

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

November 28th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 10/11

[Two MoUs signed with India for development projects in Madaripur](#)

The Financial Express | 28th November

Indian government will fund a number of projects in Madaripur district, Bangladesh involving Tk 23 million. To this effect, India and Bangladesh signed two memorandum of understandings (MoUs) on Sunday in the presence of Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan and Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla. Senior government officials from Madaripur were also present on the occasion. Under the projects, development of Charmuguria Merchant High School, Development of Bir Muktijodha Shajahan Khan College and development of Charmuguria Sree Sree Kalibari Mondir will be undertaken in Madaripur Sadar Upzila at a cost of Tk 13.5 million.

[India hands over another Mi-24 gunship to Afghan Air Force](#)

Khaama Press | 27th November

India completed the delivery of the final Mi-24 gunship to the Afghan Air Force (AAF) as part of New Delhi's ongoing reconstruction effort with the delivery of the 4 gunships marking the first lethal weaponry supply to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). The Afghan Air Force (AAF) said the last of the 4 Mi-24 gunships was delivered to the Afghan Air Force on Saturday. AAF further added that a number of the Indian Air Force personnel also arrived in Kabul to complete the delivery of the final gunship to the Afghan forces.

['The current halt in trade through INR 500 and INR 1,000 notes will slow down Nepal's economy'](#)

The Himalayan Times | 28th November

The ban on INR 500 and INR 1,000 banknotes by India has left many Nepali people and traders in panic after Nepal also banned the sale and exchange of these notes. This has put at risk the high denomination Indian currency notes that Nepalis have been holding. As per traders, the value of high denomination Indian notes that Nepalis have besides the amount in the banking channel could be worth billions of rupees, which needs exchange facility from the government. Vice President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Shekhar Golchha spoke to Sujan Dhungana of The Himalayan Times on the impact of the ban of INR 500 and INR 1,000 notes to businesses in Nepal and about the steps that could be taken to solve this problem from the private sector's point of view.

AFGHANISTAN

[President Ghani, Prime Minister Nawaz discuss relations in Ashgabat](#)

Afghanistan Times | 26th November

President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif met Saturday on the sidelines of an international conference in Ashgabat, the capital city of Turkmenistan, a media report said. The leaders of the two neighboring states discussed the already tense bilateral relations and also the regional issues. Ghani and Sharif attended the two-day Global Sustainable Transport Conference (GSTC) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on Saturday to

highlight the fundamental role of sustainable transport in fighting climate change. Afghan and Pakistan leaders comes after mistrust between the two states have reached at boiling point.

[NUG to Set up Recruitment Committees](#)

Daily Outlook | 28th November

Sources close to the National Unity Government (NUG) have said the leaders will establish two selection committees in order to appoint military and political staff for government departments. Sources said representatives of President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah and their deputies will be included in the committees and said once these have been established, the rifts between the president and CEO will decrease. Sources also said a political committee chaired by Mohammad Sarwar Danish, second vice president, held its first session on Sunday.

BANGLADESH

[PM reaches Budapest to attend Water Summit](#)

The Daily Star | 27th November

Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight carrying Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached Budapest tonight after an emergency landing in Hungary in the morning. A VVIP Biman flight landed at Ferenc Liszt International Airport at 6:15 pm (local time), Shakil Meraj, General Manager (public relations) of Biman, told The Daily Star.

[Early marriage still high in Bangladesh: Study](#)

The Financial Express | 27th November

The rate of marriage for girls aged between 15 and 18 years is still high at 38 per cent in Bangladesh though under-15 marriage fell significantly over the past two decades, according to a recent research. The rate of marriage for girls aged between 15 and 18 years remained highest in Barisal division with 46.9 per cent during 2006-2015, followed by Khulna with 43.4 per cent and Rangpur with 42.2 per cent, according to the research conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

[Bangladesh Bank Heist: Bangladesh to seek \\$50m compensation from RCBC](#)

The Daily Star | 28th November

Encouraged by the recovery of a fraction of the \$81 million lost in a daring cyber heist earlier this year, a delegation of high-ranking Bangladeshi officials will meet with President Duterte today to press for the return of more missing funds that were laundered in the Philippines. "Definitely, we would seek for RCBC to release some money," Bangladesh's ambassador to the Philippines John Gomes said in an interview with the Inquirer.

BHUTAN

[Differences in Bhutan-China border dispute minimised](#)

Kuensel Online | 26th November

Bhutan-China relations depends on how well the two countries settle the border dispute, according to the foreign minister, Damcho Dorji, who spoke on the issue during the National Council's Question Hour session yesterday. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji said that it is important to demarcate the border as soon as possible but the outcome is more important.

MALDIVES

[Economic Development Minister Saeed: Amending law for a deadline extension not the best solution](#)

Sun Online | 27th November

Minster of Economic Development, Mohamed Saeed has remarked that he believed finding more convenient arrangements to help foreign workers in Maldives open bank accounts and have their salaries transferred to a registered bank in Maldives was more important than opting for an extension to the deadline provided to open the bank accounts. A remittance tax of three percent is being taken from foreign workers from October 1, and every foreign worker is required to have a bank account in a registered bank operating in Maldives and have their salaries transferred to the account. The government provided a three-month period for companies to open bank accounts for their foreign employees.

