

President meets Nepal's leader

Daily News, 1 November 2009

President Mahinda Rajapaksa met Nepal President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav and held bilateral talks yesterday for nearly one hour in a cordial atmosphere at the Sheethal Nivas Rashtrapathi Bhavan, Kathmandu, a press release from the President's Media Division said. President Yadav thanked President Rajapaksa for the assistance accorded in developing the Lumbini world heritage site in Nepal. President Rajapaksa said the Sri Lankan Government was prepared to give further assistance in conserving and developing Lumbini the most sanctified place for Buddhists and it was special privilege for the Sri Lankans to be able to assist.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/10/31/news04.asp>

Up to 3,000 sued for Tongi violence

Daily Star, 1 November 2009

Police on Sunday filed a case against 2,000 to 3,000 unidentified people in connection with Saturday's violent clash between police and workers in Tongi that left two people dead and 100 others injured. Tapan Saha, officer in-charge of Tongi Police Station, filed the case on various charges including illegal procession, vandalising vehicles and assaulting policemen. Earlier, police arrested eight people in this connection.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20306

Maldivians fighting and dying in Pakistan, says president

Minivan, 1 November 2009

President Mohamed Nasheed said yesterday that at least 12 Maldivians had died in the war being waged in Waziristan - the religious conservative region of Pakistan. Nasheed said most parents were unaware that those who died had left to fight in Pakistan, believing that they had travelled abroad for higher education.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7619

Talks prioritise road improvement

Kuensel, 1 November 2009

To avoid delays in the implementation of hydropower projects, the government of India (GoI) has committed to speed up road construction, which connect various hydropower project sites. Top on the list is to improve the Gelephu - Santabari (Assam) road, which is a vital link for mega hydro projects like Punatshangchu I and II, Chamkarchhu I and Mangdechu projects. This was one of the main issues the two governments agreed during the second annual consultation of the Bhutan - India Development Talks, which was held in Thimphu from October 28 - 30.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13857>

Korea confirms troops are going to Afghanistan

JoongAng Daily, 1 November 2009

Korea has decided to send troops to Afghanistan to protect civilian professionals helping with rebuilding work in the war-torn nation. The Foreign Ministry here announced yesterday the nation will dispatch civilians and police and military forces to form a Provincial Reconstruction Team, or PRT, to send to Afghanistan. The government, however, declined to give a specific number of people to travel to

Afghanistan. Moon Tae-young, the ministry spokesman, said the Afghan government had asked for Korea's support in its rebuilding projects "through multiple channels" and Korea has decided to join the global community and take a more active role in trying to stabilize Afghanistan.

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2911955>

TN govt to spend Rs. 12 crore for Sri Lankan Tamils refugees' camps
The Hindu, 2 November 2009

The State government has decided to spend Rs. 12 crore immediately for improving the basic amenities in Sri Lankan Tamils refugees' camps. Ministers and District Collectors will visit 115 camps in the State and present their findings to Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi by November 10 on the condition of the camps. On the basis of their feedback, the government will work out the modalities for the expenditure of Rs. 12 crore. Decisions to this effect were taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi on Monday. Eleven Ministers and senior government officials attended.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article42156.ece>

Islamabad seeks involvement in new US Afghan strategy
The News, 2 November 2009

Pakistan said on Sunday it wanted to be consulted over the United States' new strategy on Afghanistan, saying that its expertise and coordination were vital to success. At a meeting in Malaysia, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said he put the request for closer involvement in the US deliberations to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during her visit to Pakistan last week.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25323

Sri Lanka-Bulgaria to strengthen cooperation
Daily News, 2 November 2009

President of the Republic of Bulgaria Georgi Parvanov called on President Mahinda Rajapaksa on November 1 during a one-day visit to Colombo. During the meeting it was acknowledged that there are possibilities for further developing bilateral political dialogue and cooperation in the economic, cultural and other spheres of mutual interest. It was pointed out that both sides enjoy excellent cooperation in the framework of the UN and other international organizations. The Bulgarian President praised the efforts of President Mahinda Rajapaksa to rebuild the country after the defeat of terrorism. An agreement was also signed to improve bilateral trade.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/02/news02.asp>

Huji founder taken on remand
Daily Star, 2 November 2009

A Dhaka court on Monday placed Maulana Sheikh Abdus Salam, a founder of banned militant outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) on a six-day remand in connection with the August 21 grenade attack case. Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddique passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced Salam before the court with a ten-day remand prayer.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20341

Police investigating mobile clips
Kuensel, 2 November 2009

The origins of the recent spate of sexually explicit mobile clips of Bhutanese couples are being investigated according to the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP). "The RBP is seriously concerned with the emergence of the mobile phone video clippings," said a RBP spokesperson. "While respecting individual rights, the RBP is already carrying out enquiries and investigations into this unhealthy matter and will start prosecuting all found guilty of manufacturing, distributing and selling such clippings either for a profit or for free distribution." "Every one should know that distribution of such clippings is a penal offense under the laws of Bhutan, he added.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13862>

Bill on hiking departure tax passed
Minivan, 2 November 2009

Parliament today passed a bill proposed by the government to hike airport departure tax with an amendment to exclude Maldivians. The bill is the second piece of legislation passed by the 17th parliament that convened in May. It was passed with the unanimous consent of all 70 MPs who participated in the vote.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7635

Sri Lankan Tamil refugees wish for Indian citizenship
The Hindu, 3 November 2009

Several Sri Lankan Tamils housed at the refugee camps at Kottapattu and Vazhavanthankottai in Tiruchi district have expressed a desire to be granted Indian citizenship. This was a common demand aired, by many refugees, before the Transport Minister K.N. Nehru who visited both the camps on Tuesday for an assessment of the conditions there. The inspection comes close on the heels of a high level meet convened by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi to discuss the conditions at the refugee camps for Sri Lankan Tamils on Monday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/states/tamil-nadu/article42734.ece>

Army chief warns of 26/11-type attacks
The Hindu, 3 November 2009

Army Chief Deepak Kapoor on Tuesday warned that 26/11-type Mumbai terror attacks were a possibility and that India has to take all steps to counter such strikes. "We have to take all steps to prevent any Mumbai-type attacks. We cannot rule out apprehensions of such possibilities," Gen. Kapoor told reporters here on the sidelines of an Army function. To a question if there were any terror alerts in the recent times, he said the South Asian region is infested with terror groups.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article42513.ece>

War crimes prosecution untenable - Senior lawyer
Daily News, 3 November 2009

Amidst wide speculation that measures would be taken by the International Community to prosecute the political and military leaders of Sri Lanka for alleged crimes committed during the recently concluded conflict in the North, Senior Criminal Lawyer Upali Senaratne stated that such a move is not possible under International Criminal Law, except under extreme circumstances which will never materialise given Sri Lanka's strong relationship with certain powerful and more understanding states in the world. Commenting on this further Senaratne referred to certain suggestions made by persons about the possibility of taking Sri Lankan leaders to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for example. This is the ultimate desire of the LTTE and the pro-Tiger diaspora. There is no such possibility under the Roman Statute which has established the ICC.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/03/news36.asp>

Kushtia AL leaders, outlaw held with AK-47
Daily Star, 3 November 2009

Three Awami League leaders and activists and a member of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz were arrested along with an AK-47, a shotgun and 82 rounds of bullet at Trimohoni, on the outskirts of Kushtia town, on Monday night. The AL leaders were identified as Taslima Khan Ankhi, secretary of Kushtia Mohila Awami League, Abdur Razzak, AL leader of Daulatpur unit, and activist Rani while the outlaw was identified Shahin, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20350

75 megawatt wind farm to power Male' atoll
Minivan, 3 November 2009

The State Electric Company has signed a 20-year agreement with Falcon Energy for a 75 megawatt wind farm in the Maldives, taking the country one-fifth of the way closer to attaining carbon neutrality. GE Energy, a US\$30 billion company, will carry out a feasibility study and build the wind farm on a coral reef in Gaafaru in North Male' atoll.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7637

Legislating legislation
Kuensel, 3 November 2009

The Local Government Bill and Tobacco Bill among many others have been debated and questioned on their constitutionality, inconsistency with other Acts and effectiveness if any. This could change according to cabinet, which has approved the creation of agency called the IPSDS, 'Improving Public Service Delivery System', to reducing administrative burden and red tape. IPSDS aims to introduce a 'Legislative Protocol' to ensure that Bills undergo a rigorous set of protocols or procedures and exercises before going to Parliament for enactment.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13874>

**Lanka achieved four percent growth despite global crisis - Minister
Daily News, 4 November 2009**

Public Administration and Home Affairs Minister and Deputy Finance Minister Dr. Sarath Amunugama told Parliament yesterday that despite the negative effects of the global economic down-turn, Sri Lanka has achieved a four percent economic growth while a number of other countries witnessed only a growth rate of zero percent in 2009. The Minister said the per capita income of the country has increased up to US \$2,000 million which was only US \$ 800 million earlier. The Government has been able to lay a strong foundation for economic growth due to its financial management policies. "We are in a strong position to target a six percent growth in the coming year," he said. "We can actually name year 2010 as the year of economic development."

