

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

**November 25th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 9/11**

[Dhaka seeks int'l interventions to end Rohingya crisis](#)

BSS/ Prothom Alo | 24<sup>th</sup> November  
Bangladesh on Thursday sought international support to end Rohingya crisis amid continued influx of the minority Muslims in its territory and offered its assistance for social reconciliation and economic uplift of the people in bordering Rakhine State of Myanmar. In an urgently called meeting of foreign envoys in Dhaka, foreign minister AH Mahmood Ali sought international support to resolve the longstanding challenge including the current crisis situation involving the Rohingyas, the minority Muslim community in Buddhist majority Rakhine.

[US increase contribution to \\$207 million for Afghan humanitarian response](#)

Khaama Press | 24<sup>th</sup> November  
The United States increased its contribution to \$207 by pledging a new aid package of \$39 million to Afghan human humanitarian response. "The United States is pleased to announce that it is providing over \$39 million to meet the extraordinary needs of Afghan refugees returning to Afghanistan. This brings the total U.S. contribution to the Afghan humanitarian response to more than \$207 million since the beginning of FY 2016," a statement by the State Department said.

[Pakistan Navy considering buying warships from China, Turkey](#)

The Express Tribune | 25<sup>th</sup> November  
Pakistan Navy is considering buying super-fast ships from China and Turkey for its special squadron to be deployed at the Gwadar Seaport for the security purpose, officials said on Thursday. "A squadron may have four to six warships," an official of Pakistan Navy told The Express Tribune on the sidelines of the ongoing defence exhibition, IDEAS 2016, at the Karachi Expo Centre.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[Transparency criteria breached in selection of election commissioners: TEFA](#)

Afghanistan Times | 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Head of the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) Naim Ayobzada on Wednesday said that breaching of criteria by selection committee and systemized selection of commissioners by the government is the matter of concern for the TEFA. "We have monitored the work of selection committee, unfortunately criteria was breached by the committee as well as the committee had no independency," said Ayobzada. He said that government interfered in the process of the selection committee and a kind of systemized effort has been done over the committee.

[TI, IWA fooled media](#)

Afghanistan Times | 23<sup>rd</sup> November

The Transparency International (TI) in cooperation with the Integrity Watch of Afghanistan (IWA) on Tuesday said that there is still political interference in the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center (ACJC) of Afghanistan.

The TI, with its Afghan partner IWA, in its report said that the National Unity Government (UNG) has fulfilled only a few anti-corruption commitments in the past two years, especially when corruption is ripe in the judiciary.

#### [Terrorists Trying to Sow Seed of Sectarianism: Mohaqeq](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 24<sup>th</sup> November

The CEO's second deputy, Mohammad Mohaqeq, said on Wednesday that terrorists are trying to create sectarian conflict between the Shias and Sunnis in Afghanistan and that inclusive security measures are needed so as to prevent a repeat of Monday's deadly mosque bombing in Kabul. Mohaqeq made the remarks during the burial ceremony of two of the victims of Monday's bombing at Baqir-ul-Ulom mosque – Khudadad and Mohsin.

#### [US airstrike kill 2 ISIS militants, Afghan forces arrest 3 more in Nangarhar](#)

Khaama Press | 24<sup>th</sup> November

At least two loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in an airstrike conducted by the US forces in Afghanistan. The provincial security officials said the airstrike was carried out late on Wednesday evening in Achin district. The officials further added that the airstrike did not incur any casualties to the local residents. According to the officials, the militants were targeted by the unmanned aerial vehicle in Pekha area of Achin district.

### **BANGLADESH**

#### [Saudi Arabia wants to hire 1,000 Bangladesh doctors: envoy](#)

bdnews24 | 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Saudi Arabia wants to hire 1,000 medical specialists from Bangladesh after a gap of ten years. The kingdom informed government officials about its decision earlier this week, Golam Masih, Dhaka's ambassador at Riyadh, told bdnews24.com. The Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment ministry have been informed about the plan.

#### [Bangladesh gains remarkable MDG achievement'](#)

Financial Express | 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Bangladesh made a remarkable success in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) as out of 33 targets it fully implemented 13, including the one of halving the population living under poverty line, said a final evaluation report. "With sustained GDP growth rate of over 6 percent, Bangladesh has been able to bring poverty rate down to 24.8 percent by 2012 against the MDG target of halving the population living under the poverty line from 56.7 percent to 29 percent by 2015," said member of the Planning Commission Dr Shamsul Alam while presenting the report at the NEC conference room in Dhaka on Wednesday.

### **BHUTAN**

#### [NC unsatisfied with agricultural sector growth](#)

Kuenselonline | 24<sup>th</sup> November

A report by the Natural Resources and Environment Committee (NREC) of the National Council (NC) highlights issues plaguing the agriculture sector and offers recommendations to improve agricultural output. Presenting the Review of Agriculture Policy report in the House yesterday, the committee's chairman and Pemagatshel MP, Jigmi Rinzin said the agriculture sector has been the backbone of the economy until the establishment of the hydropower projects and the advent of the tourism industry. About 70 percent of the population lives in rural areas.

