



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

July 5th, 2017 | Volume: 3 - 2/7

[High-Level Delegation of US Senators Arrives in Kabul](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 5th July
A high-level delegation of US senators arrived in the capital Kabul on Tuesday, the Resolute Support (RS) Mission said. The NATO mission tweeted the delegation was comprised of the head and members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. They will meet with US commanders. Led by John McCain, chairman of the committee, includes influential senators. Before visiting Kabul, they travelled to Pakistan, where they met civil and military leaders.

[Bangladesh, Sri Lanka discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation](#)

Colombo Gazette | 4th July
The Third Foreign Office Consultations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, co-chaired by the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Foreign Ministry said on 4th July. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Md. Shahibul Haque, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and the Sri Lankan delegation was led by Esala Weerakoon, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.

[IAEA assures all-out support for Rooppur nuke plant](#)

UNB/ Prothom Alo | 4th July
The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Tuesday assured Bangladesh of its all-out support and cooperation in constructing Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. The assurance came when visiting Director General of IAEA Yukiya Amano met prime minister Sheikh Hasina at her office. PM's press secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

AFGHANISTAN

[Iranian President voices concerns regarding dams construction in Afghanistan](#)

Khaama Press | 4th July
The Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has voiced concerns as the Afghan government plans to build more dams in a bid to regulate the waters for agriculture and electricity production. President Rouhani made the remarks during an international conference being held for three days in Tehran, the capital of Iran.

[18 Taliban insurgents surrender to Afghan forces after killing their commander](#)

Khaama Press | 4th July

A group of at least eighteen Taliban insurgents surrendered to the Afghan security forces after killing their commander in southern Uruzgan province of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the incident involving the killing of the Taliban commander by his own fighters has taken place during the recent days in the vicinity of Dehrawood district.

[Russia, China Concerned about Terrorists becoming More Active in Afghanistan](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 5th July

Russia and China are concerned about terrorist and extremist organizations becoming more active in Afghanistan and the strengthening of the Afghan 'wing' of Daesh [terrorist organization banned in Russia], the two countries' leaders said in a joint statement following talks in Moscow on Tuesday. "The sides pay great attention to the situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and believe that the problems of terrorism, extremism, drugs, and refugees pose a threat to security and stability in the country and the region.

[Hizb-E-Islami to Draw up Taliban Peace Talks Strategy](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 5th July The group said they have been in talks with political parties and government in order to draw up a framework to get the Taliban to the peace talks tables. In a move to bring the Taliban to the peace talks tables, Hekmatyar Gulbuddin-led Hizb-e-Islami has started working on a new peace process strategy between government and the Taliban, the group's top negotiator and member of its political wing Mohammad Amin Karim said Tuesday.

BANGLADESH

[Five Chinese firms willing to fund joint venture power project](#)

The Financial Express | 4th July

A consortium of five Chinese banks offered to invest US\$1.8 billion in developing a 1320mw coal-fired power plant in seaside Banskhali Upazila in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong district. Senior officials of the Chinese banks expressed their willingness to put their funds in the joint venture (JV) power project at a meeting held at the Bangladesh Bank headquarters in Dhaka Monday with BB Governor Fazle Kabir in the chair.

[Bangladesh Bank, New York Federal Reserve Bank, SWIFT commit to recover rest of heist money](#)

The Financial Express | 4th July

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Bangladesh Bank (BB) and SWIFT have reiterated their commitment to work together for recovering the remaining stolen money of \$65.75 million from the Philippines. They have also decided to continue discussions about the cyber fraud event that occurred in early February last year. The decisions were taken at the third tripartite meeting in New York recently, according to the BB officials and a joint statement, issued by the Fed on Monday.

[Govt borrows Tk 65.17 billion through t-bond, billj](#)

The Financial Express | 5th July

Through the auction of 2-Year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bond (BGTB) on Tuesday, the government has borrowed Tk 10 billion. Bangladesh bank conducted the auction where 69 bids amounting to Tk 24.85 billion were

offered against a pre-targeted amount of Tk 10 billion. Of those, 30 bids amounting to Tk 10 billion were accepted. The cut of price of the accepted bids was 99.0599 (Per Tk 100.00, according to a press statement of the central bank.

BHUTAN

[Bhutan tops tobacco and marijuana users in South East Asia](#)

Kuensel Online | 4th July

Bhutan has the highest number of (24.6 percent) smokers in the region, a report on mental health status of adolescents in South-East Asia states. Despite complete ban on tobacco sales, tobacco use remains high among 13 to 17 year-old which constitutes 9.4 percent of the total population. Bhutan also has the highest number of adolescents using other tobacco products at 29.3 percent followed by Timor-Leste (27.1 percent) and Thailand (14 percent).

MALDIVES

[MP Ibrahim Mohamed Didi charged with terrorism](#)

Sun Online | 4th July

Terrorism charge has been re-filed against the Central Hithadhoo MP Brigadier-General (Retired) Ibrahim Mohamed Didi. An official from Prosecutor General's Office reported the case was submitted to Criminal Court on May 25. Ibrahim Mohamed Didi was charged with terrorism over the illegal detention of former Chief Judge of Criminal Court, Abdulla Mohamed during former President Mohamed Nasheed's presidency.

MYANMAR

[The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees meets with villagers in Maungtaw](#)

Mizzima | 5th July

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi met with villagers in Maungtaw Township yesterday, observing the situation in villages, state media reported on 5 July. At the meeting with villagers at the primary school in Aung Zeya Village, Mr Filippo pledged to assist in issues to which the UNHCR can contribute. Local people spoke of the challenges they face making a livelihood for themselves and their families in Maungtaw.

