

What Resham says



My voters have delivered justice to me, now it is the turn of the court to give me justice. The system should tell me who were those 34,000 people in Tikapur who elected me and whether their mandate should be respected or not? I was innocent and was in Bardiya at the time of the Tikapur incident. I hope the judiciary will give me justice and it must. I still demand a fair probe of the incident and the real culprit(s) be punished. I have never sought amnesty for the culprits. This might be the first time in Nepal's history that a lawmaker has been sent to jail after being sworn in. The people gave me justice through their votes last year. A case against him is sub judice in court.

Chaudhary back to jail again

Kathmandu: Resham Chaudhary, who is in judicial custody on the charge of masterminding the 2015 Tikapur massacre, has been administered oath of office and secrecy as Member of Parliament on more than a year after his election.

The government instructed the jail authorities to take Chaudhary from Dilli Bazar jail to the Parliament Secretariat at Singha Durbar. Police had filed a case against Chaudhary alleging that he was the mastermind behind the Tikapur massacre in August 2015 in which seven police personnel and a little child were killed. Chaudhary was taken to Singha Durbar from the Dillibazar jail and Speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara, on the instruction of Prime Minister KP Oli, administered the oath to Chaudhary. Mahara had been insisting that Chaudhary can be sworn in if he is brought to Singha Durbar.

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Resham Chaudhary's sworn in

Does it indicate improvement relation between govt & RJPN

Kathmandu: In a dramatic turn of events, Resham Chaudhary, the main accused behind the Tikapur carnage, took the oath of office at the Parliament Secretariat in Singha Durbar. Before being sent back to Dillibazaar jail for judicial custody, Chaudhary also got the election certificate and the parliament's logo.

Following pressure from Chaudhary's Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal, the government decided to facilitate House of Representatives Speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara in swearing him in. Mahara had expressed his readiness to administer the oath to Chaudhary if the government brought him to the secretariat. RJP-N leaders, in their meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on December 25, had threatened to withdraw the support to the government if their demands, which included Chaudhary's swearing-in, were not addressed urgently.

In his address to the Lower House the following day, Rajendra Mahato, coordinator of the RJP-N presidium, had said it was injustice to jail Chaudhary while those who led the decade-long insurgency that cost the lives of thousands of people were in the seat of power. Mahato had also warned the government not to deny Chaudhary the recognition of a parliamentarian just because "he is



the son of a Tharu". Chaudhary won the parliamentary election with a huge margin last year from Kailali-1 even as he remained underground. Police had been searching for him on the charge of masterminding the carnage at Tikapur, Kailali, which took the lives of eight people including a toddler in August 2015. Chaudhary denies the charges.

Chaudhary was in the most wanted list of police after he was accused of masterminding the Tikapur massacre. He denies the charge and had surrendered to the Kailali District Court on February 27, 2018, after winning the parliamentary election. Chaudhary who was on the run after the incident contested the 2017 parliamentary elections by filing

candidacy through his representatives and emerged victorious from Kailali-1, representing Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN). Although lawmaker-elect Chaudhary was given an election certificate by the Election Commission (EC) after his surrender to the Kailali district court in February 2018, his oath was stalled because he was taken into custody immediately. The MP, however, will remain in jail and have no role as a parliamentarian. Clause 244 (3) of the parliament regulations bars any lawmaker subjected to a judicial custody lasting more than three years from their duty and denies benefits as the people's representative.

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Forum Nepal reminds PM for statute amendment

Kathmandu: Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli received a memorandum submitted by Federal Socialist Forum Nepal calling for effective government's interventions for economic prosperity. Forum Nepal's general secretary Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav said that the party submitted the 11-point memorandum to the PM at the latter's official residence in Baluwatar. He said that the memorandum was submitted to the PM to meet the historical necessity of the time—moving ahead speedily on the path of economic prosperity by institutionalizing republicanism,

federalism, social justice and inclusive democracy by ending country's poverty, unemployment, economic underdevelopment, inequality and discrimination through the cooperation with the Nepal Communist Party. The Forum Nepal has also demanded the need for form a joint taskforce of NCP and Forum Nepal to formulate the policies needed to addressing the country's national issues and assist in their implementation. Similarly, the party has included the issue of constitution amendment and passing the bill from the House in the ongoing House session. The 11-point memorandum includes effective operation of the government,



reducing political interdependence on bureaucracy, balanced diplomatic relations by balancing the bilateral and multilateral relations among others.