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/04/news11.asp>

**Govt to restore '72 constitution with amendments: PM
Daily Star, 4 November 2009**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday told parliament that the constitution of 1972 would be restored after bringing some amendments to it. She said this taking floor as Speaker Abdul Hamid reminded the lawmakers about the Constitution Day today. On this day in 1973, the Bangladesh constitution was put into effect. The PM said the 1972 constitution fulfilled the basic demands as well as hopes and aspirations of the people after the War of Liberation. But, she added, the subsequent governments unconstitutionally amended the constitution to legalise their power.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20386

**Economy grows at five percent
Kuensel, 4 November 2009**

Bhutan's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slumped to one of its lowest at 5 percent in 2008 despite the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa's target of achieving a 9 percent growth rate annually. The 5 percent growth rate is the lowest since 2000. The slide in the growth rate is largely attributed to the negative growth rate in the construction industry at -6.4 percent, forestry and logging at -2.6 percent and poor or average performances in trade, mining and transport and communication and education and health services. Bhutan recorded one of the highest growth rate in 2007 at 19.7 percent when hydro projects like the 1020 MW Tala spurred the rate.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13888>

**MPs vote for harsh penalties for sex offenders
Minivan, 4 November 2009**

A bill on child abuse was passed by parliament today with amendments to increase jail terms for sex offenders. Of the 60 MPs who participated in the vote, 58 voted in favour, two voted against and one abstained. The two MPs who voted against were Bilendhoo MP Ahmed Hamza and Hoarafushi MP Ahmed Rasheed of the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP).

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7649

Resettlement of IDPs:

Daily News, 5 November 2009

Tiny Sri Lanka had set a world record by resettling a larger number of IDPs within few months while the big countries could not do so in many years. Hurricane Katrina victims are still living in temporary shelters. But most of these countries did not have a problem of land mines or security problems about their IDPs. But after clearing land mines we have now settled nearly 100,000 IDPs, Senior Presidential Advisor Basil Rajapaksa MP said at Kanthankulam Manthai West recently when he visited the IDPs who were being resettled. This was not an easy task but a very tedious effort made by the government with the assistance from friendly countries, INGOs, NGOs, specially our neighbour India with its State of Tamil Nadu also encouraging us amidst criticism, he said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/05/news02.asp>

Bomb injures 4 in Gulistan

Daily Star, 5 November 2009

At least four people, including two Awami League leaders, were injured in a bomb explosion in front of Gulistan Zero Point in the capital on Thursday. The injured were identified as Sheikh Nazrul Islam, 43, president of Bagerhat District Bus Owners' Association and a member of the district AL, Nasiruddin, 44, joint secretary of Kachua Thana AL in the district, and two pedestrians, Kartik Das, 40 and Abdur Rashid, 58, a retired accountant of Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20403

FDI case throws up challenges

Kuensel, 5 November 2009

It could be months before the country's first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) court case involving the Oberoi groups Ltd. and Chhundu Travels go to trial, if at all it does. Oberoi groups, a leading hotel luxury brand based in India, which was sued by its local Bhutanese counterpart Chhundu travels and tours in July this year, has not yet responded to any of the two court summon orders. So the court case has not proceeded. The case was filed in a Thimphu district court after Oberoi groups allegedly withdrew from their decision to jointly build two luxury hotels in Bhutan at a cost of Nu 1.17 billion (USD 25 million). A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two companies were signed in November 2006 to build two five star hotels in Paro and in Thimphu.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13897>

MoU signed for Hanimaadhoo airport

Minivan, 5 November 2009

The government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an Indian company today to conduct a feasibility study for an international airport in Hanimaadhoo in the Upper North Province. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Civil Aviation Minister Mahmoud Razi said GMR Infrastructure Global Limited will submit a proposal on development opportunities for the region following the feasibility study.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7658

Top ULFA leaders surrender to BSF
The Hindu, 6 November 2009

Two top ULFA leaders, who have fled Bangladesh following a crackdown by security forces there, have surrendered before the BSF in Tripura and will be handed over to the Assam Police soon, a top BSF official said today. Self-styled ULFA Foreign Secretary Sashadhar Choudhury, and Finance Secretary Chitran Hazarika, surrendered at Gokulnagar along the Indo-Bangla border in Tripura on the intervening night of November 4 and 5.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/incoming/article44347.ece>

President's daily expenses: Presidential Secretariat denies JVP claim
Daily News, 6 November 2009

The Presidential Secretariat has denied claims made by JVP MP Sunil Handunetti that the funds allocated to the President under the Vote on Account are Rs. 19 million, per day. The funds allocated under the President's votes in the Vote on Account are not only for the Presidential Secretariat and President's expenditure but for the expenditure for 21 departments as well as expenditure for former Presidents, a press release from the President's office said yesterday.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/06/news02.asp>

PM in Bhutan on 3-day visit
Daily Star, 6 November 2009

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Thmpu Friday afternoon amidst a red carpet reception on a 3-day bilateral visit to Bhutan. She was warmly received by Bhutanese Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley and his spouse with bouquet at Paro International Airport at 1:15pm (local time). She was also presented Bhutanese traditional Khaddar scarf. Later, the Prime Minister was driven in a ceremonial motorcade to her hotel.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20415

Contingency fund needed: dzongdas
Kuensel, 6 November 2009

With series of natural disasters claiming lives and damaging properties in many parts of country in recent years, there is an immediate need for a 'contingency fund' in the dzongkhags, say dzongdas. Contingency fund, the money reserved to cover emergency relief efforts during unexpected conditions or unforeseen natural disasters, was prioritized and recommended by dzongdas many times during their annual conferences. The recommendation was never considered.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13907>

Assam police takes custody of ULFA leaders; starts questioning
The Hindu, 7 November 2009

The BSF has handed over the two top ULFA leaders, who were picked up from the Indo-Bangla border in Tripura, to Assam Police which started their interrogation. Self-styled ULFA foreign secretary Sashadhar Choudhury and Finance Secretary Chitraban Hazarika, who were pushed into Indian territory by the Bangladeshi authorities, were flown into Guwahati last night in a special aircraft by a team of Assam Police officials.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article44797.ece>

**PM meets Bhutan's king, calls for tackling climate challenges together
Daily Star, 7 November 2009**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday said Bangladesh and Bhutan could work together in tackling the climate change challenges, expanding bilateral trade and enhancing regional cooperation in the greater interest of the two peoples. We can take joint efforts in tackling the consequences of global warming as both the countries are exposed to worst impacts of the phenomenon," she said while Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk hosted a reception in her honour at his palace. The issues, including bilateral trade expansion and enhanced regional cooperation, were other major issues to dominate the nearly one hour meeting, followed by a royal lunch at the king's palace garden at Thimphu.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20428

**US Report: Government response after Committee findings
Daily News, 7 November 2009**

President Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday appointed a high profile committee headed by President Counsel D.S. Wijesinghe to look into the US State Department report on Incidents During the Recent Conflict in Sri Lanka, Disaster Management and Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said. Minister Samarasinghe said the Government will respond to the US State Department report based on the report of this impartial committee. The committee report is expected to be presented to the President before December 31. The Minister was addressing a special press briefing at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/07/news02.asp>

