



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

September 6th, 2017 | Volume: 3 - 03/9

[Afghanistan calls for thorough probe amid allegations of mass killings in Burma](#)
Khaama Press | 5th September
The Afghan government strongly reacted at the alleged killings of hundreds of Muslims in Burma, calling on international community to thoroughly investigate the latest violence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in a statement said “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan condemns in strongest words the massacre of Rohingya Muslims by the armed forces of Burma.” The statement further added “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan while condemning the wild and inhuman attack by the government forces, urges the international human rights organizations and the United Nations to strictly and thoroughly investigate the massacre of Muslims.”

[Pakistan wants to resolve issues with US peacefully, says minister](#)
Dawn | 6th September
Defence Minister Khurram Dastagir on Tuesday said Pakistan would seek to resolve issues with the US in a peaceful manner and expressed the hope for quality bilateral engagement in future. Talking to reporters after a meeting of the National Assembly’s committee on defence, he said: “We are trying to resolve the issues amicably because any American action would cause instability in Pakistan.”

[New thrust to India-Myanmar relations](#)
Mizzima | 6th September
India is looking to set its bilateral relations with Myanmar to a new high during the Prime Minister’s visit to the country from 5-7 September. As Modi himself announced in his Twitter message, India prioritises the infrastructure projects, especially those related to connectivity. “That holds the key to the success of India’s Act East policy. Through Myanmar, India seeks to connect not only to other Southeast Asian countries but also to its own Northeast by using the Kaladan Multi-Modal project,” says Jiten Nongthoubam, head of Myanmar Studies Centre at Manipur University. Jiten says this is intricately linked to India’s policy of using its long-troubled Northeast to pursue the Act East policy.

AFGHANISTAN

[A dozen Daesh militants perish in Kunar](#)

Afghanistan Times | 5th September

A foreign forces airstrike has targeted hideouts of the Islamic State (IS), also known as Daesh terrorist that left at least 12 Daesh fighters dead in eastern Kunar province, an official said on Tuesday. Kunar Police Chief, Maj. Gen. Jumma Gul Himmat, told Pajhwok Afghan News NATO-led drone targeted Daesh or so-called Islamic State (IS) militant's hideouts in Chapa Dara and Manogi district of the province on Monday night. As a result, at least 12 Daesh insurgents were perished, including the group's judge Mualvi Shir Wali and two group leaders—Rohullah and Gul Khan.

[Airstrike kills two in Kabul](#)

Afghanistan Times | 5th September

Two civilians have been killed in an airstrike carried out by foreign forces on a wedding party in Qarabagh district of Kabul, the capital city, an official said on Tuesday. District Chief Abdul Samai Sharifi told Pajhwok Afghan News the foreign forces bombed the wedding party on Monday night after celebratory gun firing conducted in the party. He furthered that probe into the incident had been kicked off, and also informed of shifting wounded people to Kabul for the medical treatment.

BANGLADESH

[Indonesian Foreign Minister Marsudi arrives in Dhaka for Rohingya talks after Myanmar visit](#)

bdnews24 | 5th September

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi has arrived in Dhaka for talks following her visit to Myanmar where she urged national leader Aung San Suu Kyi to end ongoing violence against the Rohingya Muslim minority there. She will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the evening at Ganabhaban following her meeting with her counterpart AH Mahmood Ali at state guest house Padma, according to the schedule of her short stay in Dhaka. The visit follows amid mounting anger in the Southeast Asian nation, home to the world's biggest Muslim population, over violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

[European Commission for aid deliveries in Rakhine](#)

Prothom Alo | 5th September

The European Commission in a statement on Tuesday said aid activities have to be allowed in the Rakhine state of Myanmar to prevent the further deterioration of an already serious humanitarian situation. "The European Union is committed to supporting all efforts to bring a return to aid deliveries in Rakhine state and is working tirelessly with all stakeholders to achieve this," said commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides in the statement. "I call on all sides to de-escalate tensions and fully observe international human rights law, and in particular to refrain from any violence against civilians," added the commissioner. Stylianides also said unrestricted humanitarian access, including for aid workers, is critical to reaching 350,000 vulnerable people in Rakhine state.

BHUTAN

[Maintaining small and efficient civil service a challenge: RCSC](#)

Kuensel Online | 5th September

The Royal Civil Service Commission's (RCSC) aim to maintain a small, compact, and efficient civil service will be difficult with the government policies. The RCSC's annual report stated that civil service to the population ratio in Bhutan is 1:27, which appears large when compared to ratio of other countries. "The government policies such as the planned employment of 200 teachers for the dratshang will increase civil servant numbers." The current youth unemployment situation also worsens this challenge for the RCSC as everyone turns to the civil service for employment.

[People still not aware about NWFP rules](#)

Kuensel Online | 5th September

With 69 percent of Bhutanese living in rural areas and depending on non-wood forest products (NWFP) for income generation, sustainability of the resource has become a concern. NWFPs include resources and products such as boulders, sand, clay soil, cane, bamboo, lemon grass oil, mushrooms, resin, pine needles, wild fruits, and plants. Chief forestry officer with social forestry and extension division, Pasang W Norbu, said that most people go to the forest, collect everything they get and sell them. "People usually collect everything, leaving nothing for the next season. If this happens, in a few years, everything will disappear," he said. "For sustainability, we have to leave something for nature to recoup itself."

