

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

October 7th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 3/10

[Myanmar Investment Law approved](#)

Mizzima | 6th October

The government has approved a bill on the Myanmar Investment Law, which is aimed at promoting foreign investment, state media reported on 6 September. The bill, which has been approved by both parliaments, is expected to take effect in the near future, according to a Myanmar Investment Commission-MIC's announcement.

[Exclusive: Act against militants or face international isolation, civilians tell military](#)

DAWN | 6th October

In a blunt, orchestrated and unprecedented warning, the civilian government has informed the military leadership of a growing international isolation of Pakistan and sought consensus on several key actions by the state. As a result of the most recent meeting, an undisclosed one on the day of the All Parties' Conference on Monday, at least two sets of actions have been agreed.

[NEA, AEPC join hands to develop renewable power](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7th October
The Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and the Nepal Electricity Authority have agreed to promote, develop and strengthen mini- and micro-hydropower projects in rural areas to improve people's access to renewable energy. As per the agreement signed on Thursday, the AEPC and the NEA will coordinate to develop at least ten mini-hydroelectricity plants with installed capacity above 100 kilowatts each as pilot projects in remote districts in an effort to make electricity available to all.

AFGHANISTAN

[US hands over 492 Humvee vehicles to Afghan police forces](#)

Khaama Press/Ghanizada | 6th October

The Afghan National Police (ANP) forces received 492 Humvee vehicles from the United States as efforts are underway to improve the capabilities of the police forces. A senior official in the Ministry of Interior, Murtaza Rahimi, said the delivery of 246 Humvees to the police forces concluded on Wednesday and the remaining 222 vehicles will be handed in the near future. He said the special operations forces of the Afghan police, public order forces, border protection forces and the remaining zones will receive the other 222 vehicles.

[Afghans Need World's Help to Eliminate Terror: Ghani](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 6th October

President Ashraf Ghani in his address on the day-two of the Brussels Conference on Wednesday informed the world about his government's achievements and urged global community's continued support to eliminate terrorism from Afghanistan. The European Union (EU) and the Afghan government jointly organised the conference in which foreign ministers from 70 countries and head of 30 international organisations have been taking part.

[Ex-Pakistani President knew about Osama: Karzai](#)

Afghanistan Times | 6th October

Former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai spoke to Times Now's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami, on a wide range of issues from member countries including Afghanistan pulling out of SAARC summit, Indian Army's surgical strikes across LoC in PoK to destroy terrorist launchpads, Pakistan's terror truth, Pakistan harboring Osama bin Laden, and former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf's lies. The former Afghanistan President backed the decision of Afghanistan and India to pull out of the SAARC summit in Islamabad this November.

[44 Afghan soldiers missing in United States since 2015: Pentagon](#)

Khaama Press | 6th October

At least 44 Afghan soldiers deployed to the United States for training have gone missing in less than two years, it has been reported. According to officials in Pentagon, at least 8 soldiers have vanished from the training in United States only in the month of September this year.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh's extreme poverty rate drops to 12.9 percent, says World Bank](#)

bdnews24 | 3rd October

Bangladesh's extreme poverty rate has dropped to 12.9 percent of the total population in 2015-16, the World Bank says. In its 'Bangladesh Development Update', released on Monday, the multi lateral lending agency said it has come down from 13.8 percent in the previous 2014-15. WB Dhaka office's Lead Economist Zahid Hussain highlighted the key features of the report on Monday at a media conference. He said they have calculated the rate of extreme poverty based on Bangladesh's 7.1 percent GDP growth in FY 2016.

[Bangladesh PM urges India, Pakistan to show restraint as tensions rise over Kashmir](#)

bdnews24 | 6th October

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged India and Pakistan to show restraint as tensions have risen between the two nations following an attack on an Indian army camp in Kashmir's Uri. In her concluding speech in Parliament on Thursday, Hasina said the nuclear-armed neighbours needed to behave in a restrained manner and should avoid spiking up tensions. "We want that the people of South Asia do not suffer due to that." Tensions have escalated sharply since last week when India announced its special forces had carried out a strike against militants camped on the Pakistan side of Kashmir and inflicted significant casualties.

[China expected to lend Bangladesh \\$40 billion during President Xi Jinping's Dhaka visit](#)

bdnews24 | 7th October

China is lending Bangladesh a record \$40 billion and the loan agreements will be signed during President Xi Jinping's visit to Dhaka later this month, officials have hinted. "Loan agreements of a record amount will be signed," State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan told bdnews24.com on Thursday ahead of the Chinese leader's visit scheduled on Oct 14. Mannan would not disclose the total amount of credit. He said China expressed its willingness about extending the loans after seeing the possibilities that lie in Bangladesh.

BHUTAN

[Bhutan at the 26th Universal Postal Union](#)

Kuensel Online | 6th October

Bhutan is participating in the 26th Universal Postal Union (UPU) congress which is being held in Istanbul, Turkey from September 20 to October 7, according to a press release issued by the information and communications ministry. The Bhutanese delegation led by information and communications minister DN Dhungyel, comprises of the Bhutan Post chairman, Dasho Karma Wangchuk Penjor, Bhutan Post CEO Karma Wangdi and officials of both organisations.