**Vaccine to be quality tested
Kuensel, 7 November 2009**

Random samples of the pentavalent vaccine, which has been suspended following the deaths of eight infants, are being collected from across the country to be sent for quality tests to independent laboratories that are yet to be identified. It is part of the investigation process that began on October 29 with the arrival of an expert team from the World Health Organization (WHO). The expert team, in their preliminary findings, categorised eight of the deaths as coincidental and linked only one to the vaccine. The health ministry suspended the use of pentavalent vaccine on October 23, after four deaths were reported.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13912>

Little hope of an agreement at Copenhagen, says VP

Minivan, 7 November 2009

Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed has said that there is little hope in attaining an international treaty on climate change at the landmark talks in Copenhagen this December. Addressing press at the airport this morning following his return from the final round of negotiations in Barcelona, Spain, Waheed said rich, industrialised nations had not yet set targets to reduce carbon emissions.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7665

Waterways strike to continue Daily Star, 8 November 2009

River communication is unlikely to resume today as the meeting between water transport workers and the government this evening went in vain. After a meeting with Shipping Secretary (in-charge) Md Abdul Mannan Howlader, Bangladesh Nouran Sramik Federation General Secretary Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam said the strike would continue. He said there must be a trilateral meeting comprising launch owners for a solution to the problem. Waterways linking the capital with rest of the country came to a complete halt with thousands of people stranded at different terminals.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20448

Sheikh Hasina in Bhutan Kuensel, 8 November 2009

"Bhutan was among the first countries to recognize independent Bangladesh that is why my first bilateral visit in the South Asian region is to Bhutan," said the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, who arrived in Thimphu yesterday. At the Paro airport Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y Thinley, cabinet ministers, the ambassador of Bangladesh to Bhutan, and senior government officials received Sheikh Hasina who is on a four-day state visit to the country on the invitation of the Bhutanese prime minister.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13911>

Maldivian featured in al-Qaeda video Maldives, 8 November 2009

A video clip of a Maldivian man, who went to Pakistan for Jihad and was reportedly killed in a suicide attack in Lahore, has surfaced on the internet. In the clip, Ali Jaleel (Mus'ab Sayyid), 30, from H. Moscowge in the capital Male' says he wants to wage Jihad and die a martyr. "I want my blood to be the bit of carpet which the Mujahideen are taking from their blood. The red carpet which would take the Ummah to its glory... So I want to be among that caravan so that I can be a brick upon which Islam will stand,"

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7669

the government announced plans to dispatch troops to protect aid workers JoongAng Daily, 9 November 2009

A little more than a week after the government announced plans to dispatch troops to protect aid workers in Afghanistan, debates are raging as to whether sending

forces is the right course of action. Political parties are predictably divided, while bureaucrats have been busy trying to defend the decision.

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2912264>

**Dhaka, Thimphu agree enhanced connectivity, cooperation
Daily Star, 9 November 2009**

Bangladesh and Bhutan on Monday issued a joint communique promising enhanced connectivity particularly through land routes and cooperation in tapping hydropower at the Himalayan foothill nation for mutual benefits. A 19-point joint statement, issued at the fag end of the landmark tour, called the visit, the first by Sheikh Hasina since her assumption of office following the December 29, 2008, general elections to a South Asian country, a milestone in the Bangladesh and Bhutan relationship expecting it to usher in a new era of bilateral cooperation.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20480

**Sri Lanka, Australia join hands in curbing human trafficking
Daily News, 9 November 2009**

Sri Lanka and Australia will commence discussions in Colombo today to strengthen maritime security to curb human trafficking to the Australian soil, Foreign Ministry sources said. Talks. The high profile Australian delegation, including Foreign Minister Stephen Smith and John McCarthy, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's special envoy, will discuss with Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama the issue of illegal migration.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/09/news28.asp>

**Comment & Analysis: Democracy, one year on
Minivan, 9 November 2009**

Every political project has an ultimate objective. Cicero once commented on two rivals for the premiership of Rome. "Pompey merely wants to rule the world. Caesar longs to smash it to pieces and remake it in his own image". One year ago, Maldivians had the opportunity to choose between competing visions. It was either the continuation of the three-decade long rule of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, or a break from the past, and a fresh beginning with new leaders.

http://www.minivannews.com/comments_analysis_detail.php?id=7683

**Bangladesh-Bhutan Bilateral Trade Agreement
Kuensel, 9 November 2009**

November, 2009 - In a landmark trade agreement between the government of Bangladesh and Bhutan, the government of Bangladesh has agreed to eliminate tariff on 18 major agricultural products Bhutan exports to Bangladesh. The bilateral trade agreement was signed on Saturday, November 7.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13927>

Japan Pledges \$5 Billion in New Afghan Aid

NYT, 10 November 2009

Japan said Tuesday that it would dramatically increase its nonmilitary aid to Afghanistan, pledging \$5 billion for a range of projects that includes building schools and highways, training police officers, clearing land mines and rehabilitating former Taliban fighters. The announcement of the new aid package, which is to be disbursed over the next five years, comes just days before the arrival of President Obama in Japan. Mr. Obama is due to arrive Friday in Tokyo, his first stop on a weeklong visit to Asia. During meetings with senior Japanese diplomats in Tokyo last month, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates urged Japan to "implement strong assistance toward Afghanistan and Pakistan that matches Japan's international status," according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/11/world/asia/11japan.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page_wanted=print

**Quiet diplomacy will work: Omar
Daily Excelsior, 10 November 2009**

JAMMU, Nov 9: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today favoured 'quiet diplomacy' in finding a solution to Kashmir problem as mooted by the Centre saying such a formula has succeeded in Palestine, Ireland and Sri Lanka to work out long pending issues. He didn't agree that proposed talks would be Kashmir centric saying representatives of Jammu and Ladakh regions will be fully involved in the process.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09nov10/news.htm#1>

**Global help sought to build graft-free nation
Daily Star, 10 November 2009**

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed on Tuesday said the government is respectful to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and would leave no stone unturned to its full implementation. The present government is pledge-bound to check corruption, he said and sought the international community's help in raising the government's capacity in this regard.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20502

**No secret deal with IMF
Daily News, 10 November 2009**

The statement of Opposition Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe that there was a secret agreement of the Government with the IMF becomes ridiculous as all the letters exchanged with the IMF and replies to those letters are posted in the Central Bank website and is in the public domain, said Deputy Finance Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya in a press release. However, when Wickremesinghe was in power he had obtained a loan from the IMF agreeing to such rigid conditions like privatizing the People's Bank, selling the shares of the Insurance Corporation and agreeing not to increase the cadre of the public servants and giving no salary increase to them.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/10/news25.asp>

**Misgivings on inter-govt. model
Kuensel, 10 November 2009**

10,000 MW Hydro Projects 10 November, 2009 - According to a Times of India (ToI) news story, India's investment in Bhutan's 10,000 MW hydro projects could have an adverse impact on their annual budgetary provisions if it is in the 'inter-government

model,' according to records of a recent meeting called by the Indian power sector officials. The record, according to ToI, says that India, under the inter-government arrangement, is committed to building projects of 10,000 MW by 2020. For this to happen, India will have to take up many projects at one go on a fast-track, requiring an investment of Rs 500 billion at Rs 45 billion per year till 2020.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13941>

**Foreign minister survives no-confidence motion
Minivan, 10 November 2009**

Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Shaheed has narrowly survived a vote of no-confidence initiated by the opposition Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party-People's Alliance (DRP-PA) coalition. Of the 73 MPs in attendance, 37 MPs voted in favour of the motion, two abstained and the rest did not participate in the vote. A majority of the full membership of parliament, or 39 votes, was needed to remove the foreign minister.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7690