Editorial

Implementation of federalism and statute

As this past year 2018 remained eventful on global politics, Nepal too witnessed remarkable moments that it was the year of elections and implementation of federalism.

Despite various shortcomings, the year 2018 created hope in some areas. Some initiatives taken by the government, some achievements attained in various

The formation of new government after the elections to House of Representatives and provincial parliaments has paved way for political stability.

sectors such as tourism, sports, infrastructure development and connectivity with other countries have spread some message of optimism in the public.

The formation of new government after the elections to House of Representatives and provincial parliaments has paved way for political stability. Then government led by NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba held the elections to the federal and provincial parliaments. It also temporarily fixed the capitals of all seven provinces.

After the elections with the majority of votes, Chairman of then CPN (UML) KP Sharma Oli became the Prime Minister. It is the second prime ministerial stint of leader Oli. He was elected to the Prime Minister with overwhelming support- two-thirds majority- of the leftist alliances. It is regarded as the strongest government since 2015BS election in Nepal's political history.

After the formation of the government, the elections to the President and the Vice President were held. Bidya Devi Bhandari and Nanda Bahadur Pun were reelected to the posts of President and Vice President respectively. Another event that made the year memorable is the unification of the CPN (UML) and CPN (Maoist Centre) on May 17, 2018. They announced the unified party the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN).

On June 1, all seven provinces presented the budgets. The Rastriya Janata Party Nepal decided for the rotational system of leadership.

The judiciary, however, faced tumultuous situation after the dispute erupted on the certificates of Chief Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli. It finally led to Parajuli's resignation from the post. The dispute on the academic certificates followed the suit in case of senior most Judge at Supreme Court, Deepak Raj Joshi as well. He was rejected by the parliamentary hearing committee in the post of Chief Justice.

Amidst these events, the new Civil Code was enforced on August 17. This year also saw the headlines on Pokhara gathering of the Chief Ministers and interstate coordination committee meeting.

Other noteworthy events this year are fourth summit of the BIMSTEC in Nepal, Indian Prime Minister's visit to Nepal, visit of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath to Janakpur and Asia Pacific Summit.

This year lost former minister and NC leader Chakra Prasad Bastola, former minister and human rights activist Padma Ratna Tuladhar and former Prime Minister Tulsi Giri.

The major opposition held its mahasamiti meeting and passed an amended statute with the commitment to make the party inclusive and extended in view of the federalism.

The Madhesh conflict after the constitution -7

This environment of mistrust and hate together with the inability of the state to deliver justice and common goods might foster an environment to launch genocide in future. Historical communal atrocities like Gaur massacre and Tikapur massacre support this assumption.

With a fear of further violence, Nepalese opted to migrate to a safe place. People of the hill preferred to move towards the hill.

Though forced migration is not of a recent origin, the frequency has been escalated with the conflict in Terai (Nepal: over 5,000 people displaced, 2007). It has adversely impacted the social harmony and peace, making the communities more vulnerable than before.

However, the parties to the conflict have expressed their commitment to dialogue and negotiation with a considerable degree of flexibility. In this respect, the Madhesi refused the government's approach to deal with the issue and intensified violence in the Terai on 21 December 2015 (Govt's four-pt decision, 2015; Malangwa tense as protesters, 2015). However, the Indian intervention supporting the government of Nepal's initiative to resolve the conflict through dialogue and negotiation has influenced the conflictants to embark on the peace process (India welcomes Nepal, 2015).