[Only eight of 25 women candidates elected in S/jongkhar](#)

Kuensel Online | 5th October

Despite Samdrupjongkhar seeing a large number of women candidates from 10 of its 11 gewogs for the second local government (LG) election, only a few were elected. Of the 25 women who contested for various posts, only eight were elected while one got the same number of votes as her male counterpart.

MALDIVES

[Fisheries Minister Dr. Shainee: Representatives can join talks after passing through party councils, it's not a condition](#)

Sun Online | 6th October

Fisheries Minister, Dr. Mohamed Shainee has said that the names of the representatives of the political parties have to be passed by their respective parties to take part in the official talks and it is not a set condition. After the President's Office said that the names would be passed at a Council Meeting of the respective political parties, Adhaalath Party said that setting conditions by other names before the discussions officially begins would cause to fail the endeavor before it begins. PPM said that they cannot hold a Council Meeting.

MYANMAR

[World Bank expects 'stable' economic growth for Myanmar, region](#)

Mizzima | 5th October

Growth in developing East Asia and Pacific, including Myanmar, is expected to remain resilient over the next three years, according to a new World Bank report out on October 4. However, the region still faces significant risks to growth, and countries need to take measures to reduce financial and fiscal vulnerabilities. Over the longer term, the report recommends that countries address constraints to sustained and inclusive growth, including by filling infrastructure gaps, reducing malnutrition and promoting financial inclusion.

NEPAL

[Mahat-Led MoFA team to attend ADC Summit](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7th October

Foreign Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat Affairs is leading a Nepali delegation to the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in Thailand on Friday. The event, to be held in Bangkok from October 8-10, will have attendance of leaders of 34 member states.

[GMR signs land acquisition accords](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7th October

The developer of the Upper Karnali Hydropower Project has sealed land acquisition deals with residents of Achham and Dailekh districts, completing the process of pooling around 75 percent of the private land required for the scheme. GMR Upper Karnali Hydropower Project signed the agreements last week after landowners of two village development committees (VDCs) accepted its offer of a compensation amount of Rs805,000 per ropani. The much-awaited 900 MW hydroelectric project is spread over Surkhet, Achham and Dailekh districts in western Nepal.

[Nepal ratifies climate deal](#)

PR / The Kathmandu Post | 7th October

Nepal's Permanent Mission to the United Nations deposited the instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change with the UN secretary general in New York on Wednesday.

[Action plan for education reform made public](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 7th October

Education Minister Dhaniram Poudel today made public a 19-point action plan for reforms in the education sector. Speaking at a programme organised by Education Journalists Network to exchange Dashain greetings, Minister Poudel said the ministry was preparing to form a High Level National Education Commission to restructure the education system and formulate socialist education policy.

PAKISTAN

[India cannot unilaterally revoke or alter Indus Waters Treaty: FO](#)

DAWN | 7th October

Pakistan has made it clear that India cannot unilaterally revoke or alter the Indus Waters Treaty. "The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is not time-barred and was never intended to be time- or event-specific. It is binding on both

India and Pakistan and has no exit provision,” Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakria said at a weekly press briefing on Thursday.

[\\$1b Sukuk proves global confidence in Pakistan: Dar](#)

The Express Tribune|7th October

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday said global investors have shown confidence in Pakistan’s economy and shrugged off growing tensions with India while subscribing to the \$1 billion Sukuk bond at the lowest ever interest rate of 5.5%.

[Pentagon encourages Pakistani, Indian militaries to keep talking](#)

DAWN|7th October

The US Department of Defence, in its first reaction to the current India-Pakistan conflict, has urged both militaries to continue talking as it would help reduce tensions. “We are aware that the Indian and Pakistani militaries have been in communication with one another and we encourage these continued discussions between India and Pakistan as a means to reduce any tensions that may be out there,” Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook told a briefing. “We’re encouraged by that and we certainly would encourage those conversations to continue,” he added. Mr Cook said that various branches of the US government — including the Pentagon — were maintaining regular contacts with both India and Pakistan.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka, India PMs agree to conclude ETCA by year-end](#)

Colombo Page| 6th October

India and Sri Lanka will sign the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) by the end of this year, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, said on Thursday.

[India to assist development of oil and gas infrastructure in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page| 6th October

As the government of Sri Lanka is working towards promoting the use of clean fuel in Sri Lanka, including for power generation, India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has offered to work with the Government of Sri Lanka in developing gas infrastructure in Sri Lanka.

[Bangladesh keen to address outstanding issues with Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Gazette| 6th October

Bangladesh is keen to address a number of outstanding major issues of mutually beneficial interest with Sri Lanka. The newly-appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, M Riaz Hamidullah, presented his credentials to President Maithripala Sirisena in Colombo.

[Asia will bail out the world, if it is allowed to frame the rules: Sri Lanka PM](#)

Economic Times/Daily News| 6th October

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe today marked out India and China as the only countries that can drive economic growth across the globe, saying manufacturing companies have no other place to go. Critical of the western nations over selective treatment on framing economic policies, he said: "Asia will bail out the world (from the economic crisis), if it is allowed to frame the rules (policies)."

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.anantaaspcentre.in