**Editorial: Militant sanctuaries
The Hindu, 11 November 2009**

Militancy with trans-border linkages has been the bane of northeastern India. Bangladesh's seemingly assertive moves against the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), whose operatives have been using its soil as safe havens and bases for their depredations in Assam, is a welcome step. This may well mark a decisive turn in the fight against the region's separatists, akin to the military operation that Bhutan carried out in 2003 to flush out militant groups from its territory. Ever since the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government came into being in December 2008, there have been expectations of quick steps to cut the trans-border lifelines of these outfits.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/article46588.ece>

**Thai interest in Bhutanese mini hydels
Kuensel, 11 November 2009**

Two major Thai electricity companies, electricity generating authority of Thailand (EGAT) and provincial electricity authority (PEA) are exploring the possibility of constructing mini hydropower stations in Bhutan in collaboration with the Bhutan Power corporation (BPC). The two parties have been cooperating in training of BPC personnel, the exchange of technical and executive personnel to work on sites in both Bhutan and Thailand, and on upgrading electrical transmission systems technology in Bhutan.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13944>

**Work-to-rule no impact
Daily News, 12 November 2009**

The Security Forces are ready to assist authorities to maintain essential services in the country, if required and if requested Military Spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayak-kara said yesterday. However, no such request has been made as yet, he added as several trade unions of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) launched a work-to-rule campaign demanding a salary hike.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/12/news03.asp>

**Gyelsa Tewa Realestate Developers
Kuensel, 12 November 2009**

In less than three weeks, Bhutan will present a report on the human rights (HR) situation in the country to the human rights council (HRC) in Geneva, Switzerland. The report is part of the universal periodic review (UPR) mechanism that examines the state of human rights in a country, and what its government has done to fulfill its human rights obligations. Bhutan's report is scheduled for December 4, and will be reviewed by a UPR working group consisting of 47 members of the HRC.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13955>

**Days of a facade republic are over, says president
Minivan, 12 November 2009**

President Mohamed Nasheed has said a Maldivian ruler would no longer be able to govern the country as a false republic under a facade of democracy. In his address to the nation on Republic Day, which also marks the one year anniversary of the first democratically elected government, the president said that a democratic republic was the solution to the slavery and oppression of history.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7698

**SLFP convention on massive scale
Daily News, 13 November 2009**

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party's National Convention will be held on November 15 at the Khetarama Stadium, Colombo under the theme of 'Let us now build the country' to consolidate the victory gained after elimination of terrorism. Addressing the press in Colombo yesterday, SLFP General Secretary and Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services Minister Maithripala Sirisena said arrangements have already been made to conduct the National Convention on a grand scale with the participation of about 100,000 party members from all over the country under the leadership of President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/13/pol01.asp>

**US company eyes Bhutanese water
Kuensel, 13 November 2009**

13 November, 2009 - An American real estate and construction company 'Carpenter and company inc' wants to invest in Bhutan's mineral water resources, albeit with a clause that it be given exclusive rights to sell the water outside the India and Bhutan region. The company has been holding talks with Druk holdings investment (DHI) as a potential foreign direct investment (FDI) partner. This has already raised opposition from those involved in the water sector, like Bhutan agro industries, saying that it would be an unfair monopoly.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13964>

UN seeks South Asia anti-terrorism cooperation

DAILY Excelsior, 14 November 2009

UNITED NATIONS : The United Nations, for the first time brought together counter-terrorism experts from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and other South Asian nations to join forces to fight terrorism. As a step to building regional cooperation on terrorism, the U.N. Brought police and prosecutors from eight SAARC countries to share experiences and technical data about problems in fighting terrorism.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09nov14/newsupdate.htm#1>

Delhi agrees to provide Dhaka with rail transit to Nepal: Quayes

Daily Star, 14 November 2009

Bangladesh and India would sign three agreements during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in December, Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes said on Saturday. While briefing journalists on the outcome of the Indian foreign secretary's meeting with the foreign ministry of Bangladesh, he said India has agreed to give Bangladesh railway transit to carry its products to Nepal.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20571

Govt resettles record number

Daily News, 14 November 2009

Around 10,000 Internally Displaced Persons have been resettled in their native places within the last seven days providing them with health, shelter, sanitary, education, water, electricity and other facilities in their villages, said Disaster Management and Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/14/news01.asp>

Bhutan in the hot seat

Kuensel, 14 November 2009

When Bhutan presents its national report for the universal periodic review (UPR) on the human rights (HR) situation in the country on December 4, in Geneva, the country's delegation will be commended on the successes and also have to provide clarity on, among others, some largely inaccurate claims and allegations.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13970>

Ministry backtracks on alcohol regulations

Minivan, 14 November 2009

The ministry of economic development has withdrawn regulations authorising the sale of alcohol and pork in hotels on inhabited islands three days after they were first posted on its website following a public outcry from NGOs and religious groups.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7709

Pranab meets Sri Lanka's President

The Hindu, 15 November 2009

Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday paid a courtesy call on the Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa here on Sunday and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest between Sri Lanka and India over breakfast. "It was a cordial meeting. Since Mr. Mukherjee is the Indian Finance Minister and well versed with the intricacies of the global economic outlook, aspects of international economic issues figured at the interaction", a senior aide of President Rajapaksa told The Hindu.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article49007.ece>

**BDR forms 6 special courts for mutiny trial
Daily Star, 15 November 2009**

The Bangladesh Rifles, BDR, on Sunday constituted six special courts – two in Dhaka and four across the country -- for the trial of mutiny taking place in the paramilitary force on February 25-26, said a BDR press release. The special courts were constituted as per the Bangladesh Rifles Order 1972. The director general of the force will head the three-member special court. An officer ranked lieutenant colonel and a major of BDR will be the members.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20608

Maoists seize land**Kathmandu Post, 15 November 2009**

KAPILVASTU, NOV 14 - Even though the Maoist leadership says that seizure of private property is not party policy, Maoist activists have intensified land seizures in Kapilvastu. Maoist cadre have captured more than 100 hectares land in the district in the last two days. On Friday, Maoist-affiliated All Nepal Peasants' Association-Revolutionary captured nearly 34 hectares land at Karma of Banskhor VDC-5 in the district. The land belongs to Abdul Salam Musalman, Jiyau Rahaman and Hitiz Rahaman of Abhirab VDC.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/14/top-stories/Maoists-seize-land/2005/>

DRP suspends Alhan from party activities**Minivan, 15 November 2009**

The opposition Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) has temporarily suspended its MP Alhan Fahmy from party activities for voting against the party line in Tuesday's motion of no-confidence. A press release by the DRP on Thursday condemned Alhan's actions, adding that the party's council decided to suspend him and send his case to the ethics committee.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7710

Doing away with double taxation**Kuensel, 15 November 2009**

Bhutan and India are trying to hammer out an agreement so that businesses operating in both countries do not end up paying taxes twice. As of now, Bhutanese

and Indian firms that have establishments in both countries have been paying double taxes. "The finance ministry presented the draft DTAA (double taxation avoidance agreement) with India to the cabinet on November 10," said the director general for finance ministry, Nima Wangdi. He explained that double taxation occurs when an individual or a corporation is required to pay two or more taxes for the same income, asset, or financial transaction in different countries.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13976>

PM likely to address food summit at 9:30
Daily Star, 16 November 2009

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to deliver her speech at about 9:30 BST at the World Summit on Food Security in Rome, Italy. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon delivered his speech at the inaugural session of the summit, The Daily Star Staff Correspondent Hasan Jahid Tusher reports from Rome. Ban said smallholder farmers needed extensive support from the government to face the food crisis that badly affected the globe.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20615

Government responds to Fonseka's statements
Daily News, 16 November 2009

Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga acknowledging the letter of resignation by General Sarath Fonseka as Chief of Defence Staff on behalf of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, said that he has been directed by the President to inform him that a further communication would follow in regard to the numerous statements made by him (General) in his letter and annexure A. Following is the full text of the letter by the Secretary to the President: I am directed by His Excellency the President to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12 November 2009 seeking permission to retire from the Regular Force of the Sri Lanka Army.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/16/sec02.asp>