Fighting to win

Violence as an instrument for change was the motto of the conflictants at the beginning. However, violence did not help them realize their respective objectives. With this understanding, the government of Nepal has attempted to use the "pilgrimage" diplomacy or multi-track diplomacy, in addition to the track 1 diplomacy, to normalize the situation with India (Deputy PM Kamal Thapa off to India, 2015). Leaders of the Madhesi too sought to resolve the conflict through Indian mediation (Bhattacharjee, 2015). After the consultation with Indian authorities, both of the parties have agreed to resolve the conflict through dialogue. However, they have not been able to reach

to an agreement till date.

To gain a bargaining power at the negotiation table, both of the parties to the conflict have embarked on violence. At the one hand, the conflictants are concerned of the deteriorating socio-economic and political situation of the state which might not only inspire civil war, but also invite foreign military intervention. On the other hand, cessation of the conflict without a meaningful

the election to the parliament in 1959. In the following years the Panchayat regime co-opted him in the system and offered him position in the government like minister and ambassador to India. Negotiating with elite permanently stopped the conflict in Terai (Hachhethu, 2007). Similar situation happened with a prominent Terai leader of the Nepali Congress Party,



achievement might perpetuate injustice in the system. With these realities, this conflict is at the crossroad awaiting a peacebuilding approach that will ensure justice, dignity and above all, social solidarity of Nepalese irrespective of their social constructions. The following paragraphs discuss some of the peacebuilding approaches that would be appropriate to resolve this conflict in Nepal.

Peace building and coexistence

What makes peacebuilding and coexistence possible in this situation can be interpreted in various ways. However, the following discussion seeks to understand it from the theory of change. Hence, the desired outcome is coexistence and peace, and the followings are the intervention models to achieve that outcome in this specific conflict situation.

The political elite theory Involving elites to the system is an appropriate approach to conflict resolution in the Terai. It has been proved efficient and effective historically. For example, the first Madhesi leader Bedananda Jha attempted to fight for the rights of the Madhesi by forming the Nepali Terai Congress party in 1951. The prime agenda was to seek autonomy. Despite of his efforts, he was unable to win a seat in

Parashu Narayan Chaudhari, who accepted the Panchayat system for good, ending the struggle in the Terai for democracy in the 1970s. The Panchayat system strengthened itself by co-opting the indigenous and Madhesi elite into its structure. After the Panchayat system, the Terai has remained peaceful as long as the Madhesi leaders were in political power. However, the Maoist insurgency (1996-2006) induced the power disequilibrium in the Terai.

To regain their lost position in the Terai, the Madhesi confronted the Maoist violently culminating events like the Gaur massacre in 2007. This event, to a great extent, displaced the Maoist from the Terai and helped them win seats in the election to the constitution Assemble in 2008. Strong presence of the Madhesi leaders in the politics helped them establishing political issues like federalism, the Terai as a single autonomous federal state with a right to self-determination, a proportional quota for the Madhesi in the government job and the military, among others. But, they lost the

Source : <https://pcdnetwork.org/forums/topic/about-madhesi-conflict-in-nepal-after-the-constitution-of-nepal-2015/>

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Forum must leave government if it wants unification with RJP

We are also careful about any strategic step of Prime Minister. Now it was proved that the government tilts little when we pushed pressure on it. As per Prime Minister's strategy, we are willing to make our strategy.

Resham Chaudhary, who won the FPTP election from your party has taken oath and secrecy, what do you say about it?

I have felt that the government has done important work with its conscience in its term. We have welcomed this step. According to the democratic norms and values, Resham Chaudhary elected with extreme majority in the federal parliament elections. He was popular people's representatives. The government was not convinced that it was a people's perception. He was administered oath and secrecy. According to this, we have believed that the Nepal government will withdraw all the issues related to the incident at the time of Tharuhat and Madhes movement. Resham Chaudhary has crossed the first step of justice.

Have you think the Prime Minister wants to divert the party after by administering oath and secrecy of Chaudhary?

We are also careful about any strategic step of Prime Minister. Now it was proved that the government tilts little when we pushed pressure on it. As per Prime Minister's strategy, we are willing to make our strategy.

Just after the oath of Resham Chaudhary, a kind of happiness was seen across the Madhesh but he was

imprisoned again. What do you say about it?

