

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

**November 7th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 3/11**

[Sri Lanka says will firmly pursue One China policy](#)

Colombo Gazette|5th November  
Sri Lanka will continue its support for One China policy and push forward greater development of relations with China, a parliament leader and government officials have said, the Xinhua news agency reported.

[Ghani-Abdullah Rift not Resolved Despite Several Meetings](#)

Daily Look Afghanistan| 7th November  
The Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah's office on Sunday said the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders have met with each other several times in recent days but they have not resolved their disagreements over a few matters.

[Chinese group eyes \\$3b deals in Pakistan roads, energy sector](#)

The Express Tribune|5th November  
A consortium of Chinese companies is planning to bring a \$3 billion investment fund to Pakistan, representatives of these companies told Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during their meeting here on Friday.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[Taliban to be eliminated in a month, regional intelligence fueling war: MoD](#)

Khaama Press| 6<sup>th</sup> November

The Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan (MoD) has said the elimination of the Taliban group fighters will not take more than a month but the regional intelligence fueling the Afghan war by supporting the anti-government armed militants.

[45,000 Insurgents in Afghanistan: UN Experts](#)

Daily Outlook Afganistan| 6<sup>th</sup> November

Fighters loyal to al-Qaeda have taken on a more active supporting role for the Taliban during the current offensive in Afghanistan while the position of Daesh in the country "has distinctly weakened," UN experts said in a report circulated Friday.

[Pakistan halts Sharbat Gula's deportation as Afghanistan awaits her return](#)

Khamma Press| 6th November

The Pakistani authorities have reportedly halted the deportation of iconic Afghan woman Sharbat Gula as Afghanistan awaits to welcome her home after spending almost three decades in refuge.

### [ANA Helicopters Mistakenly Drop Bullets to Taliban](#)

Outlook Afghanistan/ Pajhwok | 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Afghan National Army (ANA) helicopters had mistakenly dropped thousands of bullets to Taliban insurgents in central Uruzgan province, an official claimed on Sunday. Haji Khushal, the Gizab district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that security forces in the district could not be supplied logistics through ground. He said ANA helicopters carrying ration and ammunition for security forces mistakenly dropped the same in an area under Taliban control. He said the ammunition dropped in Taliban's area included around 25,000 Kalashnikov and machinegun bullets.

## **BANGLADESH**

### [BD to get back \\$15.25m of heist money this month](#)

The Financial Express | 5<sup>th</sup> November

Bangladesh will get back US\$15.25 million of its stolen reserves from the Philippines this month, said Bangladesh Bank (BB) Deputy Governor Abu Hena Mohammad Razee Hasssan. "A Manila court has already cleared the 'execution suit' and asked the authority concerned to complete the whole procedures of sending back the money within the next 30 days," he said.

### [India asks its Dhaka envoy to convey their concern over Hindus' safety to Bangladesh prime minister](#)

bdnews24 | 6<sup>th</sup> November

India has asked its envoy in Dhaka to convey its "grave concern" over the safety and security of Hindus in Bangladesh to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "I have asked Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka to call on the Prime Minister and express grave concern about the safety and wellbeing of the Hindus in Bangladesh," India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in a tweet.

### [Attack on Hindus: 21 more held in Brahmanbaria](#)

The Daily Star | 7<sup>th</sup> November

Law enforcers have detained 21 more persons for their alleged involvement in the synchronised attack on the Hindus in Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria on October 30. They were detained during drives in different areas of the district since last night.

## **BHUTAN**

### [Second Medical and Health Sciences Int'l conference today](#)

Kuensel Online | 5<sup>th</sup> November

Bhutan achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. However, much more remains to be done to end preventable maternal, newborn and child mortality. Between 2010 and 2015, some 71 mothers lost their lives during child birth or immediately around the event, WHO's South-East Asia Regional Office family health, gender and life course department's director, Dr Pem Namgyal said during the inaugural of the second International Conference on Medical and Health Sciences, yesterday.

### [A sticky solution](#)

Kuensel Online | 5<sup>th</sup> November

In a move long overdue, the traffic police in Thimphu will introduce a new measure in dealing with motorists who violate traffic rules. They will begin slapping stickers on the windshields of vehicles they find in violation of the rules. For instance, a car that is double parked on the highway and causing a traffic jam with the driver nowhere in sight should qualify for such a sticker. Additionally, the traffic official will also take pictures of the vehicle to use as evidence.

## **MALDIVES**

### [Minister: Every Maldivian considers education a priority](#)

Sun Online | 6<sup>th</sup> November

Minister of Education, Dr. Aishath Shiham has remarked that every Maldivian placed extreme importance on education, celebrating the conclusion of her tour of every school of every island of the country. During the celebrations held at Ministry of Education this Sunday morning, Dr. Shiham said she received full cooperation of all the schools and parents of the students during her tour.

### [Police enters former PPM Office with court order](#)

Sun Online | 6<sup>th</sup> November

Police have entered the PPM Office at Henveiru Thema with a court order while a meeting of the PPM's faction of the former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was ongoing. The court order to conduct a search at the Office said that it was issued to find evidence of the missing items from the PPM Office.