Lyonchhoen leaves for Brazil today
Kuensel, 16 November 2009

A 20-member Bhutanese delegation led by the Prime Minister Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y. Thinley leaves for Brazil today to attend the fifth International conference on Gross National Happiness (GNH). Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y. Thinley will deliver the keynote address at the conference during the four-day conference, which begins on November 20. Hosting the GNH conference for the first time in South America, it aims to bring together leaders, policy makers, practitioners, civil society organizations, intellectuals and academics to explore and examine a range of development issues.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13981>

Over a third approves of government, poll reveals
Miinivan, 16 November 2009

Over one-third of the population thinks the country is on the right track, a nationwide opinion poll conducted by Muleeage has revealed. In response to a

question on the direction of the country since the presidential election last October, 34 per cent of those interviewed replied good, 31 per cent said average and 34 per cent said bad.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7714

**Regional development, connectivity hit by cross-border terrorism: Krishna
The Hindu, 17 November 2009**

India on Tuesday said it is willing to take on more responsibilities than other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) members for the economic development of the region but said "bright" prospects of co-operation have been hurt by cross-border terrorism. "Let me assure you that India is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities in SAARC in an asymmetric and non-reciprocal manner for the benefit of the countries in the region," External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article50225.ece>

**Bangladesh 139th among 180 countries in transparency index
Daily Star, 17 November 2009**

Bangladesh has shown a remarkable progress in abating corruption as it has been placed 139th among 180 countries in the Transparency International's (TI) annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2009. Bangladesh has moved eight steps up from last year's 147th in the index with an increase of 0.3 point on a scale of 0-10, according to the report released in Dhaka on Tuesday at a press briefing.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20654

**Govt ready for showdown
Daily News, 17 November 2009**

The Government is ready to face any challenge in the event of a future general strike, so that the public would not be made to suffer inconvenience or the impact of a breakdown in any essential service whatever it may be, Petroleum and Petroleum Resources Development Minister A.H.M. Fowzie told the Daily News yesterday. "The majority of employees are with us, and we are certain that they would not sabotage or disrupt any of the essential services," he noted.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/17/news01.asp>

**Few dzongkhag issues tabled
Kuensel, 17 November 2009**

The constituency development grant (CDG), problems over construction of farm roads, sensitisation on various Acts, land dispute mechanism, and no fixed size for feeder and mule tracks were among the issues received from the dzongkhags for discussion in the fourth session of parliament, which begins on November 20. A few have been accepted but most were forwarded to the concerned agencies for action. Although not accepted for discussion, the people of Dagana has asked the government to reconsider the CDG's current system of a fixed Nu 2 million a year for every constituency regardless of size.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=13992>

**Former atolls minister accuses president of pursuing political vendetta
Minivan, 17 November 2009**

The former atolls ministry has said President Mohamed Nasheed's resignation was essential for the "salvation" of the country. In a statement to press yesterday, Abdulla Hameed, ex-President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's brother, denied allegations of corruption levelled against him by police at a press conference in August.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7724

**NC, UML to face Maoist ultimatum
Kathmandu Post, 17 November 2009**

KATHMANDU, NOV 16 - Leaders of Nepali Congress and CPN-UML on Monday stood firm against the ultimatum of the main opposition party Unified CPN (Maoist) and decided to face it politically. A big gathering of leaders at the prime minister's official residence at Baluwatar decided not to buckle under any kind of pressure from the streets. The leaders concluded there was no chance of leaving the government under any kind of pressure.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/16/top-stories/NC-UML-to-face-Maoist-ultimatum/2073/>

**Winter session of Parliament from tomorrow
The Hindu, 18 November 2009**

The opposition would raise issues like plight of Tamilians in Sri Lanka, Climate Change, foreign policy -- especially vis-a-vis China. Issues ranging from alleged telecom scam to Madhu Koda affair coupled with price rise, give all indications of a stormy session of Parliament beginning on Thursday. Maoist violence on which the Left parties and Trinamool Congress are at loggerheads, problems of cane growers that have brought several opposition parties together are some other prominent issues which are likely to generate heat in the month-long session.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article50528.ece>

**Pakistan slips into more corrupt category: TI
The News, 18 November 2009**

KARACHI: Corruption in Pakistan increased in one year of the PPP government and Transparency International ranked Pakistan 42nd among the world's most corrupt countries against 47th last year. Pakistan's 2009 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) score was 2.4, ranking it at 42, TI Pakistan chief Adeel Gilani said while releasing the report here on Tuesday. Against this, Bangladesh has marginally improved its position also ranked 42nd against 38th last year. India has been at 84th position.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25629

**SAARC Ministers meet in Colombo
Daily News, 18 November 2009**

The second meeting of Science and Technology Ministers of SAARC countries in Colombo will concentrate on the formulation of a Science and Technology Strategy, promotion of regional and multilateral co-operation, sharing of information on national institutions among other things. The availability of national training facilities to other member-countries, transfer of technology to end users, establishment of science and technology centres for conducting research and development activities, pooling of scientific and technical expertise, particularly in the area of application and maintenance of equipment are also among the topics that will come up for discussion.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/18/news15.asp>

Justice order of the day
Daily Star, 18 November 2009

The nation waits to hear the ultimate verdict today in the Bangabandhu murder case trial with bated breath and also in the expectation that finally justice will prevail. It has been a long, painful journey for the people of Bangladesh. It ought not to have been this way, for the particular reason that the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistani occupation in December 1971 was considered symbolic of a clean break with the past. That Bangalees would see democracy grow in their country, that under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman they would go forth to create Shonar Bangla, a cause the Father of the Nation had consistently espoused since he emerged with his Six-Point programme of regional autonomy in the mid-1960s, was not a misplaced expectation. Indeed, it was a dream that seemed eminently attainable with Bangabandhu as the undisputed leader of this country.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=114628>

Misuse of power tops corruption pile
Kuensel, 18 November 2009

The anti corruption commission (ACC) received 418 complaints of corruption from October 2008 to September 2009, of which 77 qualified for investigation, according to its annual report for 2009. Twelve have been shared with agencies, 69 are discreet inquiries and 143 did not contain enough information or elements of corruption. The procurement of medical equipment in the health ministry was one of the big cases ACC has been handling during this period. "The investigation now isn't only restricted to procurement but the entire system of the MoH," said an ACC official. "That means various rules, systems, tender committees that could allow for malpractice."

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14003>

Maldives slips in corruption perception index
Minivan, 18 November 2009

The Maldives slipped 15 places on the corruption perception index since last year and continues to rank below Sri Lanka and India in the region, global corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI) said in a report released this week. The Indian Ocean archipelago scored 2.5 on a scale of zero to 10, with zero indicating high levels of corruption and 10 very low. The score is down from 2.8 in 2008 and 3.3 in 2007, signalling worsening levels of perceived corruption.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7736

**NAC-Airbus deal could stir controversy
Kathmandu Post, 18 November 2009**

Airbus has formally announced it will be selling two aircraft to Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC). NAC and Airbus formalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Dubai Air Show. The MoU signed by the two sides on Nov. 6 in Kathmandu has now been formalized by Airbus," said Raju K.C., deputy managing director of NAC. On Nov. 7, NAC paid US\$ 750,000 (around Rs. 56 million) as 'commitment money' to Airbus. The NAC decided to purchase Airbus A320-200 (narrow body) and A330-200 (wide body) on Oct. 27 following evaluations of competing proposals from two leading producers of passenger jets — France-based Airbus and US-based Boeing.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/17/top-stories/NAC-Airbus-deal-could-stir-controversy/2111/>

**Pakistani Successes May Sway U.S. Troop Decision
NYT, 18 November 2009**

This windswept, sand-colored town in the badlands of western Pakistan is empty now, cleared of the militants who once claimed it as their capital. But its main brick buildings, intact and thick with dust, tell not of an epic battle, but of sudden flight. A month after the Pakistani military began its push into the Taliban stronghold of South Waziristan, militants appear to have been dispersed, not eliminated, with most simply fleeing. That recurring pattern illustrated the problems facing the Obama administration as it enters its final days of a decision on its strategy for Afghanistan. Success in this region, in the remote mountains near the Afghan border, could have a direct bearing on how many more American troops are ultimately sent to Afghanistan, and how long they must stay.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/18/world/asia/18pstan.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page_wanted=print