There are some legal complications. Due to which he has been sent to jail again. The government must withdraw the case against Chaudhary of Thaurtat movement either taking judicial process or political decision. It is our demand that all the workers should be released as a common Nepali.

If any Member of Parliament is charged, then there is a provision in constitution is to suspend. Should Chaudhary also to be suspended?

According to the parliamentary process, he is already suspended. The way out of that suspension state is the final decision of this issue from court or the withdrawal of case.

A high-level investigation commission was formed to probe the incident in Madhes and Tharuhat movement. Why do not you raise the issue in Parliament to public the report?

We are raising the issue. But now we are raising 3-4 issues specially. The constitution amendment, treatment to the injured of Madhesh movement and declared as the martyrdom, withdrawal of false cases filed against our leaders and cadres, to make the constitution Madhes, Janjati, Tharu-friendly and others. Our main

demand is to amend to make the constitutional friendly constitution.

How long have time given to the government to withdraw case against Resham Chaudhary and other workers?

We hope that the government meets our demands. But the process to amend the constitution has yet started yet. We do not know whether the government has initiated to withdraw the case filed against our party's leaders. The government also not provided treatment expenses of those injured in Madhesh movement and also not begins initiative to declare martyr. People have not felt two-thirds majority of the government in the country. In order to fulfill our demands in the present day it's okay otherwise we will break the relations with government.

A difference also come at surface after the selection of new coordinator in RJP, what are they?

Some dissatisfactions and differences were seen some days after change of coordinator. Now they are settled. There is no dispute in the party now. The party has run in a very organized way. We are also holding regular meetings in districts. The party is at edge of formation of disciplined organization. We have also fixed the date of general convention. Before the general convention, the



Manish Suman

General Secretary, RJP-Nepal

party's workers in all districts are active now. As the party achieved satisfactory result in the elections last year under the leadership of then coordinator Mahantha Thakur, we believe that we will successful in the convention under the leadership of Rajendra Mahato.

Forum has formed talks team for unification with RJP. What is your view?

If we see long-term perspective, the Madhesi people had already mandated to Madhesi party for unification in the elections of BS 2064, 2070 and 2074. Madhesi people time and again asked us to unite the parties as we launched the movements together. As per people such mandate the six Madhesi parties united. We also wanted unification with Forum. Now Forum has formed a talk team and this is positive step. But the unification cannot possible as Forum is in government and we are outside. So if Forum really wants unification with us, it must quit the government immediately.

If Forum comes out from government, then

unification occurs?

If we walk on the same path, the goal remains close. A single force in Madhesh is essential by uniting the parties. The provision of thresh hold of Election Commission, desire of Madhesi people, the people's mandate en election all these are bases for unification of Madheshi forces.

You are saying if the Forum comes out from the government then unification is possible, but your party is also a part of the government?

The Forum must leave the government if it wants the unification with RJP. The government means party with ministers. The RJP supported the government but not a part of government. The party is still sitting in opposition bench in the parliament. We are playing role of opposition when the government presents bills in the parliament. The parliamentary role depends on the merit and demerit of the government. So it cannot be asked as a part of government.

Province 2 Chief authenticates Province Police Act



Janakpur: Chief of Province 2 Ratneshworlal Kasthya has authenticated Province Police Act 2075. The Chief authenticated the Act according to Constitution of Nepal's sub-section (2) of Article 201.

Article 268 (2) of the constitution says that each Province will have a provincial police organisation. Clause (3) says that matters relating

to the operation, supervision and coordination of functions discharged by Nepal Police and the provincial police shall be as provided for in the federal law.

With the authentication of the Act, the Province 2 government can admit up to 900 police officers in the first phase. With the Act, the Province 2 government to form its own police organisation.

How much spent in Bihaha Panchami ?



Janakpur: Province 2 spent has Rs7.3 million during the Bibaha Panchami, a special Hindu religious event observed on December 12. The Provincial Council of Ministers approved the expenses made during the event, Province 2 official Padam Pokharel said. According to him, a total of Rs7,308,145 was spent on the reception, hospitality of the guests, venue set up, among others.