## MYANMAR

### [Myanmar new conduit for fake Indian currency](#)

Mizzima | 5<sup>th</sup> November

After Bangladesh agencies cracked down hard on rackets pumping in fake Indian currency peddled by Pakistan, the clandestine operations seems to have moved to Myanmar. Two Myanmar nationals Khin Maung Win and Kar Mar Din, arrested by Thai police in Bangkok on October 9 this year, have revealed that they were in the process of moving a huge consignment of fake Indian currency into Myanmar for smuggling into India.

### [Nationalists gather to protest UN call for probe into Rakhine State situation](#)

Mizzima | 7<sup>th</sup> November

Buddhist nationalists gathered Sunday in Yangon to condemn the United Nations and the international community at large for calling for a probe into allegations that soldiers killed and raped Rohingya women in western Rakhine State, the Anadolu Agency reported yesterday. The instances are alleged to have occurred during army clearance operations following the 9 October deaths of nine border police officials.

## NEPAL

### [Envoys Upadhyay, Poudyal to take initiative for collaboration in environment sector](#)

RSS / The Kathmandu Post | 6<sup>th</sup> November

The newly appointed Nepal's ambassadors to China and India have expressed commitments to take initiatives for joint collaboration in the sector of environment. At an interaction on 'Diplomatic and Environment' organised by the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists here on Sunday, Nepali Ambassador to India, Deep Kumar Upadhyay, and Nepali Ambassador to China, Leela Mani Poudyal, said that they would play roles to prioritise the environmental sector as a means of addressing common interests.

### [No agreement on naturalised citizenship : PMO](#)

RSS / The Kathmandu Post | 6<sup>th</sup> November

The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers has dismissed media reports of an agreement to have been reached on the issue of naturalised citizenship as false. The subject of the agreement on naturalised citizenship issue and the circulation of a draft dictating the amendment to the constitution are false, said Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's press advisor Gobinda Acharya while talking to Rastriya Samachar Samiti.

### [Karki preparing to challenge impeachment motion](#)

My Republica | 7<sup>th</sup> November

Lokman Singh Karki, the suspended CIAA chief commissioner, is preparing to file writ petitions at the Supreme Court against the impeachment motion and ongoing court procedures regarding his controversial appointment as the head of the anti-corruption body.

### [Govt to allow NTL to start petro trade with China](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 7<sup>th</sup> November

The government is preparing to allow government enterprise, National Trading Ltd (NTL), to enter into petroleum trading with China by making NTL a subsidiary institution of state-owned Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC). The Ministry of Supplies (MoS) has already formed a committee under the coordination of Joint Secretary Mukunda Poudel and other experts to study the feasibility of entering into petroleum trading with China by making NTL a sister company of NOC.

## PAKISTAN

### [Karakoram Highway inadequate for CPEC traffic, says Senate panel](#)

DAWN | 7<sup>th</sup> November

The Special Committee of Senate on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in its third interim report has raised concern over inadequate width of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) to cater to future traffic volume to be generated by the CPEC.

### [Quetta attack mastermind held](#)

DAWN | 7<sup>th</sup> November

Security forces claimed on Sunday to have arrested an important leader of a banned organisation who is allegedly involved in the recent attack on the Police Training College in Quetta which left over 60 cadets dead. A security official claimed that the arrested man was the mastermind of the college attack. However, officials did not disclose his name.

### [Panamagate case: PML-N, PTI brace for showdown in top court](#)

The Express Tribune | 7<sup>th</sup> November

The legal teams of both the PML-N and the PTI have completed their homework for the Panamagate case, with a senior ruling party leader, saying the replies of the prime minister's three scions will be submitted to the top court today (Monday).

### [Gilgit mandates Holy Quran classes in schools](#)

The Express Tribune | 7<sup>th</sup> November

The Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) government has made 'Quran education' mandatory up to fifth grade in all public schools across the region. "Initially this decision will be applicable to government schools, but gradually private schools will also be required to incorporate Quran studies in their curricula," Faizullah Faraq, the official spokesman for the G-B government told *The Express Tribune* on Sunday.

## SRI LANKA

### [Sri Lanka considers streamlining trade and economic policies to align with SDGs](#)

Colombo Page | 6<sup>th</sup> November

Being a smaller economy, it is important for Sri Lanka to streamline its trade and economic policies aligning them with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sri Lanka's Minister of Industry and Commerce Rishad Bathiudeen says.

### [Foreign Ministry studying comments by Chinese envoy](#)

Colombo Page | 6<sup>th</sup> November

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is studying comments made last week by the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Yi Xianliang. The envoy had made comments critical of the Government, including over its progress on some of the development projects.

### [Sri Lanka, India to set up Joint Working Group on Fisheries to resolve fishermen issues](#)

Colombo Page | 5<sup>th</sup> November

Sri Lanka and India have agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Fisheries to find a permanent solution to the dispute between the fishermen of the two South Asian neighbors on fishing rights in the Palk Strait.

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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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