[Japan funds Airport Weather Information System stations in Maldives](#)

Sun Online | 27th November

Maldives Meteorological Center has signed Memorandum of Understanding with companies running Maldivian airports for the installation of Airport Weather Information System (AWIS) stations – funded via non-reimbursable aid by Japanese government. The MoUs were signed in a ceremony held at Ministry of Environment and Energy this Sunday. It was signed on behalf of Maldives Meteorological Center by Minister of Environment and Energy, Toriq Ibrahim, and heads of companies running airports throughout the country; Island Aviation Services, Regional Airports, Addu International Airport, Pristine Islands Investment, and Villa Shipping and Trading Companies.

MYANMAR

[Myanmar to upgrade livestock and fisheries sector for more export to EU market](#)

Mizzima | 26th November

Myanmar will implement an upgrading program for the country's livestock and fishery sector in cooperation with European Union (EU) and German state-owned organization GIZ, according to the ministry of agriculture, livestock and irrigation of Myanmar *Xinhua* reported on 25 November. The five-year program named Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Program (MYSAP) will begin from this year to 2022 and the EU and GIZ will fund about 22.5 million euros for the program.

[Myanmar police arrest Muslims over Yangon bombings](#)

Mizzima | 28th November

Myanmar police said Saturday they had arrested three Muslims for planting home-made bombs around Yangon and were investigating their links to "terrorists" in Rakhine state, where the army is cracking down on the Muslim Rohingya minority. Two crude explosive devices went off inside the regional government office compound on Friday night, the third such small-scale attack to hit Myanmar's normally peaceful commercial hub in just over a week.

NEPAL

[PM 'not convinced' amendment will address problems](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 28th November

Amid the delay in formally proceeding with a second constitutional amendment, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Sunday told Janajati leaders that he was not fully convinced that registering an amendment proposal would address the outstanding issues. "The PM said he was not confident that the amendment proposal the government has prepared would satisfy the Madhesi forces," said Om Gurung, spokesperson for the Aadibasi Janajati Rastriya Andolan.

[Rights groups call for law to combat internal trafficking](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 28th November

Rights defenders have raised concerns over the government's apathy towards addressing the issue of internal trafficking of women, calling for the formulating of an effective law to tackle the problem facing the women working in the informal sector. They argue that the Human Trafficking and Transport (Control) Act, 2007 lacks clear provisions to prevent such illicit activities and punish the guilty.

[5.6 magnitude aftershock of Gorkha earthquake hits Solukhumbu](#)

The Himalayan Times | 28th November

An aftershock of local magnitude 5.6 was recorded at around 5:20 am today, with its epicentre in Solukhumbu, near the border of Ramechhap district. The epicentre was about 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of the capital, Kathmandu, with latitude 27.79° N and longitude 86.5 ° E, according to the National Seismological Centre (NSC).

PAKISTAN

[Chinese firms willing to invest in Pakistan](#)

The Express Tribune | 27th November

More than 100 companies are willing to invest in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the project's Council Executive Chairman Zhao Guobin said on Saturday.

[Iran stalls response to Pakistan's FTA proposal](#)

The Express Tribune| 28th November

Iran has not responded yet to Pakistan's proposal of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries, a highly-placed source said on Sunday.

[Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat takes over as CJCS](#)

DAWN| 28th November

Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat took over as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) on Monday from outgoing General Rashad Mehmood during an official ceremony at joint staff headquarters, Rawalpindi.

[Chinese naval ships at Gwadar port call for a rethink of India's regional policy](#)

DAWN| 28th November

The reports quoted Pakistani officials saying that China proposes to deploy its naval ships in coordination with the Pakistan Navy to safeguard Gwadar port, which is the gateway to the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

SRI LANKA

[Indian Navy Chief to have talks with Sri Lankan officials](#)

Colombo Gazette| 27th November

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba is on a five-day visit to Sri Lanka beginning from today, UNI reported. The visit is intended to consolidate and enhance the bilateral maritime relations between India and Sri Lanka, an official statement said.

['Galle Dialogue' international maritime conference gets underway in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page| 27th November

Galle Dialogue 2016 international maritime conference got off to a start on Sunday at the Galle Face Hotel, in Colombo with the local and foreign participation from the maritime fraternity.

[Top U.S. military officer, Sri Lanka PM discuss enhancing bilateral cooperation](#)

Colombo Page| 28th November

Admiral Harry Harris, Commander of United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) and Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe met Sunday evening to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, the U.S. Embassy said.

[President designates next three years as Tourism, Investment Years for a Prosperous Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Page| 28th November

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has designated the years 2017, 2018, and 2019 as the "Years of Tourism and Investment for a Prosperous Sri Lanka".

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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