### **MALDIVES**

#### [Indian businessmen pitch 5 major proposals to Maldives](#)

Sun Online | 24<sup>th</sup> November

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has pitched five major proposals to Maldives to promote further collaboration in tourism and trade. Maldives Investment Forum 2016 - held in The Taj Palace

in New Delhi, India last Tuesday – was held in association with FICCI. Multiple FICCI-member companies, as well as other international companies visited the forum.

#### [Indian companies express interest in partnering with Maldivian](#)

Sun Online | 24<sup>th</sup> November

Large-scale Indian companies have expressed interest in operating as general sales agents for the national airline, Maldivian. The major mission of Maldivian, which participated in the Maldives Investment Forum 2016, held at The Taj Palace in New Delhi, India last Tuesday, was to find Indian sales agents for the airline, and find foreign investment for the airline to acquire more carriers.

### MYANMAR

#### [Ethnic Alliance Denies Derailing Peace Talks](#)

The Associated Press / The Irrawaddy | 25<sup>th</sup> November

Ethnic rebel groups in northeastern Burma say their recent attacks on government forces were a response to military pressure and that they are still interested in peace talks. Mai Aik Kyaw, a spokesman for the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, said fighting in northern Shan State was continuing Thursday. He said the government has not asked for talks with the four guerrilla groups that began attacks Sunday, but if it does invite them, they are ready to participate.

#### [Bangladesh to send back Rohingya fleeing Myanmar unrest](#)

AFP / Mizimma | 24<sup>th</sup> November

Bangladesh police on Wednesday detained dozens of Rohingya migrants, some of them children, and said they would return them to Myanmar where there are reports the military is burning villages and raping women. Rohingya community leaders say there has been a sharp rise in the numbers travelling across the border into Bangladesh to escape the violence. An estimated 500 arrived overnight, using darkness to evade detection.

### NEPAL

#### [Only 34 km roads expanded in nine years](#)

The Himalayan Times | 25<sup>th</sup> November

Due to obstruction from locals and political parties, only 34 km of the total 88 km roads have been expanded in Kathmandu Valley since the road expansion drive began in the fiscal 2064/2065. According to Kathmandu Valley Road Improvement Project, 21 road sections have been expanded and work on expansion of 12 other road stretches is under way.

#### [Govt on way to House, oppn to take to streets](#)

Kathmandu Post | 25<sup>th</sup> November

Though it is not clear when the government will register a constitution amendment proposal in Parliament, it does appear set to do so in a few days. But questions are already being asked: At what cost? Or whose interest will it serve? There is already a huge chasm between the governing parties and the main opposition. And with differences surfacing in the agitating Madhes-based parties, there are fears that the constitution amendment plan may not bode well. At least early signs do not appear promising. On Thursday, CPN-UML Chairman KP Oli directed his party rank and file “to get ready for protests”. While addressing an interaction organised by student and youth wings of the UML in the Capital, Oli said, “Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal must not forget that the UML is also in Parliament.”

#### [Province 5 split plan sparks protests](#)

Kathmandu Post | 23<sup>rd</sup> November

As the government gears up to register a constitution amendment proposal, which entails splitting Province 5 in a bid to address the row over provincial boundaries, protests have started in different parts of the country. While the main opposition CPN-UML has already rejected the proposal and taken to the streets, local leaders of the governing parties also have started expressing their discontent. On Thursday, sister wings of the UML halted

vehicular movement in the Nawalpur area of Nawalparasi district to protest against the government plan to split Province 5.

## PAKISTAN

[Gen Raheel proved to be the best army chief through hard work, dedication: PM Nawaz](#)

DAWN | 25<sup>th</sup> November

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, while addressing a farewell ceremony on Thursday in the honour of Army Chief General Raheel Sharif, said the latter proved himself as the best army chief with his hard work and dedication, DawnNews reported. The premier during his address acknowledged and appreciated the services of Gen Raheel Sharif and his family for the defence of the country. "General Raheel belongs to a family which is second to none when it comes to gallantry and heroism. They have a tradition of serving the nation and laying down their lives in the line of duty," he said.

## SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka-China bilateral trade crosses US\\$ 4 billion, FTA to solidify growth in trade](#)

Colombo Page | 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and China has crossed the 4 billion US dollar threshold for the first time last year, the Industry and Commerce Minister Rishad Bathiudeen said. A proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries shall further solidify this trade growth, the Minister asserted. "There is a six fold trade growth within a decade -and this trend would grow further as both countries move towards the proposed FTA," Minister Bathiudeen said yesterday addressing the inauguration of the second China Products Exhibition (CPE) at the Sri Lanka Exhibition and Convention Centre in Colombo.

[Sri Lanka Navy and US Marine Corps in joint training exercises](#)

Colombo Page | 24<sup>th</sup> November

Sri Lanka Navy and US Marine Corps personnel arrived in USS Somerset are engaged in a series of training exercises in Trincomalee naval base as part of enhancing bilateral defense relations. The US Naval Ship, USS Somerset arrived at the Port of Trincomalee on a training visit on 22 November 2016, in view of sharing Theatre Security Cooperation (TSC) with the Sri Lanka Navy's Marine Forces.

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### ***About Ananta Aspen Centre***

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