[Myanmar defense chief calls military plane crash great loss for nation, armed forces](#)

Mizzima | 5th July

Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's Defense Services Min Aung Hlaing said the air crash of a military plane on June 7 was a great loss for the nation and the armed forces. "Loss of lives involved in this accident is assumed to

be the loss of every individual in the nation," Min Aung Hlaing told a meeting at the Army Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw, the Myanmar News Agency reported on Tuesday.

[Rohingya man killed in mob attack in Sittwe](#)

Mizzima | 5th July

One Rohingya man was killed and six wounded when they were attacked by a mob of Rakhine Buddhists with bricks in Sittwe on Tuesday, Reuters reported quoting officials. The seven men had travelled into Sittwe from a camp on the outskirts of the town housing people displaced in the 2012 violence, the report quoted Police Captain Kyaw Moe from Sittwe's central police station as saying.

NEPAL

[Veep Pun off to China](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 4th July

Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun has left for China to attend the 23rd China-Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair in Lanzhou, the capital city of Gansu province. During the visit, Vice President Pun is scheduled to address the forum for cooperation and development along the Silk Road on Wednesday. He will also deliver a keynote speech to the business community on the theme "Nepal- China (Gansu) Economic and Trade Cooperation Exchange Conference" Thursday, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[East-West power tussle grips RJPN after poll debacle](#)

My Republica | 5th July

The power tussle raging within the Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) has taken a nasty turn with several leaders from western tarai accusing the party leadership of using them and their constituencies as a scapegoat to secure its electoral interests in Province 2 in the east. RJPN's presidium constitutes six leaders, all from the central and eastern tarai. Sources said several second-rung leaders including Hridayash Tripathi, Brijesh Gupta, and Sarbendranath Shukla have expressed serious reservation with the party leadership for failing to take a clear position on polls participation. Some of them have even threatened to quit the party if they are not given right space.

[Deuba struggles to expand Cabinet](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 5th July

With the second round of local elections over and 80 percent results already out, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is under mounting pressure to expand his Cabinet, and with too many aspirants from his own party, the Nepali Congress (NC), his task has but become complicated. As per the initial agreements, key partners in the government are to share 20 ministries—11 for Deuba's NC and nine for the CPN (Maoist Centre). Other seven ministries are to be split among other parties supporting the government—Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Nepal Loktantrik Forum (NFL) and other fringe parties.

PAKISTAN

[Hussain Nawaz warns JIT against using 'unconstitutional means'](#)

Dawn| 4th July

The prime minister's elder son, Hussain Nawaz, while speaking to the media after being questioned by a Supreme Court-sanctioned joint investigation team (JIT) probing his family's business dealings abroad, warned investigators against using 'unconstitutional means' to gather evidence, and insisted that no evidence of wrongdoing by his family could be found. After his sixth question-and-answer session with the investigators, Hussain appeared frustrated at being called repeatedly to answer allegations, insisting that "these matters could have been settled in two hearings" and alleging that the JIT "was needlessly complicating matters." Respecting the orders of the Supreme Court, we have been coming here and answering their questions [even though] we have been made to wait as well."

[Panama Papers case changed course of country's history: Imran](#)

Dawn| 5th July

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has said the Panama Papers case has changed the very course of history of the country by subjecting to accountability "looters" and "plunderers" who siphon off Rs1,000 billion every year into their accounts in foreign countries. Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of the 69MW Lawi hydropower project executed by the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation near Drosh here on Tuesday, he said it was happening for the first time that a sitting prime minister, his family and coterie were being probed for their corruption. Claiming the credit for holding Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to account for each and every penny of his ill-gotten money, the PTI chief said the nation would soon hear 'good news' from the court and would get rid of corrupt rulers.

[Independence Day: Week-long programmes planned for capital](#)

The Express Tribune| 5th July

With little over a month left to the 70th independence day celebrations, leading art and cultural organisations in the capital have started preparations for the big day. In this regards, the PNCA, the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), Pakistan Academy of Letters and Nazaria-e-Pakistan Council will hold events engaging the youth in various activities such as tableau, skits, songs competitions and folk dances. The National Puppet Theater of PNCA will also colour perform a show on the theme of the Independence Day. Colourful puppets will portray the history of the Pakistan movement in the form of stories.

SRILANKA

[Sri Lanka President appoints new Army Commander, Secretary of Defense](#)

Colombo Page| 4th July

Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena has made new appointments to the posts of Commander of Sri Lanka Army and the Secretary of Defense. Chief of Staff of the Army, Major General Mahesh Senanayake has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed as the new Army Commander. Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake received his letter of appointment from President Maithripala Sirisena at the President's Official Residence.

[Local government elections soon after Local Government Elections Act Amendment passed – Minister](#)

Colombo Page| 5th July

Sri Lanka's Minister of Local Government and Provincial Councils Faizer Mustapha says the Local Government elections will be held soon after the passage of the draft bill on Local Government Elections Act Amendment in

parliament. "The bill has been gazetted and it is before parliament. It is all of us collectively to get the bill passed and then we could hold elections." The Minister told the parliament that in the new gazette the date for the elections has been gazetted as 1st of October but if the election is held earlier, he will amend the gazette and bring forward the date. Minister Mustapha said he has carried out his responsibility with regard to the elections.

About Ananta Aspen Centre

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