

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

**October 4th, 2017 | Volume: 3 - 01/10**

[Afghanistan and India open direct flights between Delhi and Mazar city](#)

Khaama Press | 3rd October  
Afghanistan and India on Monday opened a new direct flight route for the passengers between Mazar-e-Sharif city in northern Balkh province of Afghanistan and the capital city of India, New Delhi. The private airliner, Kam Air, kicked off the first flight between Mazar and New Delhi on Monday. The officials of the airline are saying that two flights will take place between Mazar city and New Delhi on weekly basis. The head of Mazar-e-Sharif airport, Mawlana Jalaluddin Balkhi airport, Mohammad Asif, said efforts are also underway for the launch of cargo flights from Mazar to the foreign countries, apparently gesturing towards the flights as part of the Afghanistan-India air corridor. According to Asif, the flights are expected to be launched in the near future for the transport of agricultural products. In the meantime, the Indian Consul General in Mazar, Mansih Grover, welcomed the launch of the flights and called it

[India set to give Tk 360b as loan](#)

Prothom Alo | 4<sup>th</sup> October  
In a span of seven years, India is set to give Bangladesh a large volume of loan, Line of Credit (LoC). India will provide Tk360 billion as loan which will be used to implement 17 projects. The projects include the construction of infrastructure for Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, multipurpose container terminal of Paira Port, and establishing economic zones. Bangladesh will sign Tk 360 billion third Line of Credit (LoC) agreement with India in presence of finance minister AMA Muhith and Indian finance and corporate affairs minister Arun Jaitley. Economic Relations Division (ERD) and Indian EXIM Bank will ink the agreement on behalf of their respective sides at the finance ministry in the capital.

[Sri Lanka parliament commemorates 70th Anniversary of Parliamentary Democracy](#)

Colombo Page | 3rd October  
A special Sitting of Parliament was held to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Parliamentary Democracy in Sri Lanka. At the commencement of Public Business, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the opposition in Parliament moved a Vote to recognize the occasion of the special sitting. "That this Parliament at its meeting today commemorates with pride the 70th anniversary of its first meeting as an independent Parliament and notes that Parliament of Sri Lanka is the oldest Parliament elected by universal adult franchise in the Asia region with an unbroken record of democratic governance and wishes for itself and the people of Sri Lanka a prosperity, development and further strengthening of democratic traditions, principles and rule of

another move boost the connectivity between the two countries and another sign of Afghanistan-India friendship.

law," it said.

## AFGHANISTAN

### [Parliamentarians praise security measures during Ashura](#)

Afghanistan Times | 2nd October

Members of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) of Parliament lauded Afghan security forces for better reinforcement of security during Ashura day ceremony. "Thanks from Afghan security forces and united Afghan nation that pave the ground for a peaceful marking of Ashura across the country," said Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga Abdul Rauf Ibrahim. He said that although inauspicious intrigue and threat was high, but Afghan forces succeeded reinforce security in a better manner and pave the ground for Afghan Muslim to mark Ashura day peacefully. He also expressed pleasure that all Afghan Shiite and Sunni Muslims together in full unity marked Ashura. Member of the Wolesi Jirga Obiadullah Barakzai voiced pleasure over peacefully marking of Ashura day.

## BANGLADESH

### [Padma Multipurpose Bridge We've proved, we can: PM](#)

BSS / The Bangladesh Post | 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina beamed with exaltation and cheer at the first installation of a span on the country's biggest infrastructure Padma Bridge project, reports BSS. "Yes, we've proved, we can ... I'm very happy," she said while exchanging views with leaders of Awami League and its front organisations representing different state-chapters of the United States at Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington. "We, the Bangalee nation fought and liberated the country ... we can do whatever we want as we have honest will and determination," the premier said in an emotion-charged voice. After the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters.

### [BGB-BSF DG level meeting begins in New Delhi](#)

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha / New Age Bangladesh | 3<sup>rd</sup> October

A director general level border conference between Border Guard Bangladesh and Indian Border Security Force begins at New Delhi in India. The six-day conference will end on October 7 with signing of a 'Joint Record of Discussion', said a BGB press release. The meeting will discuss various issues including the killing of Bangladeshi innocent people along the border, trespassing into Bangladesh from India, and kidnapping of Bangladeshis. Moreover, the meeting will focus on taking measures to stop smuggling of contraband items, including liquor, Phensidyl, cannabis and other narcotics into Bangladesh from India, preventing all kinds of infrastructural development within 150 yards along the border lines; Indian mobile network coverage inside Bangladesh; preserving frontier riversides of both the countries; different programs taken for increasing mutual confidence and etc.