MALDIVES

[Here's Your Receipt: MIRA launches special campaign](#)

Sun Online | 5th September

Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) has launched a special campaign "Miothy Raseedhu" or "Here's Your Receipt" to foster the habit issuing and collecting receipts in business transactions. An official from MIRA reported that the campaign, which began this Tuesday, will continue until February, 2018.

[MNDF: No plans for military exercises with Myanmar](#)

Sun Online | 4th September

Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) has denied the rumors of the Maldivian forces planning military exercises with Myanmar. A statement issued by MNDF tonight said that there are no plans for a military exercise with Myanmar and there are such plans for the future. The MNDF statement comes after some Indian news media outlets reported that the Maldives and Myanmar are preparing for a military exercises and pending a decision on where to hold the said exercises.

MYANMAR

[Press Conference held for resettlement of IDPs in Rakhine State](#)

Mizzima | 6th September

A press conference was held in Sittwe on September 5 regarding bringing back those who fled from their homes and villages after terrorist attacks erupted in northern Rakhine State. Almost all the villagers had to flee from their homes. This press conference was organized and held by 'Western Border Rakhine National Territory Reconstruction Committee' (Provisional) and the committee briefed what they would do for local people to be able to stay in their areas in a safe and secure environment. The committee reportedly adopted a detailed programme for providing psychological and physical assistance to local people in western border areas and providing assistance to local ethnic people for their secured livelihood, development of the socio-economic situation and

territorial integrity, and finally demanding the legal rights entitled to them.

[Proximity Designs and Yoma Bank Sign Innovative Funding Agreement](#)

Mizzima | 5th September

Proximity Designs and Yoma Bank signed an innovative back-to-back funding agreement for 7.3 billion MMK, according to a statement. Proximity Designs runs their micro-finance business unit, Proximity Finance, currently keeping a loan book of 20.5 billion MMK and 78,000 active clients. Yoma Bank is one of Myanmar's largest banks with over 3,000 staff and 72 branches nationwide. The loan agreement allows Proximity Designs to fully hedge U.S. dollar funding attracted overseas, on the back of which a multiple of Myanmar Kyat is lent locally by Yoma Bank.

NEPAL

[Filing of candidacies for Province 2 polls today](#)

MyRepublica | 6th September

Candidacy nomination for the third round of local elections is taking place on Wednesday. The Election Commission (EC), which has already conducted local polls in six of the seven provinces in two phases, is holding the final round of elections in Province 2 on September 18. The election body on Tuesday said all preparations for poll arrangements have been completed.

[PM Deuba pays courtesy call on President Bhandari](#)

The Himalayan Times | 6th September

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Tuesday paid a courtesy call on President Bidya Devi Bhandari at the latter's office in Sheetal Niwas. In the meeting, Prime Minister Deuba briefed President Bhandari about his recent state visit to India. The Prime Minister briefed President about his recent visit to India including the issues mentioned in the joint press meet held in New Delhi.

PAKISTAN

[1.5 million children out of school in KP: report](#)

Dawn | 6th September

Around 1.5 million children are out of school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to the preliminary report of a survey, say sources. Sources said that the survey was conducted by elementary and secondary education department to identify out of school children in the province. They said that Rs 227 million was spent on the survey.

[NAB not likely to arrest Sharif, his children & Dar](#)

Dawn | 6th September

Arrest of ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his children and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar after filing of references against them by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is unlikely because of a loophole in the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) which governs NAB and accountability courts. A NAB spokesperson told Dawn on Tuesday that "in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court's judgement of July 28, NAB will file the reference in the accountability courts before the deadline".

[War on terror aid: Pakistan received \\$33.4bn from US](#)

The Express Tribune | 6th September

The US has sanctioned \$33.4 billion for reimbursements to Pakistan during the past 15 years, 44% of which was on account of services that Islamabad rendered to support Washington's anti-terror operations in Afghanistan. This singular act denies Washington any meaningful chance to financially blackmail its non-Nato ally.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka Coast Guard receives off-shore patrol vessel from India](#)

Colombo Page | 5th September

Sri Lanka's Coast Guard has received an off-shore patrol vessel (OPV) from India as part of maritime cooperation between the coast guards of the two countries. Indian Coast Guard said the off-shore patrol vessel, Varuna, was handed over to Sri Lanka today. Director General, Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh formally handed over ICGS Varuna to Director General, Sri Lanka Coast Guard Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge during a colourful ceremony on 05 Sep 17 at Kochi. Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Navy Rear Admiral SS Ranasinghe, was also present during the ceremony.

[President says concept of consensual politics will continue](#)

Colombo Gazette | 4th September

President Maithripala Sirisena says the concept of consensual politics will continue in future as well. He says the consensual Government currently in power has been able to meet the expectations of the public over the past two and a half years.

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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