

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

September 7th , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 3/9

[Iran, Afghanistan Stress](#)

[Chabahar Port Development](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan|5th September

Iran's top presidential aide, Akbar Torkan and Afghan Minister of Trade and Industry Homayoun Rasa in a meeting called for developing Chabahar Port in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

[Pakistan developing maritime doctrine](#)

DAWN|7th September

Pakistan is developing its maritime doctrine in response to 'disturbing developments' in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to protect its maritime interests and respond to conventional and sub-conventional threats emerging there. The draft doctrine is being reviewed at different levels in the navy and government ahead of adoption.

[World Health Organisation](#)

[certifies Sri Lanka malaria-free](#)

Colombo Gazette| 6th September

In a remarkable public health achievement, Sri Lanka was today certified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on having eliminated malaria, a life-threatening disease which long affected the island country.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[30 killed, over 90 wounded in twin explosions in Kabul](#)

Khaama Press|5<sup>th</sup> Septemeber

At least 30 people were killed and over 90 others were wounded in twin explosions in capital Kabul Monday afternoon, the security officials said. Officials in the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) earlier said at least 24 people were killed and at least 91 others were wounded in the attack.

[No hope Pakistan will help with peace talks 'They lied to us': Hanif Atmar](#)

Khaama Press|5<sup>th</sup> Septemeber

The National Security Adviser of Afghanistan Mohammad Hanif Atmar has said there is no hope Pakistan will help Afghanistan with the peace talks with the Taliban group.

[Allen Recommends Increased US Air Support to Afghan Forces](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan|7<sup>th</sup> Septemeber

A former top American general on Tuesday said the situation on the ground in Afghanistan was 'more challenging today' but not beyond the capacity of Afghan forces. "The situation has become more challenging and perhaps

worsening, but this is not something which is beyond the capacity of the Afghan forces,” retired general John Allen, the former Commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said.

## **BANGLADESH**

### [Successful Dhaka-Delhi trial run of customs-cleared cargo truck](#)

bdnews24 | 6<sup>th</sup> September

For the first time a cargo truck from Bangladesh seamlessly drove into Delhi on Monday through the Inland Customs Depot in Patparganj on the eastern fringe of the Indian capital. The truck of Nazrul Transport Agency and Expo Freight Pvt Ltd from Bangladesh was dispatched from Dhaka on Aug 27 as part of a trial run under the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA).

### [Indian co may export coal for Rampal plant](#)

Prothom Alo | 6<sup>th</sup> September

India's biggest coal company Coal India Limited (CIL) is in “deep consultation” with Bangladesh to export the dry fuel, The Hindu's Business Line reported on Tuesday quoting coal secretary Anil Swarup.

### [Linking N plant with ports to cost Tk 3.3b](#)

Financial Express | 6<sup>th</sup> September

An enhanced cost of Tk 3.3 billion has been estimated to develop rail links between the multibillion-dollar Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and two seaports, officials said.

### [Those who patronised war criminals biggest Razakars: PM](#)

UNB / Prothom Alo | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Branding those who patronised the war criminals as the ‘biggest culprits and Razakars’, prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday urged the country's people to be vocal for their trial. "Those who had made war criminals ministers and gave them our national flag and those who brought Bangabandhu's killers to parliament by rigging votes are the biggest criminals and Razakars," she said.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Students can access 2 million books with launch of e-library](#)

Kuensel Online | 6<sup>th</sup> September

Students and teachers in five colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan, two medical colleges, Royal Thimphu College, Royal Institute of Management and 21 schools across the country can now access 118 text books, reading resources, and other curriculum materials on an electronic library.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Legal action initiated against those who failed to return State-owed money](#)

Sun Online | 6<sup>th</sup> September

Ministry of Finance and Treasury has announced that authorities have initiated legal action against those among the seven former State officials who were ordered to return back money they had spent illegally from State funds – including former Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed.