### [5,000 more Rohingyas enter Bangladesh](#)

UNB / Prothom Alo | 3<sup>rd</sup> October

In the latest influx, some 5,000 more Rohingyas entered Bangladesh through Ulubonia point of the Naf River under Teknaf upazila on Monday. Locals said the Myanmar nationals started gathering at the no-man's land along the border since the morning. Later, they crossed the river into Bangladesh by hired boats.

## **BHUTAN**

### [His Majesty The King grants Dassain Tikka](#)

Kuensel | 1st October

His Majesty The King granted Dassain Tikka and blessings to members of the Hindu community gathered at the Lingkana Palace today. A representative each from the sixty gewogs of Samtse, Sarpang, Dagana, Samdrup Jongkhar, Chukha, and Tsirang, were joined by other representatives of the Hindu community including the Hindu Dharma Samudaya. The Durga Puja was held yesterday at the Lingkana Palace, by priests from the Hindu Dharma Samudaya. At the Puja, His Majesty offered prayers before Goddess Durga. Dassain is one of the most important festivals of the Hindu community in Bhutan. The festival, which lasts for 15 days, starts from the new moon till the full moon on the Hindu month of Ashvin/Asauj. The Tikka used in the ceremony today was sanctified from the Durga Puja. After being blessed by His Majesty, part of the Tikka was distributed through the Hindu mandir, and used in Tikka ceremonies across the homes of Hindu families.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Maseeh to Sri Lanka for SAARC Parliamentary Conference](#)

Sun Online | 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Speaker of the Parliament, Abdulla Maseeh Mohamed has left for Sri Lanka to take part in the 8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians. Speakers and Parliamentarians of the SAARC countries are taking part in the conference held from 2-7 October.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Myanmar to allow foreign insurance firms](#)

Mizzima | 2nd October

Myanmar is ready to grant licenses to foreign insurance firms to operate in the country, Anadolu Agency reported on 1 October quoting a government official.

### [Britain's Prince Charles to omit Myanmar in SE Asia visit](#)

Mizzima | 4th October

Prince Charles will tour south-east Asia and India later this month but the heir to the British throne will not visit Myanmar, after a spate of violence in Rakhine State, the Guardian newspaper reported on 4 October.

## **NEPAL**

### [An unnatural alliance: NC](#)

MyRepublica | 4th October

Ruling Nepali Congress (NC) party leaders have termed the electoral alliance between ruling CPN (Maoist Center) and main opposition CPN-UML as well as other forces as unnatural and undemocratic. The NC has called a party working committee meeting for Wednesday to ponder the new political development following the decision on electoral alliance between the three leftist parties. Some senior NC leaders held discussions about how the Maoist decision to form an alliance with UML would be in breach of a previous electoral-alliance understanding with the NC. NC senior leader Ram Chandra Paudel termed the alliance an undemocratic and opportunistic move.

### [Rs 98.5m EU relief for flood victims](#)

MyRepublica | 4th October

The European Union has announced to provide Rs 98.5 million (€800 000) in emergency relief funding to assist the most affected populations. According to a press statement issued by the EU office in Kathmandu, this allocation is part of a larger regional allocation of €2 million in response to floods in South Asia. “The countries in South Asia are facing some of their worst floods in decades, which are resulting in a large-scale humanitarian situation affecting millions. It is especially in these hard times that EU solidarity makes a difference: our support will reach those most in need and help them recover from the devastating losses they have suffered,” the statement quoted EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides as saying.

## **PAKISTAN**

### [FM Asif meets Tillerson in Washington today](#)

Dawn | 4th October

The US State Department confirmed on Tuesday that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will meet Foreign Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif at his office on Wednesday morning. Mr Asif is reaching Washington on Tuesday evening on a three-day visit to the US capital. This is part of a bilateral effort to halt further deterioration in relations between the two countries which have been close allies for most of the past 70 years. Mr Asif is also scheduled to meet US National Security Adviser Gen H.R. McMaster on Thursday. The official US announcement was brief and did not say what would be the agenda for this important meeting, although a joint statement is expected after the talks.

## **SRI LANKA**

### [Sri Lanka President emphasizes need to strengthen parliament](#)

Colombo Page | 3rd October

Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena today said the objective of the unity government is to further strengthen Parliament through a constitution, which strengthen the rights of all the citizens in an undivided unitary state. Addressing a special sitting of Parliament held Tuesday to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Parliamentary Democracy in Sri Lanka, the President emphasized the need of further strengthening of the Parliament and said the assistance of all the political parties representing the Supreme Parliament is expected in this regard.

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

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