Chief Minister of the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath was among the guests at the event in Janakpur. The government

hosted a luncheon reception in honour of visiting Indian CM.

Janakpur, the provincial capital of Province 2, hosts a special event every year on the occasion of Bibaha Panchami by re-enacting the marriage ceremony of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita as mentioned in Hindu epic Ramayan. Every five years, a large number of Hindu saints from the Indian city of Ayodhya, the birthplace of Ram, attend the weeklong event. This year Adityanath had arrived in Janakpur, leading a wedding procession from Indian town of Ayodhya.

Resham Chaudhary's ...

Although ruling parties defended the move, opposition parties and observers have termed the move as "illegal". The Nepali Congress and the Rastriya Prajatantra Party have criticised the oath in strong words, saying that the government had agreed to it fearing loss of support from the RJP-N.

Ruling party insiders and the agitating RJPN said the government was under pressure to do something about addressing the RJPN demand. During their meeting with Prime Minister Oli, top RJPN leaders had warned that they would withdraw their support from the government and launch fresh agitations if their demand was not met.

Besides issues related to the amendment of the constitution, the RJPN had been pressuring the government to let lawmaker-elect Chaudhary take his oath of office and secrecy. The government came under additional pressure after the Federal Socialist Forum Nepal (FSFN), a coalition partner

in the government, also threw its weight behind Chaudhary.

Although a decision by RJPN to withdraw its support will not bring the government down, the ruling Nepal Communist Party has political reasons for not wanting to lose the support of Madhes-based parties. RJPN intensified its demand for administering oath to Chaudhary, who is considered close to RJPN coordinator Rajendra Mahato, especially after Mahato assumed the post of coordinator of the party in November 2018. Sources said RJPN had hinted at some compromise in its demand for constitutional amendments in return for administering oath to Chaudhary. On other demands including releasing other party cadres arrested in connection with various incidents during Madhes protests and amending the constitution, Mahato said the struggle would continue. RJPN leaders said Prime Minister Oli has already promised to form a task force to study the demands for a constitutional amendment.

Chaudhary Back...

Chaudhary clad in traditional Dhaka attire and sunglasses took oath of office and secrecy in Tharu language. Right after his swearing-in, the general secretary of the parliament secretariat, Manohar Bhattarai, conferred on Tharu the badge of a lawmaker.

According to parliament secretariat Chaudhary will not be suspended as lawmaker but he cannot attend

the House meetings and won't receive perks and salary according to rule 244 (3) of the parliamentary regulations. The parliamentary regulations are silent about suspension of lawmakers in such case, but state that any lawmaker who is in judicial custody on charges that could land him/her over three years in jail cannot work in the capacity of lawmaker and is barred from salary and perks.

Khichara Festival to promote Tharu culture

Bharatpur: The Khichara festival is being organized here in a bid to protect the Tharu culture. It is the sixth in series of the festival being organized on the occasion of the Maghi, the biggest festival of Tharu community.

Information to this was shared by Tharu Welfare Assembly Area 7 Khairahani at a news conference here Saturday. Preparation is expedited for the festival to be organized at Gaucharan of Khairahani municipality from January 12 to 21.

Coordinator of the main organizing committee, Chudamani Chaudhary informed



that the programmes promoting Tharu culture would be focused during the festival. The festival would help the Tharu culture make known to other communities as well, he hoped. Various food items would be prepared and served; mini museum set up; recreational activities conducted and cultural pageants held during the festival.

Janakpur-Jayanagar rail nears completion

Janakpur: About 90 percent construction work of the Janakpur-Jayanagar broad-gauge railway line has been completed. The project, which was expected to be complete by December this year, has had its progress delayed due to various technical reasons.

