khaama Press | 29th August

The leader of Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmyat has urged the regional countries, specifically the neighboring Pakistan to refrain from efforts aimed at turning Afghanistan into its regional rivalry hub. During a meeting with the Sikh and Hindu Afghan nationals, Hekmatyar said “We want peace in Afghanistan and the region and the neighboring countries should help Afghanistan in bringing peace and stability.” Hekmatyar further added at a time only Afghanistan was burning in the flames of war but today the fire has further spread into the other countries.

### [5 killed, 8 wounded in suicide attack in Kabul city](#)

Khaama Press | 29th August

At least five people were killed and eight others were wounded in the suicide attack in Kabul city this morning. The Ministry of Interior spokesman Najib Danish confirmed the final toll hours after the incident took place close to Massoud Square. Danish further added that a security guard of a private bank where the incident took place was also among those killed. He said at least five people have been killed in total and eight others have sustained injuries.

### [13 civilian, 16 insurgents killed in Herat airstrike](#)

Afghanistan Times | 29th August

At least 13 civilians and 16 insurgents have been killed in an airstrike carried out in western Herat province on Monday night, said officials. “An airstrike targeted a Taliban center in Bakhtabad area of Herat province have killed at least 16 armed Taliban insurgents, and wounded four others,” Herat Provincial Spokesman, Jailani Farhad told Afghanistan Times. However, he also talked about civilian causality, lamenting that 13 civilians have been killed and seven others received injures in the air attack.

## **BANGLADESH**

### [Bangladesh agrees with EU on modalities to bring back illegal citizens](#)

bdnews24 | 30th August

Bangladesh has reached an agreement with the European Union on the modalities to take back illegal citizens from the 28 member states of the bloc. The foreign ministry’s Secretary, bilateral, Kamrul Ahsan headed the Bangladesh side in the meeting that agreed on the draft ‘standard operating procedure or SOP’ on Tuesday in Dhaka. European Commission’s Asia Pacific Department’s Deputy Managing Director Paola Pampaloni led the other side. “We have reached agreement on the text. Now it will go to the internal procedure for signing. It may take up to two months,” the foreign ministry’s Director General of the Europe Wing Mohammad Khorshed A Khastagir, who attended the meeting, told bdnews24.com.

### [Many Rohingyas crossing are sick, thousands more seeking to flee](#)

Prothom Alo | 30th August

Rohingya Muslims fleeing to Bangladesh from escalating violence in Myanmar face the growing danger of sickness and attempts by the Bangladesh authorities to send them home, despite a United Nations plea that they be allowed to seek shelter. A series of coordinated attacks by Rohingya insurgents on security forces in the north

of Myanmar's Rakhine state on Friday has triggered a fresh exodus to Bangladesh of Muslim villagers trying to escape the violence.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Trucks carrying Bhutanese goods cleared in Jaigaon](#)

Kuensel Online | 29th August

Trade between Bhutan and India has resumed after more than 300 trucks carrying Bhutanese import and export goods that were held up across the Phuentsholing border for a week were cleared over the weekend, officials from the department of trade (DoT) confirmed. The lack of proper services at the customs office in Jaigaon following the introduction of the Indian Goods and Services Tax (GST) had disrupted the flow of trade. Jaigaon Transporters' Welfare Association had stopped the vehicle movement. With the situation worsening each day, Bhutan's trade movement with India had halted since August 21.

## **MALDIVES**

### [New Chinese Ambassador presents credentials to President](#)

Sun Online | 29th August

The new Chinese Ambassador to Maldives, Zhang Lizhong has presented his credentials to President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom. Ambassador Zhang presented his credentials in a function held at President's Office this Monday morning. President's Office reported that President Yameen welcomed Ambassador Zhang to Maldives, and congratulated him on the commencement of his term.

