

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

**November 16th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 5/11**

[Sindh to set up industrial zone in cooperation with China](#)

The Express Tribune | 16th November

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the provincial government has finalised a plan to establish the China-Pakistan Industrial Zone at Dhabeji and develop the Ketu Bandar project for the prosperity of Sindh and Pakistan. He said this while talking to a Chinese delegation, led by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong, at the CM House on Tuesday.

[Nepal-China transit talks to begin in Lhasa today](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 16th November

A high-level Nepali delegation left for Lhasa, China on Tuesday for a meeting with the Chinese side on draft protocol on Transit Transport Agreement (TTA), the Commerce Ministry said in a statement. The meeting, scheduled to begin on Wednesday, is expected to pave the way for Nepal to use the Chinese land to conduct third-country trade.

[US forces likely committed war crimes in Afghanistan: ICC](#)

Afghanistan Times | 15th November

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said that a preliminary investigation has indicated that the United States military service members and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) might have committed war crimes in Afghanistan. Fatou Bensouda, the ICC prosecutor, said that a full investigation into the potential war crimes committed by the US armed forces and CIA in Afghanistan is likely as the ICC had a reasonable basis.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[ISIS in Afghanistan claims Trump's victory to help attract more fighters](#)

Khaama Press | 15<sup>th</sup> November

The loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in Afghanistan have claimed that the victory of Donald Trump in the US Presidential election will help the group attract more fighters in the country. The loyalists of the terrorist group joined the Taliban insurgents to react towards the victory of the Republican candidate in the elections.

[33 Provincial Councils Elect Administrative Board Members](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 16<sup>th</sup> November

Provincial councils in 33 provinces on Tuesday elected their administrative boards for a third year of the current government term. The provincial council elections were conducted simultaneously with the presidential election

on April 5, 2014, but their results were announced seven months after the Election Day due to some political tensions.

#### [Impeached Ministers to Stay Until SC Ruling: Cabinet](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 16<sup>th</sup> November

The Cabinet on Monday instructed ministers disqualified by the lower house of parliament or Wolesi Jirga to remain in their jobs until a ruling in the matter from the Supreme Court (SC). A statement from the Presidential Palace said President Ashraf Ghani, who presided over the Cabinet meeting, declared his full support for the three pillars of the state and said problems created with the lower house's decisions needed to be clarified and resolved at the meeting.

### **BANGLADESH**

#### [PM calls for addressing migrant issue for success of SDGs](#)

BSS/ The Daily Star | 16<sup>th</sup> November

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for global efforts to address the issue of climate-induced migrants to make the objectives of SDGs successful. "Unless, we address this challenge of climate-induced migrant issue appropriately, we would never be able to attain the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," she said in her statement at the high-level segments of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP-22) on Tuesday.

#### [Internet freedom 'declined' in Bangladesh in one year: Freedom House report](#)

bdnews24 | 16<sup>th</sup> November

Bangladesh has gone backward in achieving internet freedom in past one year, according to US-based observer and analyst Freedom House. It has put Bangladesh under 'Partly Free' category among 65 countries reviewed in its Freedom on Net 2016 report. The report, published on Monday, says Bangladesh scored 56 out of 100, up four points from last year. This means the opportunity to use the internet freely has narrowed by four points in one year.

#### [Pakistan may claim Rs 15.25b 'debt' from Bangladesh, India](#)

Prothom Alo | 15<sup>th</sup> November

Pakistan has decided to demand its outstanding amount from India and Bangladesh, reported a Pakistani daily, The Express Tribune, on Tuesday. In one of its reports headlined 'India, Bangladesh owe Pakistan Rs 15.25 billion' on its online version, the Pakistan-based newspaper said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has written to all commercial banks and development finance institutions, asking for details of accounts of assets and other dues receivable from the two countries.

### **BHUTAN**

#### [We need to clean up our systems too](#)

Kuensel Online | 14 November

When India announced that Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes will cease to be legal tenders on November 8, the subcontinent woke up to a new reality. We too felt the ripples because our biggest trade is with India. As recent as a few weeks ago, we had cases of bank employees playing with Rupee even as the country is just about stepping out from one of the serious cases of Rupee shortage in history.

### **MALDIVES**

### [State settles USD 271 million in compensation to GMR](#)

Sun Online | 15<sup>th</sup> November

Maldivian government has announced that it has settled the USD 271 million in compensation it was ordered to pay to GMR by Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) over the termination of the contract made with GMR to run Ibrahim Nasir International Airport (INIA). SIAC made its decision and released its report regarding the case on October 25.