According to Aman Chitrakar, senior engineer at the Department of Railways, the construction of the 35-km-long railway line from Jayanagar, of India, to Kurtha, Nepal—through Inaruwa, Khajuri, Mahinathpur and Dueriparawaha—has already been completed. He said the construction of the 17-km stretch from Kurtha, of Dhanusha, to Bhangaha, of Mahottari, is currently underway. Chitrakar further informed that land acquisition and railway line expansion works are underway along the 17-km-long Bhangaha-Bardibas stretch.

The 69-km-long Janakpur-Jayanagar-Kurtha railway line has been built at a cost of Rs8.8 billion, with support from the Indian government. Indian Railway Construction Company



Limited has been carrying out the project in three phases. The first phase entails constructing the 35-km segment between Jayanagar and Kurtha. The second phase covers a 17-km stretch from Kurtha to Bhangaha, in Mahottari District, while the third phase covers a 17-km stretch from Bhangaha to Bardibas. Of the total length of the route, 3 km lies in India.

The construction of the railway started back in 2010, with a plan of completing the first phase of construction by the end of 2018.

The construction of railway stations, terminal buildings, bridges, culverts, etc. is at the final stage. Bindo Kumar Ojha, chief engineer of the Janakpur-based Railway and Metro Development Project, said that the laying of the railway line and the construction of platforms and staff

quarters are going on in good speed. The work of laying sleepers and slab tracks is yet to be completed, said Ojha.

In October, a test run was completed successfully, when a freight train laden with 5,500 tonnes of ballast reached Janakpur smoothly from Jharkhand, India.

The authorities said the construction work has been intensified along the Kurtha-Bhangaha section with an aim to complete the job by April 2019. Similarly, the third phase of the construction process entails providing compensation for land acquisition. According to Chief District Officer of Dhanusha Pradip Raj Kandel, around Rs 147 million has been provided to the local people (who live from Bhangaha to Bardibas) as compensation for land acquisition. It is estimated that Rs 350 million is needed for land acquisition.

The railway service between Janakpur-Jaynagar was suspended four years ago. This track was built nearly 80 years ago, when India was still under the British colonial rule, to transport timber from the forests of Mahottari to India. The railway line spanned 52 km from Bijulpura in Mahottari, Nepal, to Jaynagar in Bihar, India, at that time.

Province 2 government to introduce public service bill

Janakpur: The Province 2 government has decided to introduce the bill for forming the Provincial Public Service Commission (PSC).

A meeting of the provincial Council of Ministers decided to present the bill to the Provincial Assembly. Chief Minister Mohammad Lalbabu Raut said

his government had decided to move the bill to appoint staff for the provincial administration. “The provincial executive has been unable to work efficiently as the federal government failed to deploy staff required for the provincial level,” Raut. He said, “We waited for long. We were compelled to move the

bill since the federal government paid no heed to the matter.”

Raut said the PSC bill would be registered in the Provincial Assembly soon. The provincial government had put on hold various bills on administration, civil service and the provincial PSC at the call of the federal government. However, the provincial

government moved the bills after the federal government prepared to introduce the bill related to internal security.

The Province 2 Assembly endorsed the Provincial Police Act in October, 2018 by suspending a regulation. The provincial chief authenticated the Act on Sunday.

Cholendra Shumsher Rana new Chief Justice

Kathmandu: President Bidya Devi Bhandari has administered oath of office and secrecy to newly appointed Chief Justice (CJ) Cholendra Shumsher Rana. The newly appointed CJ took oath of office and secrecy before the Head-of-the-State amidst a ceremony at the Office of President, Shital Niwas.

The swearing-in ceremony was held on the witnesses of Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Minister for Law, Justice and Federal Affairs Bhanubhakta Dhakal and the

Supreme Court (SC) judges. The Parliamentary Hearing Committee on Tuesday unanimously endorsed his name for the appointment as the CJ. CJ (previous) Om Prakash Mishra took retirement from his office on Tuesday due to age-limit. Now, Rana gets an opportunity to serve as the 29th CJ.

He was born to Uma Rajya Laxmi (mother) and Yuba Raj Shumsher Rana (father) on Mangsir 28, 2014 BS (December 13, 1957) at Kalikasthan of Kathmandu. Rana completed his LLB degree from the Nepal Law Campus, Tribhuvan

University and received the advocate's license in Mangsir 6, 2036 BS. Since then, he served as a legal practitioner till the month of Chaita, 2052 BS.