### [JP discusses Qasim's treatment with the Home Minister](#)

Sun Online | 29th August

Members of the Jumhooree Party Council have met with the Home Minister, Azleen Ahmed regarding the medical treatment of the Jumhooree Party Leader, Qasim Ibrahim, currently serving a prison sentence. At the meeting held at the Home Ministry today on request from the Jumhooree Party, the main topic of discussion was the arrangements to send Qasim aboard for medical treatment according to the Secretary General of the party, Ahmed Sameer.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Strong regional response on Rakhine](#)

Mizzima | 29th August

For the first time, Bangladesh has offered to start joint military operations with Myanmar to curb and control the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). Officials in Bangladesh foreign ministry said the offer has been conveyed to Nay Pyi Taw through Myanmar's charge d'affairs in Dhaka. It was not yet clear how Myanmar, especially its army, would react to the offer. Sheikh Hasina's government is against receiving Rohingyas or against backing any ARSA terrorist activity.

### [UN 'deeply concerned' over civilian killings](#)

Mizzima | 29th August

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed 'deep concern' at the reports of civilians being killed during

security operations in Myanmar's Rakhine State. This latest round of violence comes after the attacks on Myanmar security forces on 25 August. The Secretary-General, who condemned those attacks, has reiterated the importance of addressing the root causes of the violence and the responsibility of the Government of Myanmar to provide security and assistance to those in need.

## NEPAL

### [Former supplies minister 'involved' in NOC land scam](#)

MyRepublica | 30th August

Lawmakers have claimed that they have found the involvement of former supplies minister Deepak Bohara and Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) Executive Director Gopal Khadka in the controversial land purchase for setting up fuel storage facilities in various districts.

### [Local representatives helpless due to lack of laws](#)

MyRepublica | 30th August

Even two months after the election, newly-elected representatives of Jhapa are still uncertain about their roles and responsibilities. In the absence of any act or law to regulate the local bodies, the people's representatives are just roaming around to the utter disappointment of the voters whom they had made so many promises. The people's representatives have urged the government to provide the local bodies with the rights and authorities as assured by the constitution. According to them, it has been difficult for them to formulate new plans and implement various projects in lack of laws.

## PAKISTAN

### [JIT head appears before NAB](#)

Dawn | 30th August

Wajid Zia, who led the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) tasked with investigating money-laundering allegations against the Sharif family in the Panama Papers case, appeared before the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officer handed over to the bureau some documents pertaining to the alleged corruption of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and other members of his family, a senior NAB official told Dawn.

### [Siraj warns govt against removing Articles 62, 63](#)

Dawn | 30th August

Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq has warned the government against doing away with Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution and said such a bid would be a 'suicide attack' against the entire Constitution. He was addressing a public meeting in Bawal area here on Tuesday.

### [Cabinet pores over economic fallout of Trump's threat](#)

The Express Tribune | 30th August

US President Donald Trump once referred to himself as the king of debt. But whether or not he really is the king, his recent policy speech on Afghanistan has Pakistan's finance ministry worried about the country's debts. The change in the US's posture towards Pakistan may further complicate the external sector situation, the finance

ministry cautioned the federal cabinet on Tuesday, as the government is already reeling under a worsening fiscal burden due to a 1.85trillion-rupee budget deficit.

## SRI LANKA

### [Sri Lanka hopes to collaborate with Turkey in tea sector](#)

Colombo Page | 29th August

Sri Lanka hopes to collaborate with Turkey in tea sector rather than competing and Turkey can become a tea hub between Europe and Asia with Colombo's collaboration Sri Lanka's ambassador to Ankara P.M. Amza has said. In an exclusive interview with Anadolu Agency Amza has said Sri Lanka's hope and desire is to collaborate [in the tea sector] rather than compete in order to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome and collaboration between Turkey and Sri Lanka over tea will be win-win for both countries.

### [China tells Sri Lankan seminar violent extremism has gone rampant](#)

Colombo Gazette | 29th August

China told delegates attending a seminar in Sri Lanka, violent extremism has gone rampant, seriously endangering human-being and social order, the Sri Lankan Defence Ministry said on Tuesday, according to the Asia Pacific Daily. Senior Colonel Guo Xinning, Deputy Commandant at the College of Defence Studies, National Defence University of the People's Liberation Army in China, said that enhanced international cooperation against violent extremism is the appeal of the times and an important way to maintain international peace, security and stability.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***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.*

To know more, Please log on to [www.anantaaspencentre.in](http://www.anantaaspencentre.in)