**Korea Mulls Sending Helicopter Unit to Afghanistan
Chosun Ilbo, 19 November 2009**

The government is minded to send a transport helicopter unit to Afghanistan to protect security personnel supporting Korea's civilian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) there. This would be the first time a Korean military helicopter unit has been sent overseas since the Vietnam War.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/11/19/2009111900664.html

**Krishna, Qureshi talk terror over lunch in Kabul
The Hindu, 19 November 2009**

Foreign Minister S M Krishna met with his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi today at a luncheon here after Hamid Karzai was sworn-in as Afghanistan President for a second term. Krishna and Qureshi were seated next to each other at the luncheon hosted by Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta, also attended by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article51409.ece>

Zardari, Karzai discuss joint efforts against terrorism
The News, 19 November 2009

KABUL: President Asif Ali Zardari held wide-ranging talks with his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai here on Wednesday, with focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation in diverse fields as well as joint efforts for the eradication of the menace of terrorism. President Zardari, who arrived here on a two-day visit to attend the oath-taking ceremony of President Karzai being held on Thursday, drove straight from the Kabul airport to the Presidential Palace for talks with the Afghan president.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25650

Hang the killers: SC
Daily Star, 19 November 2009

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the High Court verdict that confirmed death sentences of 12 retired and dismissed army men in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case. The five-member bench comprising Justice Md Tafazzul Islam, Justice Md Abdul Aziz, Justice BK Das, Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice SK Sinha delivered the verdict dismissing the appeals filed by five convicts against their death sentences in this case. Lt Col (sacked) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (retd) Muhiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col (retd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Maj (retd) Bazlul Huda, who are now behind bars, filed the appeals with the apex court in October 2007 against their convictions and death sentences by a lower court.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20675

Human Rights envoy rebuts negative reports
Daily News, 19 November 2009

French Ambassador for Human Rights Francois Zimeray, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs met Resettlement and Relief Services Minister Rishad Bathiudeen to discuss progress on resettlement and the conditions regarding the IDPs in the welfare villages in Vavuniya. The Human Rights Ambassador commenting on the observations following his visit to the Welfare villages congratulated the Minister and the Ministry for the progress and conditions in the IDP welfare villages. He said during his visit to the welfare villages he had searched for reasons for why the conditions of the welfare camps had been subject to criticism, he said he could find none.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/19/news30.asp>

Exploring tourism tie-up with Thailand
Kuensel, 19 November 2009

The tourism council of Bhutan (TCB) and the tourism authority of Thailand (TAT) are in talks to increase the flow of tourists between the two countries. TAT director, Chattan Kunjara Na Ayudhya, said that the two authorities recently held a meeting in Thimphu to deliberate areas of collaboration. The first step towards establishing collaboration will be the formation of a 'working committee', according to officials of

both authorities. The committee will consist of representatives from the two governments and the private sector and hold regular meetings to exchange ideas and formulate marketing strategies, towards increasing tourist traffic between Bhutan and Thailand.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14012>

**MPs approve bill to outlaw places of worship for non-Muslims
Minivan, 19 November 2009**

MPs called for lengthy jail sentences and hefty fines in a bill to outlaw places of worship for non-Muslims in the Maldives. At today's sitting, a bill proposed by Fares-Maathoda MP Ibrahim Muttalib on making it illegal to either build places of worship for "false religions" or practice other faiths in public was sent to committee for further review with unanimous consent.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7737

**Course correction' will decide when Maoists get into govt
Kathmandu Post, 19 November 2009**

KATHMANDU, NOV 18 - The widely reported agreement between Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala and Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal on formation of the High Level Political Mechanism (HLPM) is certainly a step in the right direction. As someone who steered the early stage of the peace process and successfully led the 2006 Jana Andolan II, GPK still enjoys a lot of political goodwill across party lines and with civil society and the international community. In a political landscape getting increasingly faction-ridden and fragmented in the face of deepening identity politics, Dahal and Koirala still tower over other political leaders.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/18/top-stories/Course-correction-will-decide-when-Maoists-get-into-govt/2152/>

**Pabna AL leader chopped dead
Daily Star, 20 November 2009**

A local Awami League leader was chopped to death in Santhia upazila of Pabna district on Thursday night. The deceased, Rezaul Karim Dipu, son of Abdul Kader of Dhulauri in the upazila, was the secretary of 'Dhulauri' union unit of AL, reports our Pabna correspondent. Police said criminals chopped Dipu mercilessly as he got onto a road after saying Esha prayers at a mosque of the village, leaving him dead on the spot.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20697

**UN envoy lauds Govt
Daily News, 20 November 2009**

United Nations Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes said he was extremely encouraged and impressed by the rapid resettlement of the IDPs in progress. Holmes made these statements at a joint press briefing at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama. Holmes was in Sri Lanka on a three-day tour on an invitation

by the Foreign Minister. He visited Jaffna, Vavuniya and Menik Farm, while spending a night in Jaffna.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/20/news01.asp>

**Bhutan's record – A mixed bag
Kuensel, 20 November 2009**

Bhutan, along with the rest of the world, will today celebrate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) convention on the rights of the child (CRC). But nearly two decades after ratifying the convention, Bhutan's progress on ensuring children's rights is mixed, according to the lead agency on such issues, the national commission for women and children (NCWC). Although Bhutan has made significant progress, a lack of awareness on child rights, insufficient state and political commitment to concerned agencies, and the lack of a comprehensive law is hindering the securing of the rights of Bhutanese children.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14021>

**Senior UN official arriving to discuss 'UNMIN exit'
Kathmandu Post, 20 November 2009**

KATHMANDU, NOV 19 - B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations is visiting Nepal next month to discuss the "exit" of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), officials said on Thursday. UNMIN Chief Karen Landgren informed about Pascoe's visit at a meeting with Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal on Thursday morning. The UNMIN mandate is expiring on 23 Jan. 2010. In an interview with the Post in October, Pascoe had expressed worry that the peace process in Nepal was stuck and said the UN encourages all outside players—whether members of the Security Council or India, for instance, to help Nepal find solutions.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/19/top-stories/Senior-UN-official-arriving-to-discuss-UNMIN-exit/2186/>

**8 Militants Killed in Reported U.S. Strike in Northwestern Pakistan
NYT, 20 November 2009**

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP) -- A suspected U.S. missile strike killed at least eight militants Friday in northwestern Pakistan, officials said, the second attack this week in an area believed to hold many insurgents who fled from an army offensive elsewhere in the Afghan border region. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told visiting CIA director Leon Panetta that any new U.S. strategy for Afghanistan must take into account Pakistan's concerns, especially fears that more troops could push militants across the border into Pakistan, according to a statement by Gilani. The CIA is believed to be behind the more than 40 missile strikes to have hit suspected al-Qaida and Taliban targets over the last year close to the border region. American officials do not generally acknowledge the attacks, which are unpopular among many here.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/11/20/world/AP-AS-Pakistan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

CIA chief meets M.K. Narayanan
The Hindu, 21 November 2009

Chief of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Leon Panetta met National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan on Saturday. Sources said during their 30-minute meeting, the two discussed the strengthening cooperation between India and the U.S. in sharing intelligence on a real time basis. They also exchanged views on issues relating to the presence of terror groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan and their impact on India, said sources.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article52306.ece>

Mutiny trial starts in Rangamati Tuesday 12 Rifle battalion rebels face 3-member court first
Daily Star, 21 November 2009

The trial of BDR soldiers held in connection with the February 25-26 mutiny at the force's headquarters and other battalions across the country is starting Tuesday with the trial of alleged rebellions of Rangamati sector. "A three-member court led by BDR Director General Maj Gen M Mainul Islam will sit on Tuesday at 3:00pm at the Rangamati BDR sector headquarters to start the trial of accused soldiers of 12 Rifle Battalion under Rangamati sector," said a BDR official involved with the trial process.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=115065>