### [Former Home Minister Umaru: Interim Government is a ploy by Nasheed to return to power](#)

Sun Online | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Former Home Minister, Umaru Naseer has said that the talk of an interim government is a ploy by the former President Mohamed Nasheed to return to power. Umaru tweeted today saying that only difference is like the difference between Cholera and Shigella – both are painful.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Border trade between China and Myanmar reaches over US\\$2 Billion](#)

Mizzima | 6<sup>th</sup> September

The value of border trade between China and Myanmar during the first five months of this fiscal year reached over US\$2 billion, state media reported on 6 September quoting the Ministry of Commerce.

## NEPAL

### [Work firmly to implement federalism: PM to officials](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal has directed members of the High-level Federalism Implementation and Restructuring Directive Committee to work firmly for implementation of federalism.

### [Falling remittance concerns PM](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Tuesday cast doubts on remittance remaining a sustainable foreign income source, as the growth rate of the money sent by Nepalis working abroad has been declining.

### [Envoy appointments not before PM's India visit](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7<sup>th</sup> September

The government's plan to appoint ambassadors to two neighbouring countries before Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's visit to India will not materialise as it takes at least two weeks for the appointment process to complete. The envoys' nomination needs to be endorsed through parliamentary hearing.

### [UK court acquits Lama of charges](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 7<sup>th</sup> September

A British court has acquitted Nepal Army Colonel Kumar Lama on both the charges related to insurgency-era torture in Nepal on which he had been detained in United Kingdom since 2013. The Central Criminal Court on Tuesday cleared him of the charge of torturing Janak Raut at the Goringhale barracks in Kapilvastu district in 2005.

## PAKISTAN

### [Govt requests ADB to double loan to \\$800m](#)

The Express Tribune | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Pakistan has requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to double loan size of the energy sector reforms programme to \$800 million amid the country's growing dependence on foreign lenders to meet its budgetary needs. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar made the request to ADB Country Director Werner Liepach during a meeting held on Monday, officials said.

### [Army chief says threats persist despite successes](#)

DAWN | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Despite the successes of Operation Zarb-i-Azb, threats to peace persist, Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif said on Tuesday, calling for the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) and wide-ranging legal and governance reforms to sustain the military's achievements against terrorists.

### [Pakistan to offer two more LNG tenders in October](#)

Reuters/The Express Tribune | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Pakistan plans to issue two international tenders for the import of 750,000 tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per year each in the coming month, the head of state-owned LNG company said, as the country seeks to alleviate energy shortfalls.

### [Pakistan refuses to endorse Turkmenistan's proposal](#)

The Express Tribune | 7<sup>th</sup> September

Pakistan has turned down a proposed plan of Turkmenistan to build a separate transmission line for electricity export and asked it to join the Central Asia South Asia (Casa) 1,000-megawatt power supply project.

## SRI LANKA

[National security a priority during development of Kankasanthurai port - Minister Arjuna Ranatunga](#)

Colombo Page| 6<sup>th</sup> September

Sri Lanka's Minister of Ports and Shipping Arjuna Ranatunga says priority should be given to national security as well as the economy when developing the Kankasanthurai (KKS) Port.

[Sri Lanka showcased at 'Davos of Asia'](#)

Colombo Page| 6<sup>th</sup> September

Sri Lanka's Minister of Industry and Commerce Rishad Bathiudeen representing Sri Lanka took part in the annual Pangkor International Development Dialogue (PIDD) also called as the 'Davos of Asia' on 5th September in Ipoh, Malaysia.

[Construction sector gets positive signals from Govt.](#)

Daily News| 7<sup>th</sup> September

There is no visibility in FDI investments which the Government has been promoting, said President of the Chamber of Construction Industry Sri Lanka (CCI) Dr Surath Wickramasinghe. Speaking at the Build SL 2016 launch at the Galadari, he said that hopefully these would be fruitful soon.

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*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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