

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

August 31st , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 13/8

[Tension flares at Baluwatar over constitution amendment](#)

My Republica| 30th August
Tension ran high at a meeting called by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal at Baluwatar to dwell on the demands raised by Madhesi Adivasi Janajatis and Tharus on Tuesday.

[Afghanistan, US, India trilateral meeting next month](#)

Khaama Press| 31st August
A trilateral meeting will be organized between Afghanistan, the United States, and India next month, the US Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday.

[Pakistan apprehensive of US-India defence deal](#)

The Express Tribune|31st August
Pakistan is assessing the possible ramifications of an agreement signed between the United States and India that would allow the two countries to use each other's land, air and naval bases even though Washington assured Islamabad that the military logistics pact would not jeopardise the country's strategic interests.

AFGHANISTAN

[US steps up training of Afghan Air Force personnel](#)

Khaama Press| 29th August

The United states has stepped up training of the Afghan Air Force (AAF) personnel to help boost the air power of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) amid deteriorating security situation across the country.

[Ghani, Abdullah Agree to Resolve Differences on 4 Key Issues](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan|30th August

President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah on Monday reached agreement on electoral reforms, distribution of electronic ID cards and creating a commission for amendments to the constitution.

[Taliban video purportedly shows captured Canadian, US citizens in Afghanistan](#)

Khaama Press| 31st August

A new video has emerged online which purportedly shows the captured Canadian and American citizens in Afghanistan taken hostage by the Taliban insurgents.

[Indian, US Defence Officials Discuss Afghanistan](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan| 31st August

Top American and Indian defence officials on Monday discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and his Indian counterpart Manohar Parrikar met at the Pentagon, but details of the discussion on Afghanistan were not immediately available.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh Bank's operating profit shrinks substantially](#)

The Financial Express | 30th August

The central bank's operating profit shrank by over 25 per cent or Tk 2.66 billion in the last fiscal mainly for higher interest expenses for mopping up excess liquidity from the money market. Officials said the Bangladesh Bank's operating profit came down to Tk 7.72 billion in the fiscal year (FY) 2015-16 from Tk 10.38 billion a year before. The figure was Tk 20.38 billion in the FY14.

[Khaleda should also face trial for making war criminals ministers, PM Hasina says](#)

bdnews24 | 31st August

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia should be brought to justice for sharing power with war criminals, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has suggested. "It's our misfortune that she put the national flag, stained with the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs, in the hands of those Razakars," she said at a discussion in Dhaka on Tuesday. "She had also made them ministers. Those Khaleda Zia had made ministers have been hanged as war criminals."

[Kerry promised Bangladesh to look into the repatriation of Bangabandhu's killer: Foreign ministry](#)

bdnews24 | 31st August

US Secretary of State John Kerry has assured Bangladesh of looking into the issue of repatriating the Bangabandhu's killer, the foreign ministry says. The foreign ministry on Tuesday said the issue of repatriation of the "self-confessed" convicted killer of Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the US was raised and discussed during his brief visit to Dhaka on Monday.

BHUTAN

[Villagers disgruntled with urban tax](#)

Kuensel Online|30th August

The people of Weeling village under Nubi gewog in Trongsa are unhappy with the Trongsa municipal's office making them pay urban land tax from this year. Weeling village is located above Sherubling central school. Until last year, the residents of Weeling have been paying rural land tax despite their lands falling within the extended town boundary.

[Changing Bhutan](#)

Kuensel Online| 30th August

There weren't so many buildings and roads. We had more land under cultivation that would turn lush green in summer and vastly aureate in winter. And our streets were safe and by much quieter. That was a long time ago.

[Realtime road conditions info now online](#)

Kuensel Online|30th August

To help travellers avoid getting stranded or caught up in long queues at roadblocks, the Department of Roads (DoR) launched a road conditions information system that is available on both its website and as a mobile application.

