

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

September 16th , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 7/9

[PM Dahal to meet Indian Prez, PM today](#)

Rastriya Samachar Samiti / The Himalayan Times | 16th September
Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who is on a four-day state visit to India, is scheduled to meet Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi this afternoon. According to Charge d'affaires of Nepali Embassy in New Delhi, Krishna Prasad Dhakal, important agreements will be inked during the separate meetings.

[India and Sri Lanka sign MoU to support fishermen](#)

Colombo Gazette | 15th September
India and Sri Lanka today signed a MoU to support livelihood of the fishing and farming communities in Hambantota district. The MoU was signed at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development by Y.K. Sinha, High Commissioner of India and Ms. W.M.M.R. Adikari, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development in the presence of Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development.

[Sri Lanka lifting suspension of on-arrival visa for Bangladesh nationals](#)

bdnews24 | 15th September
Sri Lanka's deputy minister for foreign affairs has said they are changing the decision that denied Bangladeshis getting visa on arrival. Harsha de Silva told BBC Sinhala that it was not a decision of his government. The immigration chief took the decision on his own and now they are taking steps to cancel the order.

AFGHANISTAN

[Explosion in Kabul leaves one dead and another one wounded](#)

Khaama Press | 14th September

An explosion rocked Kabul city earlier today after a magnetic bomb planted in a police vehicle went off in Deh Mazang area of the city. The security officials confirmed the incident and said one person was wounded in the blast but the eyewitnesses in the area said one person was killed and another one was wounded.

[Terrorist groups from face-to-face to face-to-faceless: Ghani](#)

Khaama Press | 15th September

The Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani spoke regarding the 'Fifth Wave of Political Violence and Global Terrorism' at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) during his 2-Day State visit to India. Describing the 'fifth wave' as probably one of the "most well-financed movements in history" he observed that "in the absence of rules of the game", and due to the willingness of some states to sponsor non-state actors, the phenomena has evolved over the years with deepened and broadened techniques. The understanding of the current political violence has largely been reactive, due to which global actions have been sporadic and not sustained, he observed.

[India pledges \\$1 billion in fresh aid to Afghanistan](#)

Khaama Press | 15th September

India has pledged \$1 billion in fresh aid to Afghanistan as President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is New Delhi to

meet with the country's officials to discuss issues of mutual interest. The \$1 billion aid announcement by New Delhi comes as the country has already spent around \$2 billion on reconstruction projects in Afghanistan. India's foreign secretary S Jaishankar told reporters that the \$1 billion aid will be for Afghanistan's capacity and institution building.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh PM Hasina reaches Canada to attend Global Fund conference](#)

The Financial Express | 16th September

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has arrived in Canada's Montreal on a four-day official visit at the invitation of her Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau. She will be attending the Fifth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund at Montreal. Canada is hosting this year's two-day conference that will discuss global strategies to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, at Hyatt Regency hotel starting from Friday.

[Major central banks seek globally standard cybersecurity system in wake of Bangladesh reserve heist](#)

The Financial Express | 6th September

The world's major central banks, stung by this year's \$81-million heist in Bangladesh, have launched a task force to consider setting broad rules to protect the vast network of cross-border banking from cyber attacks, according to two sources with knowledge of the matter. The committee of central banks, part of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, Switzerland, set up the task force this summer. It has begun gathering information from members on their protections against fraud, said the sources, who requested anonymity because work had just begun.

BHUTAN

[SAARC Development Fund and South Asian University to collaborate](#)

Kuensel Online | 15th September

The SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and South Asian University (SAU) have agreed to work together in the areas of technical assistance, research and studies, publications and collaborative arrangements in trade facilitation, regional integration, economic cooperation, public-private partnerships and capacity building, among others.

MALDIVES

[HRCM: Protection granted by the Constitution must be provided to the people](#)

SunOnline | 15th September

Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) has said that in order for the Maldives to become a full-fledged democracy, the human rights need to be respected and the protection granted by the Constitution must be provided to the people. In a statement issued by the HRCM on the occasion of the World Democracy Day being celebrated today, human rights were noted as one of the most important basis of a democracy. The HRCM said that the separation of the powers with respected to a government elected by the people would achieve success to human rights.

MYANMAR

[U.S. to terminate the 'National Emergency' for Myanmar](#)

Mizzima | 15th September

On September 14, President Obama announced his intent to terminate the National Emergency with respect to Burma, nearly 20 years after economic and financial sanctions were first imposed on Burma. The announcement came after the President met and discussed these issues with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, during her first visit to the United States in her new capacity.

NEPAL

[Nepal, India and China trilateral investors' meet to be held soon](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 16th September

To energise Nepal's economy, which was further devastated due to last year's earthquakes and border blockade, China India Business, Investment and Incubation Centre (CHIBIIC) — a Haryana (India)-based think-tank — in association with Nepal Invest Pvt Ltd is going to organise a trilateral — Nepal, India, and China — investors' meet in the Capital on September 29.

[Constitution amendment: Dahal's busy schedule likely to delay process](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 16th September

CPN (Maoist Centre) Pushpa Kamal Dahal was elected the prime minister on August 3 after the Madhes-based parties threw their weight behind him in return for his commitment to address their concerns through constitution amendment, the process for which was, as per an understanding, should have been initiated within a month. On Thursday, 25 days after assuming office, PM Dahal left for India on a four-day official visit. Despite some talks about registering a constitution amendment proposal in Parliament before PM Dahal's visit to the southern neighbour, parties could not make much headway.

[UK's DFID pledges Rs11.9b to Nepal](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 51th September

The Department of International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) has agreed to provide a grant assistance of around Rs11.98 billion to implement the third phase of Nepal Health Sector Reform Programme for four and a half years. An agreement to this end was signed between Nepal and UK on Wednesday.

PAKISTAN

[US refuses to support Modi's position on Balochistan](#)

DAWN | 16th September

The United States has unambiguously distanced itself from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attempt to internationalise the Baloch issue and in the process has also assured Pakistan of its continued support to the country's territorial integrity.

[Islamabad's role vital for Afghan peace: US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson](#)

The Express Tribune | 16th September

A senior US official has said a "constructive relationship" between Afghanistan and Pakistan remains essential to bringing peace and stability to the region.

[Facilitator of Army Public School attackers arrested](#)

The Express Tribune | 16th September

Police claimed on Thursday to have made key arrests in connection with the attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar and said they have captured a key facilitator of the attackers. The attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16, 2014, claimed the lives of 133 students and 16 school staff.

[Dar woos French automakers Renault and Peugeot to invest in Pakistan](#)

APP / The Express Tribune | 16th September

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has encouraged two leading French automobile manufacturers, Renault and Peugeot, to pour investment and grab a slice of the expanding vehicle market in Pakistan.

SRI LANKA

[IMF reps review extended loan facility to Sri Lanka](#)

Daily News | 15th September

IMF representatives met Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake for a mission review of the \$1.5 billion loan approved for Sri Lanka under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to support the country's economic reform agenda.

[Government allocates Rs. 292 million for two IT projects](#)

Colombo Page | 15th September

The Sri Lankan government in its 2016 Budget has allocated Rs. 292 million for implementation of Information Technology projects.

[Sri Lanka Parliament and U.S. House Democracy Partnership launch collaboration agreement](#)

Colombo Page | 16th September

The Parliament of Sri Lanka and the House Democracy Partnership of the United States House of Representatives launched a Collaboration Agreement to strengthen partnership between the two legislatures on Wednesday (Sept 14) in Washington D.C.

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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