



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

**February 5, 2018 | Volume: 4 - 2/02**

**Bilawal urges UN to probe use of chemical weapons in IHK**

Daily Times | 5 February 2018  
Pakistan People's Party (PPP)  
Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Sunday said the people of Kashmir were undergoing the worst form of aggression from the occupying Indian forces in the Held Kashmir and urged the United Nations and the world community to investigate the reports of use of chemical weapons and pellet guns against Kashmiris. In his message on the eve of Kashmiri Day, the PPP chairman said that Kashmiris have been waging a peaceful movement for their legitimate right to self-determination for last 70 years, losing thousands of innocent lives and impairing and maiming of large number of population.

**Afghan-Pak delegation discuss joint counterterrorism cooperation, statement**

Kabul Times | 4th February  
A high-level Pakistani delegation comprising of senior civilian and military officials led by Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Tehmina Janjua visited Kabul yesterday, 3rd Feb, to hold discussion with Afghan counterparts led by Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai on Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS)– a joint action plan for cooperation in the areas of counter terrorism and reduction of violence, peace and reconciliation, refugees repatriation and joint economic development, statement from ministry of foreign affairs said.

**KIA launch attacks on Myanmar Army**

Mizzima | 5 February 2018  
The Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), one of the non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), has been attacking the regional military headquarters Kachin state since 31 January according to state media. On 3 February, a force of some 50 KIA troops also attacked military camps in Lwele village, Moe Kaung Township in Myitkyina, with small arms and heavy guns, with some injuries being reported during the attacks.

**AFGHANISTAN**

### [China Willing to Help Revive Afghan Peace Process](#)

Pajhwok / Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 4th February

China has once again expressed its willingness to help revive the peace process in Afghanistan, where insurgent-linked violence has escalated in recent weeks. “The recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan are our concern and we are ready to play our role in the resumption of the peace process,” Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said on Friday, 2nd Feb. Both China and Pakistan desired a stable Afghanistan, the diplomat told reporters after attending the launch of South-South Cooperation Fund in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

### [President Ghani meets different countries’ ambassadors, representatives, UK and US officials separately](#)

The Kabul Times | 3rd February

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met on Monday, 29th January, with Defense Minister of Norway Frank Bakke Jensen at Presidential Palace. In the meeting, both sides discussed expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries, counterterrorism and regional issues. President Ghani by praising the Kingdom of Norway for its cooperation with Afghanistan in various fields in particular cooperation with ANDSF including Afghan special forces said the cooperation has been effective and welcomed continuation of such cooperation.

## **BANGLADESH**

### [Dhaka among most polluted city in the world](#)

Dhaka Tribune | 5th February

Dhaka still continues to rank among the cities that have the lowest quality of air in the world. However, the quality of air in Dhaka has improved a little on Monday. In the US Air Quality Index (AQI), measured at 9:15am on Monday, Dhaka ranked seventh in the real time air quality rankings. According to data available from a smartphone application named AirVisual, which shows the user real-time air pollution index of any city across the globe, Dhaka received a score of 172, which signifies unhealthy air quality.

### [EU imports 66pc from Bangladesh under EBA trade scheme](#)

The Financial Express | 5th February

The European Union (EU) imported the most from Bangladesh under its Everything But Arms (EBA) preferential trade scheme. A report, prepared by the European Commission, showed that EU’s 66 per cent EBA preferential imports came from the South Asian country in 2016-17 followed by Cambodia (18 per cent). EBA is the EU’s flagship trade instrument designed to help the Least Developed Countries. It is one of the three Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) provided by the EU. The report also showed that three countries took up the largest part of all EU imports under the overall GSP benefits (including non-GSP imports).

## **BHUTAN**

### [Bhutan opens consulate office in Guwahati](#)

Kuensel | 3rd February

Bhutanese Consulate General Office in Guwahati, India officially opened on February 2. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay attended the ceremony. The office, which was jointly inaugurated by foreign minister Damcho Dorji and the Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal, is located at Jilika Path, Kalashetra, Panjabari. Consul Sherub Phuntsho said that the consulate would not only cover Assam but also India’s northeastern states of Arunachal

Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya. The office would be useful for patient referrals to Assam, he said. Speaking at the inauguration, Lyonpo Damcho Dorji said Bhutan is committed to strengthening political and socioeconomic cooperation with the government and people of Assam.