He joined the Appellate Court as an additional judge on the recommendation of the Judicial Council in Baisakh, 2053 BS and was appointed as the permanent judge of the appellate court in Chaita, 2061 BS. He started his duty at the Special Court in Asoj, 2065 BS. He has already served as the acting chief judge at the Appellate Court Dipayal, Rajbiraj and Butwal. Rana was appointed the permanent judge of



Cholendra Shumsher

the Supreme Court on Jeth 13, 2071 BS (May 27, 2014). He will stay in the office for the next four years.

Hari Narayan Rauniyar had not been suspended from HoR, says DPM Yadav

Birgunj: Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal Chairman Upendra Yadav said Hari Narayan Rauniyar had not been suspended from the House of Representatives.

Speaking at a press meet organised by Madhesi Journalists' Society Parsa, in Birgunj, Yadav held that his party had not received any letter notifying the suspension of Rauniyar as a member of the federal Parliament.

He claimed that news of Rauniyar's suspension carried by the media was bogus. "Rauniyar was not suspended and would attend the winter session of the Parliament from Tuesday," Yadav said.

Yadav also said that Speaker



Krishna Bahadur Mahara had told him that Rauniyar was not suspended as member of the Parliament. "The Parliament Secretariat has not sent any suspension letter to Rauniyar till

date," Yadav said.

Owner of Pappu Construction Rauniyar was elected to the HoR from Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal. As many as 12 persons, including Rauniyar, had been

accused of corruption over bridge construction at Bardiya's Babai Jabdighat.

Yadav said the government was according top priority to construction work and expansion of infrastructure in the federal and provincial levels. He argued that Nepal Communist Party should move ahead with amendment of the statute as his party had extended support to NCP on the condition that it would amend the statute.

Yadav, who is also Minister of Health and Population, said his ministry was working to bring out various plans and projects to make delivery of health service effective in the country.

Maternity building to be constructed at Gajendra Narayan Singh Sagarmatha Hospital



Rajbiraj: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population Upendra Yadav has said that the government would dole out budget for the construction of maternity building at Gajendra Narayan Singh Sagarmatha Hospital.

Talking to health workers of the hospital, Yadav said that the

Ministry of Health and Population has taken responsibility for the building construction of maternity building at the hospital premise.

Likewise, a mega free health care camp would be organized from February 13 in collaboration with the Nepal Army, the Deputy Prime Minister said. The 11-day-long health camp would be the largest of its kind so far, it is said.

Stating that Ramraja Prasad Singh Health Science Academy would be established in Rajbiraj in the offing, Yadav said that the government was working with the intent to provide accessible health services to the commoners.

On a separate context, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the agenda for constitution amendment is still alive. "Situation has become favourable for constitution amendment," he added.

Academy of Health Sciences to be established in Saptari



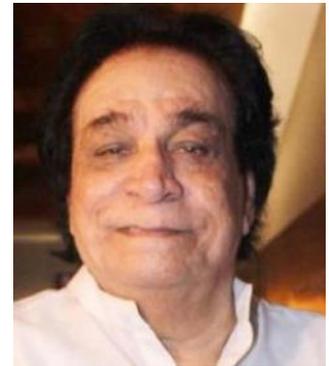
Upendra Yadav

Kathmandu: The Government of

Nepal has decided to establish Ram Raja Prasad Singh Academy of Health Sciences in Saptari district. The establishment of the institute is expected to benefit the locals of province 1 and 2.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population Upendra Yadav has pledged infrastructures, human resources and medical equipment to Karnali Academy Health Sciences. A high level team led by the Academy Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Rajendra Wagle had called on DPM Yadav seeking support to the academy at the Health Ministry in the capital.

Bollywood actor Kader Khan no more



Kader Khan

Kathmandu: Bollywood actor and writer Kader Khan has died at the age of 81.