MALDIVES

[Court order issued to arrest President Nasheed, Dr. Jameel and Akram](#)

Sun Online | 30th August

Criminal Court has issued a court order to the Maldives Police Service to arrest the former President Mohamed Nasheed, former Vice President Dr. Mohamed Jameel Ahmed and the former State Minister at the Home Ministry, Akram Kamalluddin and bring them to the country.

MYANMAR

[Fresh violence overshadows Myanmar peace talks](#)

AFP/Mizzima|31st August

Fresh fighting between ethnic minority rebels and Myanmar's military is overshadowing an upcoming peace conference led by Aung San Suu Kyi's new civilian government, people involved in the talks said Tuesday.

[UN chief calls on Myanmar to make Rohingya citizens](#)

Mizzima|31st August

Myanmar's stateless Rohingya should be given the right to citizenship after generations living in the country, UN chief Ban Ki-Moon said on Tuesday. Many from the million-strong Muslim minority are denied citizenship, voting and work rights and reviled as imposters in overwhelmingly Buddhist Myanmar.

[Burma, India Agree to Cooperate on Defense, Energy, Infrastructure](#)

The Irrawaddy|30th August

Burma and India have inked four memorandums of understanding (MoU) to promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of traditional medicine, renewable energy and infrastructural connectivity. Burmese President U Htin Kyaw oversaw the agreements during a four-day visit to India from August 27-30.

NEPAL

[Parliament endorses Special Economic Zone Bill](#)

The Himalayan Times| 30th August

Garnering majority of votes, the bill has paved the way to lure private and foreign investment in export-oriented industries of the country. After the Parliament's endorsement, the bill will be enforced as law after receiving the president's stamp.

[Nepal among top performers in water security: ADB](#)

My Reoublica| 31st August

Nepal, with a score of 37.3 points, is one of the top performers in the national water security index, according to a report prepared by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

[Nepal bans Indian police pair for 'fake' Everest climb](#)

The Kathmandu Post/BBC|31st August

Nepal has imposed a 10-year mountaineering ban on two climbers who claimed to be the first Indian couple to have climbed Everest, officials say. A government investigation concluded on Monday that photographs purporting to show the pair at the top of the world's highest mountain were faked.

PAKISTAN

[Chaman border crossing remains shut as talks end in failure](#)

DAWN|31st August

With another flag meeting between Pakistani and Afghan border officials in Chaman ending in failure to break the impasse over opening of the border crossing, the Friendship Gate remained closed to travellers from the two countries on Tuesday.

[Regional energy projects to boost Pakistan's economy](#)

The Express Tribune|31st August

Regional energy projects would help Pakistan's economy grow and stimulate investment in the country, said US Assistant Trade Representative for South Asia Michael J Delaney. "Pakistan has energy problem and regional projects like Tapi (gas pipeline) and Casa (power supply) will grow trade, economy and investment," Delaney said while talking to journalists on Tuesday. "Energy issues were an impediment to trade in Pakistan."

SRI LANKA

[LTTE leaders paid defense officials of former government and escaped- Sri Lanka FM](#)

Colombo Page| 30th August

Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mangala Samaraweera in a startling revelation said that the leaders of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) paid money to a defense official of the previous government to obtain safe passage out of the country.

[Inflation edges down](#)

Daily News| 31st August

Both headline and core inflation, measured on a year-on-year basis, edged down in July 2016 according to Central Bank monthly monetary Policy review. The normalisation observed in domestic supply conditions as well as the suspension of

the revisions made to certain taxes moderated consumer price inflation. However, the underlying upward trend in inflation, as reflected in annual average price changes, appears to have continued thus far during the year.

[UN chief to discuss issue on foreign judges in war probe](#)

Colombo Gazette| 31st August

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon may discuss the issue of having foreign judges in Sri Lanka's domestic accountability process on the war, a UN spokesman said.

[India provides Sri Lankan students opportunities to Indian Institutes of Technology](#)

Colombo Page| 30th August

The Government of India has decided to provide opportunities for admission of meritorious Sri Lankan students to the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in India, from the 2017-18 academic sessions onwards.

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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