Royal Commission Kasho
Kuensel, 21 November 2009

His Majesty the King, yesterday, issued a Kasho on the formation of a six-member Royal Commission to establish the first Supreme Court of Bhutan. Chief Election Commissioner Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Chairperson of Anti Corruption Commission Dasho Neten Zangmo, Auditor General Ugyen Chewang, High Court Drangpon Tshering Wangchuk, Attorney General Rinzin Penjor and Chairman of legislative committee MP Ugyen Wangdi will recommend to the Druk Gyalpo, at the earliest, a person to assume the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The newly appointed Chief Justice will then chair the Commission and work to establish the a Court.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14026>

President requests ruling on non-Muslim worship
Minivan, 21 November 2009

President Mohamed Nasheed said yesterday he would seek advice from religious scholars on Islam's position on allowing non-Muslims to worship in an Islamic community. In his radio weekly address, the president said the constitution was "very clear" that laws contrary to Islam could not be made or enacted.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7755

Deadlock a wake-up call: Diplomats
Kathmandu post, 21 November 2009

KATHMANDU, NOV 20 - On the third anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive

Peace Agreement (CPA), fourteen heads of missions in Nepal expressed serious concern over the stalled peace process even as they welcomed the steps Nepal has taken towards achieving permanent peace. "We are increasingly concerned that progress on implementing the agreement has stalled," said the statement issued by the heads of missions here on Friday. "We urge all the political parties to continue to abide by both the letter and spirit of the CPA and to rededicate themselves to delivering the commitments they made to the people of Nepal."

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/20/top-stories/Deadlock-a-wake-up-call-Diplomats/2220/>

Sri Lanka to Free War-Displaced Tamils From Camps NYT, 21 November 2009

MANIK FARM, Sri Lanka (AP) -- Sri Lanka will release next month the remaining 136,000 Tamil refugees still in the squalid and overrun government camps where they've been detained since the country's civil war ended six months ago, a top official said Saturday. Some 300,000 war refugees were forced into the camps after fleeing the final months of the government's decades-long war with the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, which ended in May. The ethnic-minority Tamils are being held against their will. More than half were released in recent months amid pressure from rights groups and foreign governments. Authorities say nearly 136,000 people remain detained in the camps, which are guarded by soldiers and strung with barbed wire.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/11/21/world/AP-AS-Sri-Lanka-War-Refugees.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

CIA chief meets heads of IB, RAW The Hindu, 22 November 2009

CIA chief Leon E Panetta held extensive talks with Chiefs of Intelligence agencies and National Security Advisor M K Narayanan relating to the presence of terror groups in neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan and their impact on India. Mr. Panetta met Research and Analysis Wing Director K C Verma for two hours on Saturday afternoon, where matters pertaining to cooperation on counter-terrorism and intelligence sharing mechanism on groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, HuJI and Jaish-e-Mohammed were discussed, official sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article52966.ece>

1 killed, 1,000 shanties gutted in city Daily Star, 22 November 2009

A fire left one person dead and around 5,000 homeless after it tore through a slum at Moghbazar Wireless Gate in the capital early yesterday. One thousand shanty homes were destroyed by the blaze that began around 4:45am. Slum dweller Aleya Begum, 32, died as she was trying to rescue her children and possessions.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=115231>

Antony warns of 'wrong hands' possessing N-weapons

The Hindu, 23 November 2009

With increasing terror attacks in Pakistan raising concerns over the safety of its nuclear arsenal, Defence Minister A. K. Antony on Monday said the threat of these weapons falling in wrong hands was an "area of serious concern" and its consequences would be "unimaginable". Noting that there was scarcely any country which was not affected by terrorism, Mr. Antony said the recent terror-related incidents in Pakistan and Afghanistan have "thrust South Asia into a sub-conventional conflict and instability."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article53479.ece>

**India supporting terrorism: FM
The News, 23 November 2009**

BERLIN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi has said India is supporting insurgents in Pakistan, including areas bordering Afghanistan. Speaking with the German press agency DPA, Qureshi claimed Pakistan was "compiling hard evidence of India's involvement and interference in Balochistan and Fata". "India should refrain from such nefarious activities," said Qureshi, speaking of India's alleged support for militants.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25728

**Media policy on defence soon: PM
Daily Star, 23 November 2009**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday said her government is going to formulate a specific media policy soon regarding media publicity on army and defence. At the same time, she said, her government has taken steps to make Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate effective and time-befitting by reconstituting its existing organisational structure. The prime minister said this while presiding over the Formation Commanders' Conference-2009 of Bangladesh Army at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20741

**Shell claims Rs 1.7 b from Govt
Daily News, 23 November 2009**

Shell Gas Company has made an application to the Arbitral Tribunal under the Price Revising Formula Agreement claiming over Rs1.7 billion from the Government for the loss they have experienced by selling LP gas for the price decided according to the formula. The Consumer Affairs Authority has been informed to contact the Attorney General to obtain instructions in connection with this issue, Trade, Marketing Development, Cooperatives and Consumer Affairs Minister Bandula Gunawardena said. Minister Gunawardena said Shell Gas Company requests revision of the price of gas once every two months but they had never been given the demanded price due to the differences in calculation.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/23/news01.asp>

1 in 4 households undernourished

Kuensel, 23 November 2009

One in four Bhutanese households is undernourished in terms of daily calorie intake, according to a 2008 study on the right to food assessment (RFA) in Bhutan. The minimum daily energy requirement is 2,124 kilocalories per person per day, according to the Bhutan living standard survey (BLSS) methodology used in the 2004 and 2007 poverty analysis report. Based on this study, 26.6 percent of Bhutanese households fall short of this requirement. Undernourishment was highest in Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang at 40 percent, and the lowest, between 11 to 17 percent was found in Trashigang, Tsirang and Trashiyangtse.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14042>

**Koirala denies new govt deal
Kathmandu post, 23 November 2009**

Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala on Sunday gave a new twist to the much-hyped meeting with UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal in Singapore last week. Koirala, who returned home on a regular flight after a week-long treatment at Gleneagles hospital in the city-state, dismissed rumours that there was a clandestine pact between him and Dahal to unseat the government. There was no such discussion with Dahal in Singapore, Koirala told Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, who had visited him at his private residence.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/22/top-stories/Koirala-denies-new-govt-deal/2277/>

**Kulhudhufushi school makes veil mandatory
Minivan, 23 November 2009**

A school in Kulhudhufushi has introduced the mandatory wearing of the veil for all girls grade five and above without prior approval from the ministry of education. But, the Atoll Education Centre's lack of consultation with stakeholders has caused disquiet among some parents as well as the ministry of education.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7768

**Tk 1,000 crore extra stimulus for export
Daily Star, 25 November 2009**

The government yesterday announced a series of additional fiscal and policy stimulus packages worth over Tk 1,000 crore for export sectors to offset bad impacts of global recession from the domestic economy. The facilities the exporters are enjoying at present will continue as usual, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said at a press briefing at his secretariat office.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=115588>

**UPFA leaders pledge wholehearted support to President
Daily News, 25 November 2009**

UPFA leaders expressing their wholehearted support to President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the forthcoming Presidential election, predicted a clear victory with a larger majority of votes for the President. Addressing the UPFA press conference at the

Mahaveli Centre Colombo yesterday, SLFP General Secretary Agriculture, Agrarian Services and Mahaveli Development Minister Maithripala Sirisena said four years back when President Rajapaksa took charge of the country UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe had bequeathed a divided country, heaps of bodies and killings, with a separate entity running their own administration and even banks and kangaroo courts.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/25/pol01.asp>

The search for a supreme Kuensel, 25 November 2009

The members of the newly formed Royal Commission met for the fourth time yesterday to accelerate the search for Bhutan's first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The six commission members, who were appointed on November 20, are doing extensive research on existing laws and framing guidelines and criteria to nominate the Chief Justice, said a commission member. "We're also trying to figure out what an eminent jurist means because, as per the Constitution, the Chief Justice should be appointed among the drangpons of the Supreme Court or from among eminent jurists."