## **MALDIVES**

### [DJA: Court order to arrest Attorney General is false](#)

Sun Online | 4th February

Department of Judicial Administration (DJA) has said that the court order allegedly by the Supreme Court to arrest the Attorney General, which is circulating on social media, is false. The alleged court order circulating on social media orders that the Attorney General, Mohamed Anil must be brought to the Supreme Court tomorrow morning in the custody of the police. DJA confirmed to Sun Media that the court order is not legitimate. The official Twitter account of the DJA has also confirmed that alleged court order on social media as false.

## **MYANMAR**

### [Myanmar denies report of mass graves in Rakhine](#)

Mizzima | 5 February 2018

Myanmar officials have denied a report of five mass graves of Rohingya in a village in crisis-hit Rakhine, a border region gutted by a military crackdown on the Muslim minority. Myanmar troops are accused by the UN of waging an “ethnic cleansing” campaign against the Rohingya, nearly 700,000 of whom have fled to Bangladesh since last August, 2017. Myanmar denies the allegation, saying it launched a proportionate “crackdown on Rohingya terrorists”, but has blocked reporters and UN investigators from independently accessing the conflict zone.

### [Export of agricultural products increases this fiscal year](#)

Mizzima | 5 February 2018

The export of agricultural products in the current fiscal year (FY) increased by US\$178 million, compared with the same period last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce, state media reported. The export of agricultural products last FY reached \$2.281 billion, but the export of the same products this FY, from last April through this January, increased to \$2.459 billion, the vast majority being exported by the private sector. Of the seven export categories, the trade value of only the forestry sector decreased. The overall exports were estimated at \$11.425 billion, an increase of \$1.931 billion against last year, the report said.

## **NEPAL**

### [Financing federalism possible through economic reforms: Experts](#)

MyRepublica | 5th February

All three tiers of government can manage the financial resources required to run their administrative set ups in the federal structure by taking key measures such as increasing the tax base, cutting recurrent expenditure and achieving high growth through investment - particularly private and public investment in infrastructures - politicians and economists have said.

## **PAKISTAN**

### [Kashmir Solidarity Day being observed today](#)

Pakistan Today | 5 February 2018

Kashmir Solidarity Day will be observed across the country on Monday (5 February) to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people who are struggling for their right to self-determination under the United Nations resolutions. The day will dawn with special prayers in mosques for progress and prosperity of Pakistan, eternal peace of martyrs of Kashmir's struggle and liberation of all occupied territories including Indian-held Kashmir (IHK) and Palestine.

### [PML-Q, PTI to jointly contest Senate election](#)

Daily Times | 5 February 2018

The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Sunday, 4 February announced to contest the upcoming Senate elections together. Speaking to media after a meeting in Lahore, PTI's Shah Mahmood Qureshi and PML-Q's Pervaiz Elahi announced to work together for the elections and form a committee to ensure cooperation for the purpose. "It has been decided that we will contest the Senate elections together," former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi announced.

## **SRI LANKA**

### [China to work with Sri Lanka for better development of strategic cooperative partnership](#)

Colombo Page | 4th February

China is willing to work with Sri Lanka for better development of strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries, Chinese President Xi Jinping has said in a message addressed to Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on the occasion of Sri Lanka's 70th Independence Day. In his message to congratulate Sri Lanka on the 70th anniversary of its independence from the British colonial rule in 1948, Xi recalled the traditional friendship and mutual assistance between China and Sri Lanka, Xinhua reported.

### [Sri Lanka celebrates 70 years of Independence in a grand ceremony](#)

Colombo Page | 4th February

Sri Lanka celebrates the 70th anniversary of gaining independence from the British colonial rule in 1948 in a grand ceremony at the Gall Face Green in Colombo, under the patronage of President Maithripala Sirisena and the participation of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. Representing the Britain's Queen, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and The Countess of Wessex, participated in the Independence celebrations today as Chief Guests.

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

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