

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

November 9th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 4/11

[Panamagate hearing: For SC, Sharif family's inquiry is a priority](#)

The Express Tribune|8th November
The Supreme Court clearly indicated on Monday that an inquiry into the Panama Papers' revelations would begin from the family of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A five-judge bench — headed by Chief Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali — also asked for documentary evidence from the Sharif family to establish they had acquired properties abroad through legal means.

[Lawmakers Call for Review of Security Pact with US](#)

Outlook Afghanistan|8th November
Several Wolesi Jirga members on Monday claimed the government had failed to ensure security, calling for a review of the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the United States. Speaker Abdur Rauf Ibrahimy expressed concern over the worsening security situation, saying ensuring security for the nation was an integral part of the government's core responsibilities.

[China defends comments by its Ambassador in Sri Lanka](#)

Colombo Gazette| 8th November
China today defended comments made by its envoy in Sri Lanka, saying he had only "clarified some misunderstandings and misleading remarks" on bilateral cooperation.

AFGHANISTAN

[Pakistan International Airline to increase Afghanistan flights to 6 per week](#)

Khaama Press|8th November

Pakistan's state-owned international air carrier, Pakistan International Airline (PIA), is planning to increase the number of flights between Kabul and Islamabad, it has been reported. PIA, which is currently having 5 flights a week between Kabul and Islamabad, is planning to increase the flights to 6 per week.

[Ghani Renews Anti-Graft Strategy as Public Pressure Mounts](#)

Khaama Press|8th November

President Ashraf Ghani on Monday asked owners of construction companies to take the lead in exposing the names of those involved in corruption within the sector. Owners of some construction companies are also involved in corruption, said Ghani. He called on these business people to cooperate with government to win the war against graft in the country.

[Terrorism Not a Proper Tool to Pursue Personal Goals: Iran President](#)

Outlook Afghanistan|8th November

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has underlined the need for concerted efforts by all countries to counter

terrorism, criticizing certain states for using terror groups as tools to advance their personal agendas. Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Togo Foreign Minister Robert Dussey in Tehran on Monday.

[Political Leaders Push Taliban for Talks](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 8th November

A number of Afghan political leaders have moved to broker peace talks between government and the Taliban following secret talks between the two parties in Qatar recently. Sayed Ishaq Gailani, a former MP and leader of the National Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan (NSMA), said that politicians were in contact with the Taliban and there would be further interactions of this sort in future. "We are seeing how to mediate between government and Taliban.

BANGLADESH

[Bangladesh, US important partners in democratic governance: Ambassador Ziauddin](#)

bdnews24 | 9th November

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mohammad Ziauddin has said Dhaka and Washington consider each other as "important partners in democratic governance and integration with global economy".

[World Bank starts scrutiny of seven problem-ridden projects](#)

The Financial Express | 9th November

The World Bank (WB) has started review of its seven problem-ridden ongoing projects involving an estimated investment of \$2.07 billion, officials said Tuesday. The Bank Tuesday started its two-day review meeting with the government project implementing agencies to find out the problems before it approves or revises the development project proposals (DPPs), detect complexities before it disburses funds and resolve some other issues, they said.

[Border Guard Bangladesh chief blames border killing on absence of barbed-wire fence](#)

Prothom Alo | 8th November

Outgoing Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) major general Aziz Ahmed on Tuesday said it had not been possible for them to bring the border killing to a zero level for lack of enough barbed-wire fences, good vehicles and roads along the border. "This is the biggest challenge for BGB," he told a press conference at the BGB headquarters.

BHUTAN

[What could happen in upcoming NA session](#)

Kuensel Online | 8th November

Important deliberations will take place in the upcoming winter session of National Assembly. The session will begin on November 10. The House will amend the Income Tax Act. It would be a money bill over which National Council will have little say. The House will also see the introduction of Information, Communication and Media Bill 2016. The Assembly will also amend the Marriage Act.

[Imposing road discipline has helped reduce traffic violations](#)

Kuensel Online | 8th November

Some 211 drivers across the country were issued Transport Infringement Notice (TIN) for violating traffic rules, which amounts to Nu 199,850 collected as penalty. Drivers were caught across the country either speeding, double parking, using mobile phones when driving, and drink driving, among other violations.

MALDIVES

[Projected State budget for 2017 a surplus of MVR 1.1 bn](#)

Sun Online | 8th November

The projected State budget for 2017 submitted by the government to the People's Majlis is a surplus MVR 1.1 billion budget – bringing an end to years of projected deficit State budgets. The State budget for 2015 was a deficit of MVR 4.1 billion, and the budget deficit for 2016 is expected to reach MVR 4.3 billion.

