

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

**October 26th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 11/10**

[ISIS claims killing 60 Pakistani police cadets in Quetta attack](#)

Khaama Press | 25<sup>th</sup> October  
The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on a police academy in Quetta city of Pakistan that left at least 60 dead. The group released a statement following the attack and released the photographs of the three assailants who carried out the attack late on Monday. The Arabic statement was released by Amaq news agency which normally covers the stories of the terrorist group in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world where they operate.

[Nepal to press for implementation of pacts with India](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 26<sup>th</sup> October  
The fourth meeting of Nepal-India Joint Commission at Foreign Minister level will focus on implementing the past agreements signed between the two countries. The meeting takes place in New Delhi on Thursday. The meeting comes at a time when the India-funded projects could not make tangible progress. The joint panel is the highest level bilateral mechanism between the two neighbours that is mandated to review bilateral ties, direct relevant officials to resolve the pending issues and chart out the future course of the ties.

[Bangladesh GDP beat forecast, grew 7.11% in 2015-16 fiscal: Planning minister](#)

bdnews24 | 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Bangladesh's economy grew by 7.11 percent in the previous financial year at a rate faster than was calculated by the Ministry of Planning. The ministry had projected a growth rate of 7.05 percent after analysis of figures from July through March. Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal revealed the figure to the media at a press conference on Tuesday. The prime minister has been informed of the achievement, he said.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[ISIS trying to establish a caliphate inside Afghanistan: US General](#)

Khaama Press/ Ghanizada | 25<sup>th</sup> October  
The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group is attempting to establish a caliphate inside Afghanistan, the top US commander in Afghanistan has said. General John Nicholson who is also in command of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan has said the majority of the ISIS fighters in Afghanistan are

foreigners. “Right now we see them very focused on trying to establish their caliphate, the Khorasan caliphate, inside Afghanistan,” General Nicholson told NBC News.

#### [Drone strike kills 10 Daesh terrorists in Nangarhar](#)

Afghanistan Times | 25<sup>th</sup> October

At least ten fighters of the Islamic State (IS) also known as Daesh, were killed and four others wounded in a US drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province, local officials said Tuesday. The provincial governor spokesman, Ataullah Khogyani said that the drone was targeted the hideouts of Daesh militants in the Pachiragam district late Monday. There were no civilian casualties in the strike, he added.

#### [Dostum’s serious accusations need judicial probe: Presidential Palace](#)

Khaama Press | 25<sup>th</sup> October

The Office of the President, ARG Palace, slammed the First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum for his recent remarks accusing President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah of nepotism. The ARG Palace issued a statement this afternoon to react towards Dostum’s remarks which he made following an operation led by him in northern Jawzjan province.

## **BANGLADESH**

#### [No rehab facilities for ex-militants yet](#)

The Dhaka Tribune | 26<sup>th</sup> October

In the wake of the crackdown on militancy by law enforcement agencies in the country, more and more militants have been responding to the government’s call for them to surrender, wishing to return to their previous lives. But there are no proper facilities in the country that can rehabilitate the surrendering militants – most of whom are young men and women – into the society, the Dhaka Tribune learnt from different sources.

#### [Kuwaiti businessmen to invest in Bangladesh](#)

The Financial Express | 24<sup>th</sup> October

Kuwaiti businessmen have expressed their interest to invest in Bangladesh after learning about various facilities over the foreign direct investment (FDI) here as provided by the government. Their expression of investment interest was evident during a meeting in Kuwait on Monday with the visiting delegation of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), a statement said.

## **BHUTAN**

#### [Bhutan 3rd most competitive economy in South Asia](#)

Kuensel Online | 25<sup>th</sup> October

Bhutan has jumped eight places in the World Economic Forum’s global competitiveness ranking to the third most competitive economy among the SAARC countries. According to Global Competitiveness Report 2016-17, Bhutan scored 3.87 points and ranks 97th among 138 economies surveyed by the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI). Last year, the country ranked 105 among 140 economies.

#### [First Wangdue dzongkhag tshogdu held](#)

Kuensel Online | 25<sup>th</sup> October

The first dzongkhag tshogdu of the newly elected local government in Wangdue elected thromde tshogde ngotshab Tenzin Wangchuk as the dzongkhag tshogdu thrizeen and Gaseytshogwom gup Kingzang Thinley as thrizeen-wom, yesterday. There were five candidates for the post of thrizeen and three candidates for thrizeen-wom. There were 31 dzongkhag tshogdu members including the gups and mangmis of the dzongkhag’s 15 gewogs and the thromde tshogde ngotshab in attendance.

## **MALDIVES**

### [President: Take your brains when you vote](#)

Sun Online | 25<sup>th</sup> October

President Abdulla Yameen Abdul of Maldives Gayoom has asked for careful consideration before casting the vote in the upcoming Local Council Elections. President Yameen, who is currently on a trip to H. Dh. Atoll and Sh. Atoll, officially inaugurated the H. Dh. Kurinbee Harbor this Tuesday afternoon.