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14061>

Parliament vows to tackle domestic violence Minivan, 25 November 2009

MPs today signed a declaration supporting the elimination of violence against women, recognising the problem of domestic violence facing the Maldives and undertaking to bear it in mind when legislating. The signing marked the 10th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a UN-led initiative to encourage countries to create and enforce laws punishing violence against women and girls, increase public awareness and strengthen collection of data on the issue.

http://www.minivannews.com/news_detail.php?id=7803

House to pass budget today Kathmandu Post, 25 November 2009

The Legislature-Parliament on Tuesday passed the Appropriation Bill by overwhelming majority, paving the way for passage of the current fiscal year's budget on Wednesday. Speaker Subas Nembang declared the passage of the Appropriation Bill in Tuesday's House session after all lawmakers attending the meeting, apart from Padamlal Bishowkarma and Ekraj Bhandari of the UCPN (Maoist), voted in favour of the bill. Before that, Finance Minister Surendra Pandey tabled the proposal to pass the bill. The UCPN (Maoist) which had lifted its blockade of parliament for three days on Monday to allow the budget to pass sent only two of its lawmakers for Tuesday's session.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/24/top-stories/House-to-pass-budget-today/2350/>

Bangladesh to launch satellite into space
Daily Star, 26 November 2009

In a bid to enter space, the government plans to launch a satellite into the space for development of the country's telecommunications services. Post and Telecommunications Minister Razi Uddin Ahmed Raju made the announcement at a press conference at the Press Information Department (PID) auditorium on Thursday. He said the satellite to be installed in the space would be used only for business purpose.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20808

Jaffna IDPs home bound today
Daily News, 26 November 2009

The resettlement of internally displaced persons is being expedited. All the Jaffna district IDPs will go to their original places of residence today. The number of IDPs at Menik Farm welfare centre had come down to 121,849 by yesterday, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Ministry Secretary U.L.M. Haldeen told the Daily News. He said IDPs of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara have been completely resettled and were back to their normal livelihoods as planned and implemented by the Presidential Task Force on Resettlement and Rehabilitation headed by senior presidential Advisor Basil Rajapaksa MP.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/26/news01.asp>

Bhutan Standards Bureau to be established
Kuensel, 26 November 2009

The Bhutan standards bureau, to be established after the Standards Bill 2009 is endorsed, will start with standardising the quality of construction material and processed food that are imported and exported. "We all talk about quality goods but what is good quality? The bureau will lay down the minimum standard that's required," said the works and human settlement minister, Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, after the third reading of the bill at the National Assembly yesterday. "For instance, the quality of iron rods produced in the country should be acceptable in terms of its strength and quality. In the same manner, goods that are imported from outside should meet the standard laid down by the bureau."

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14071>

Nepal mission gets China aid
Kathmandu Post, 26 November 2009

China has agreed to extend financial assistance for constructing Nepal's Consulate General Office at Lhasa, Tibet, upon Nepal's request. According to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala, the Chinese side is positive about Nepal's request and will provide phasewise assistance for the multi-million dollar project. "China has allotted 2 million RMB (approx. Rs. 20.4 million) for construction of the consulate building. The assistance will be released from 2010," Ngaindra Upadhyay, Nepal's Consul General at Lhasa told the Post.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/25/top-stories/Nepal->

mission-gets-China-aid/2389/

**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina BSS, Port of Spain
Daily Star, 27 November 2009**

After a long 20-hour journey, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived at Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad and Tobago, at 4:15pm local time to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) beginning here on Friday. During the meetings, they discussed wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues including the consequences of climate change, world economic recession and further strengthening democracy across the world.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20813

**Gen Fonseka fallen prey to conspiracies - Ven Uduwe Dhammaloka
Daily News, 27 November 2009**

The Jathika Hela Urumaya will not support General Sarath Fonseka at the Presidential Election since he has fallen prey to certain international conspiracies hatched against the country, the JHU said yesterday. Four JHU parliamentarians told a media briefing held in Colombo that General Fonseka is about to betray the victory achieved by much sacrifice. They totally rejected that a statement by a UNP parliamentarian that the JHU was eagerly looking forward to welcome General Fonseka if he contested for the Presidential election.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/27/news02.asp>

**Search warrant for illegal workers
Kuensel, 27 November 2009**

The department of immigration has notified to declare all illegal maids and workers and register them with the nearest immigration office, before they conduct a surprise spot check. Anybody found hiding an illegal worker or a maid would be penalised according to the Immigration Act.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14082>

**Maoists to declare autonomous states
Kathmandu Post, 27 November 2009**

The UCPN (Maoist) on Thursday decided to declare 13 ethnic and region-based autonomous provinces from Dec. 11-18. Maoist Vice Chairman Baburam Bhattarai, who heads the party's United National People's Movement, announced the decision on Thursday evening after a meeting of the party's central office bearers and regional and ethnic fronts. The Maoists are in the midst of their third phase protests since Nov. 22 demanding 'restoration of civilian supremacy' — correction of President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav's move reinstating the then Army chief Rookmangud Katawal.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/26/top-stories/Maoists-to-declare--autonomous-states/2423/>

**Indo-Bangladesh Home Secy. level talks begin tomorrow
The Hindu, 29 November 2009**

Cross-border terrorism, illegal immigration, smuggling of narcotics and activities of North-east militants will come up for discussion at the Home Secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh beginning here tomorrow. The Indian delegation, led by Home Secretary G. K. Pillai, will seek cooperation from Bangladesh to deal with security issues, especially combating anti-India jihadi groups and North-east militants operating from its soil, sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/incoming/article56745.ece>

**Militancy to rule Indo-Bangla home secy-level talks ahead of Hasina's trip
Daily Star, 29 November 2009**

Ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to India next month, home secretaries of the two countries are expected to start talks in New Delhi from Monday with illegal migration and cross-border movement of insurgents and criminals high on the agenda. During the three-day meeting, the Indian delegation led by Home Secretary Gopal Krishna Pillai, is scheduled to discuss Bangladesh's cooperation to deal with militants and northeastern Indian insurgents that New Delhi alleges have been operating from Bangladesh, home ministry sources said in New Delhi on Saturday.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20828

**Military victory a combined effort
Daily News, 29 November 2009**

Military spokesmen both present and past yesterday asserted that the Security Forces' victory over LTTE terrorism which hampered the country's development for more than 30 years is the result of a concerted effort by the Armed Forces, Police, Civil Defence Force and the masses at large. They said that all segments of society including the Security Forces made tremendous sacrifices and contributions to achieve that objective and it is not just an individual achievement. President Mahinda Rajapaksa's political will and Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa's proper leadership became key factors to achieve this victory, they said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/28/sec01.asp>

**RMA bill to be endorsed on Monday
Kuensel, 29 November 2009**

The government has received a "letter" from the Chinese government to start another round of border talks, foreign minister, Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering, informed the national assembly yesterday, after he was questioned on the status of talks on the Bhutan-China border issue during the first question hour session. The foreign minister informed the Assembly that Bhutan had 18 rounds of meeting with China. Although Haa MP Ugyen Tenzin raised the question, the foreign minister said that this issue is of concern for the whole country.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14088>

**Canada to deport Bangabandhu killer Noor Chy: Minister
Daily Star, 30 November 2009**

The Canadian government has decided to deport Noor Chowdhury, fugitive killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to Bangladesh. Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said on Sunday afternoon at his Secretariat office. He said the Canadian authorities have seized the passport of Noor Chowdhury since he has been illegally staying in Canada.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=20850

**Gen (Rtd) Fonseka wants LTTE to fund his election campaign
Daily News, 30 November 2009**

Political novice, Gen (Rtd) Sarath Fonseka making his debut in politics yesterday morning to announce his candidature for the upcoming presidential election, before the local and international media contradicted the policies of the partners in the opposition alliance sending cross currents among the newly formed alliance, brokered by UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe and SLFP discard, Mangala Samaraweera, the Government Information Department website news.lk said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/11/30/pol02.asp>

**Bhutan is falling behind
Kuensel, 30 November 2009**

The concept of gross national happiness (GNH) may have originated in Bhutan but, when it came to its implementation, Bhutan was falling behind other countries. This is what the Bhutanese delegation, led by the prime minister Lyonchhoen Jigmi Y Thinley, realised after attending the 5th international GNH conference in Iguassu, Brazil.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14096>