### [Top Maldivian, Indian hospitals to feature in Medical and Health Expo](#)

Sun Online | 15<sup>th</sup> November

Organizers of “Maldives Medical and Health Expo 2016” – designed to promote medical tourism in Maldives – reports that multiple top Maldivian and Indian hospitals will feature in the expo. The expo is organized by MV Medicals and MedLife Asia; and will be held at National Art Gallery in Male’, on November 24, 25 and 26.

## MYANMAR

### [Friendship Motor Car Rally from Delhi to Bangkok begins](#)

Mizzima | 16 November

India’s Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Chemical Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Lal Mandaviya flagged off a Friendship Motor Car Rally from India Gate lawns in Delhi to Bangkok on 13 November. His Excellency Chalit Manityakul, Ambassador of Thailand was also present on the occasion.

### [Myanmar to upgrade cross-border trade facilities](#)

Mizzima | 14 November

The ministry of commerce of Myanmar will upgrade the trade facilities of the country's border trade gates to meet Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) standards to promote trade, said an official of the ministry Saturday, Xinhua reported on 12 November.

## NEPAL

### [Karki appears in SC, submits clarification](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 16<sup>th</sup> November

Lok Man Singh Karki, who currently remains suspended as the chief of the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), on Tuesday appeared before the Supreme Court (SC) in person to defend the charge that he had obstructed judicial proceedings. Responding to a petition filed by Advocate Om Prakash Aryal, the apex court on November 8 had asked Karki and three of his aides to appear before court in person to furnish clarifications within a week.

### [No plan yet for spending Rs 10 b allocation](#)

My Republic | 16<sup>th</sup> November

The previous government's declaration in May to build the Kathmandu-Tarai Fast-Track road on its own was widely welcomed and many hoped to see steady progress in the dream project, but so far there has been no action at all. Five months have elapsed since the announcement was made to build the 76 km road to connect with the tarai and an amount of Rs 10 billion was allocated. The mega project shortens travel time to the tarai to one hour and has huge economic significance for the country.

## PAKISTAN

### [Pakistan keeps prices lowest in region: Dar](#)

The Express Tribune | 16<sup>th</sup> November

Minister for Finance Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Tuesday said Pakistan has maintained the lowest prices of petroleum products in comparison to the rest of South Asia, particularly India and Bangladesh. He stated this while chairing a meeting here with Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, where they reviewed progress on different initiatives.

#### [Qatari prince's letter thickens Panamagate plot](#)

The Express Tribune|16<sup>th</sup> November

First, the Sharif family said they had acquired the London properties with the money earned by selling off their factories in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, but now they have revealed that the four luxury apartments were purchased through offshore investments involving a member of the Qatari royal family. Tuesday's apparent flip-flop in the Supreme Court could have serious legal implications in the Panamagate case that may eventually implicate Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

#### [Tayyip Erdogan begins two-day visit today](#)

The Express Tribune|16<sup>th</sup> November

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is set to arrive in Pakistan today (Wednesday) for a two-day visit, his first since an attempted military coup failed to oust him from power earlier this year. Erdogan will be accompanied by a high-level entourage – including Turkish ministers and senior officials, as well as a large business delegation – and will hold meetings with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Mamnoon Hussain on a host of bilateral, regional and international issues, a handout issued by Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

#### [Staff of Pak-Turk schools told to leave Pakistan by 20th](#)

DAWN|17<sup>th</sup> November

Ahead of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Pakistan, the interior ministry has asked the Turkish staff of Pak-Turk schools and colleges to leave the country by Nov 20. The management of the educational network on Tuesday expressed concern over the "abrupt move" and assured the students and parents involved that it stood firmly against any proposal for "ingress of some other organisation into the teachers and staff of the schools".

## **SRI LANKA**

#### [EU and the UN launch project to support trade in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Gazette| 15<sup>th</sup> November

The European Union today launched a EUR 8 million project that will help Sri Lanka increase its trade competitiveness in regional and European markets. The project will be implemented over a period of four years by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Department of Commerce.

#### [Sri Lanka works on draft counter terrorism legislation to replace PTA with technical assistance from UN](#)

Colombo Page| 15<sup>th</sup> November

The Sri Lankan government says its work on the draft counter terrorism legislation to replace the current Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) is progressing with the technical assistance of United Nations agencies.

#### [UN's global industry body completed 240 projects in Sri Lanka since 1969' - UNIDO](#)

Colombo Page| 15<sup>th</sup> November

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the UN's global industry body has implemented 240 projects in the country since its entry in to the country in 1969 for a chemical project and currently six new projects are on the cards.

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### ***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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