### [US, UK and Japan invited to make Free Trade agreements](#)

Sun Online | 25<sup>th</sup> October

An invitation has been extended to the USA, UK and Japan to establish Free Trade agreements with the Maldives. While Free Trade agreement discussions with the largest consumer market, China, has been completed and discussions are underway with Hong Kong, today, the Economic Minister, Mohamed Saeed said that USA, UK and Japan has been invited to discuss Free Trade with the Maldives.

## **MYANMAR**

### [President's Office Rejects UN Call for Action on Alleged Rights Abuses in Arakan State](#)

The Irrawaddy | 25<sup>th</sup> October

Burma's President Office spokesperson has denied accusations of human rights violations being carried out by security forces in northern Arakan State, saying, "we haven't done anything lawless." His responses came after United Nations human rights experts called on the Burmese government to take action against alleged arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings and burning of mosques and homes by authorities during manhunts in Maungdaw and surrounding areas for suspected attackers against border guard outposts earlier this month.

### [68 Myanmar refugees voluntarily repatriated from Thai camps](#)

Mizzima | 26<sup>th</sup> October

The first, voluntary repatriation of 68 Myanmar refugees from camps along the Thai-Myanmar border began on Tuesday, Reuters reported on 26 October. The return of the refugees is the first to receive endorsement from the Thai and Myanmar governments, the UNHCR said. The return began on Tuesday with one family leaving a camp in the western province of Ratchaburi. Dozens more from Nupo Camp in Thailand's western Tak province will follow today, the report said quoting Iain Hall, UNHCR's senior field coordinator.

## **NEPAL**

### [Parliamentary committee directs Foreign Ministry to submit documents](#)

My Republic | 25<sup>th</sup> October

The meeting of the International Relations and Labour Committee under the Legislature-Parliament today has directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to submit the documents related to providing the permission to run the metro rail under the Nepali embassy in New Delhi, India within seven days.

### [PM Dahal commits to development of Siraha](#)

My Republic | 25<sup>th</sup> October

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal has expressed the commitment that the government would extend its utmost cooperation for the development and construction works in Siraha district. The Prime Minister expressed this commitment in a meeting with an all-party and all-sides delegation from Siraha district that called on him today in connection with the issues of public interest and the development and construction works of the district.

### [MPs across parties line up behind impeachment motion](#)

My Republic | 26<sup>th</sup> October

Lawmakers from major political parties have stood united in favor of the impeachment motion filed in Parliament against suspended chief of the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) Lokman Singh Karki. Members of Parliament (MPs) from various political parties, airing their views during deliberations on the motion on Tuesday, expressed strong support for the impeachment motion. Altogether 157 lawmakers from the ruling CPN (Maoist Center) and the main opposition CPN-UML had registered the motion at the parliament secretariat on Wednesday.

## PAKISTAN

### [Assailants came from Afghanistan, PM told](#)

DAWN|26<sup>th</sup> October

QUETTA: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif were among the senior government and military functionaries who rushed to the provincial capital as soon as horrors of the [devastating attack on the Police Training College](#), Quetta, became evident on Tuesday. During the course of the day, they attended the funeral of those killed in the terrorist attack and visited hospital to inquire after the injured.

### [Gender gap index puts Pakistan in second-last place](#)

DAWN|26<sup>th</sup> October

Pakistan has been ranked the second-worst country in the world for gender inequality for the second consecutive year. According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2016, released on Tuesday, Pakistan ranks 143 out of 144 countries in the gender inequality index, way behind Bangladesh and India which rank 72nd and 87th respectively.

### [ADB eyes increasing assistance to Pakistan](#)

The Express Tribune|26<sup>th</sup> October

Given Pakistan's strong credentials and forecasting the country's growth trajectory, the Asian Development Bank is considering increasing its development assistance in infrastructure, roads and railways, port facilities, railways and energy sector to Pakistan. The visiting ADB President Takehiko Nakao met with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday and congratulated him for leading the reforms under the IMF programme.

## SRI LANKA

### [US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor funds \\$ 500,000 grant for strengthening civil society in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page| 26<sup>th</sup> October

The United States Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) Tuesday announced an open competition for organizations interested in submitting applications for an opportunity for a project on Strengthening civil society in Sri Lanka.

### [High-level Danish business delegation to visit Sri Lanka to explore investment opportunities](#)

Colombo Page| 25<sup>th</sup> October

A high-level business delegation from Denmark will be visiting Sri Lanka from November 1 to 4 seeking investment opportunities in energy, infrastructure and water.

### [Another 40 Tamil refugees to return from Tamil Nadu](#)

Colombo Gazette| 26<sup>th</sup> October

Another 40 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu, India will return to Sri Lanka tomorrow under the UNHCR facilitated voluntary repatriation programme. The voluntary repatriation movements consisting 40 persons (13 families) are scheduled to arrive through Sri Lankan Airlines (UL132) from Trichy.

### [SC determines amended VAT Bill consistent with Constitution](#)

Colombo Gazette| 25<sup>th</sup> October

The Supreme Court (SC) has determined that the amended VAT Bill is consistent with the Constitution, Parliament was informed today. The Amendment Bill was presented to Parliament by Leader of the House Lakshman Kiriella on October 4.

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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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