[Ethics Committee: Dhunya, Yumna removed from PPM Council](#)

Sun Online | 9th November

Ethics Committee of the divided Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) has made the decision to remove daughters of the party's leader, former Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom – Dhunya Maumoon and Yumna Maumoon – and three other members from PPM Council.

MYANMAR

[CommuniCast 2016 to throw spotlight on Myanmar's data boom](#)

Mizzima | 8th November

Building networks to service the growing national demand for data in Myanmar and support emerging industries – including the crucial health and education sectors – via the telecoms infrastructure will be the key focus areas at CommuniCast Myanmar 2016, according to a statement on 7 November. Myanmar's growing demand for data was illustrated just last month when the Myanmar government announced it will issue a fourth telecoms license.

[Grave risks to children in Rakhine State – UNICEF](#)

Mizzima | 9th November

Worsening inter-communal conflict in Rakhine State, Myanmar is taking a terrible toll on children -- especially those living in the northern part of the state, where thousands of children have been cut off from humanitarian assistance in recent weeks, UNICEF said in statement on 8 November.

NEPAL

[Govt clueless about missing border pillars](#)

My Republica | 9th November

Government officials are clueless about the missing border pillars in Ilam district. The Department of Land Reform and Management is yet to find the 45 border pillars built along the Nepal-Indian border from Manebhajang to Jirmale. Although, they have prepared a report regarding the missing pillars, the border management authorities are yet to decide on the rebuilding process.

[Amendment proposal will be ready in next 4 days: DPM Nidhi](#)

My Republica | 9th November

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Bimalendra Nidhi has said that a constitution amendment proposal will be finalized within the next four days and registered in parliament before mid-November.

[Gurkha ex-soldiers can help in post-quake rebuilding: Modi](#)

Himalayan News Service / The Himalayan Times | 9th November

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi today opined that mobilisation of Gurkha ex-soldiers would be effective in Nepal's post-earthquake rebuilding. While receiving Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba in his New Delhi office, Modi lauded laboriousness and discipline of the Gurkhas Nepalis serving in the Indian Army and said their deployment would help in the early completion of reconstruction work, according to a release issued by the Nepali Congress party office today.

PAKISTAN

[Three Indian 'undercover agents' leave Pakistan](#)

The Express Tribune | 8th November

India on Tuesday withdrew three staff members of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad who were accused of being involved in subversive activities in Pakistan. "Three of the eight officials have returned to India today," a diplomatic source told *The Express Tribune*. "A decision regarding the remaining five officials is yet to be taken," the source added.

[No decision or consultation yet about appointment of next army chief, says Khawaja Asif](#)

DAWN|9th November

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday revealed that no decision has been taken yet and currently no consultations have been initiated regarding the matter of appointment of next army chief.

[Women, children being 'trafficked from Pakistan, forced into begging' in Europe](#)

The Express Tribune|9th November

Powerful gangs of organised criminals are trafficking hundreds of women and children from different parts of the country through Iran for labour and beggary in Europe and the Middle East, *The Express Tribune* has learnt on the authority of senior officials.

[PSO's receivables swell to Rs251.7 billion](#)

The Express Tribune|9th November

Though the government claims to have restricted inter-corporate debt, it is still haunting state-run oil marketing company Pakistan State Oil (PSO) as its receivables from different clients, particularly power producers, have piled up to Rs251.7 billion. PSO is a major supplier of fuel to the power companies, which have to pay around Rs220 billion. This includes Rs149 billion in outstanding bills and Rs75 billion in late payment surcharge.

[World Bank to help Pakistan design new tariff policy](#)

The Express Tribune|9th November

The World Bank has agreed to provide technical assistance to Pakistan in its efforts to frame a new tariff structure aimed at giving a boost to national exports and government revenues. The offer of technical assistance came after a proposal in that regard was floated by Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir in a meeting with a high-level delegation of the World Bank.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka tells China ready to discuss any concerns](#)

Colombo Gazette| 8th November

The Government has told China it is prepared to discuss any concerns it has after controversy arose over a statement made by China's Ambassador to Sri Lanka last week. The Foreign Ministry said that Foreign Secretary Esala Weerakoon had spoken to the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yi Xianliang and noted Sri Lanka's willingness to discuss his concerns.

[It's Sri Lanka's turn - World Bank](#)

Colombo Page| 8th November

Sri Lanka needs a significant transformation to become a higher middle income country as the island nation's Prime Minister has envisioned, the World Bank says.

[Sri Lanka collaborates with Cuba in science, technology and innovation](#)

Colombo Page| 8th November

Sri Lanka and Cuba have entered into an agreement to collaborate in science, technology and innovation and signed the scientific cooperation documents in Havana during the International Convention of Science, Technology and innovation held from 31st October - 04th November 2016.

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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