Khan was reportedly admitted to a hospital in Canada on Friday after his health deteriorated.

It has also been reported that the veteran actor-writer Khan died in Canada due to a prolonged illness.

The funeral of the actor who has worked in over 300 films will take place today in Canada where his family is living at present.

The hindustantimes reported that Khan's son Sarfaraz was quoted in Indian news agency Press Trust of India (PTI) as saying, "My dad has left us. He passed away on December 31 at 6 pm as per Canadian time due to prolonged illness. He slipped into coma in the afternoon. He was in the hospital for 16-17 weeks. The last rites will be performed here in Canada only. We have our entire family here and we live here so we are doing it," adding, "We are thankful to everyone for their blessings and prayers." Sarfaraz had reportedly dismissed Kader Khan's death rumours a day before.

The actor had been reportedly admitted after complaining of breathlessness and was put on a BiPAP ventilator. He was unable to talk and also showed signs of pneumonia. Kader Khan suffered from progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), a degenerative disease that causes loss of balance, difficulty in walking and dementia. Khan also

underwent surgeries for his knees in 2017.

Born in Kabul, Khan made his acting debut in 1973 with Rajesh Khanna's Daag and went on to act in over 300 films. He also wrote dialogues for over 250 movies, with his first film as a dialogue writer being Randhir Kapoor-Jaya Bachchan's Jawani Diwani. As a screenwriter, Khan frequently collaborated with Manmohan Desai and Prakash Mehra. Khan was synonymous with comic roles, especially in films with Govinda. He worked in a number of David Dhawan directed Govinda films like Dulhe Raja, Coolie No.1, Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, Raja Babu, Saajan Chale Sasural, Aunty No.1, among others. In fact, Khan has worked with all leading actors of 70s, 80s and 90s, including Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, Feroz Khan, Anil Kapoor and Govinda among others.

India ruling party confident of doing well in general election: Modi

Mumbai: India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is confident of doing well at this year's general election despite the party's recent losses in state polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in an interview with Reuters partner ANI.

"No reason for morale down. We are confident and are moving ahead. In 2019, if there is one party which the country trusts and is connected with the people, it is the BJP," Modi said.

India's ruling party lost power in three key states in December, handing Modi his biggest defeat since he took office in 2014 and boosting the Congress party opposition and its allies ahead of national polls due by May.

Modi said it was more important to focus on his government's achievements, including the introduction in September of a new healthcare scheme for the poor.

"In such big numbers people suffering, today they have got treatment, how can I consider this a failure. It is my biggest achievement," Modi said.

He said party has been discussing what it lacked at the state elections but winning or losing was not the only yardstick. The Hindu nationalist BJP was willing to work with regional parties in the run-up to the general election, he said.

"Our effort is to take everyone along, and listen to everyone. I am committed to give importance to regional aspirations. The country cannot be run by ignoring regional aspirations."

Modi said farm loan waivers should be "definitely done" if it helps but that was not a long-term solution to the problem of farmer distress. "What is lacking in our system, that farmer becomes debt-ridden and the governments have to repeat vicious cycle of elections and loan waivers. So solution is to empower the farmers. From seed to market, give all facilities to the farmers," he said.

Farmers' anger about low crop prices and their sense that the

government has done far too little to address them contributed to the state election defeats.

The government is now considering three options for a relief package to help farmers suffering because of low crop prices at a cost of as much as 3 trillion rupees (\$43.20 billion), three government sources told Reuters last week.

Former Reserve Bank of India governor Urjit Patel had personally written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about wanting to resign, citing personal reasons, several months before stepping down from the office in December, Modi said.

"The governor himself requested (to resign) because of personal reasons. I am revealing for the first time, he was telling me about this for the past 6-7 months before his resignation. He gave it even in writing. He wrote to me personally".

Patel resigned after a months-long tussle over policy with the government that raised concerns about the bank's



Narendra Modi

independence as the next general election nears.

When asked if there was any political pressure on the governor to resign, Modi denied that was the case. "No such question arises. I acknowledge that Patel did a good job as RBI Governor."

Oath honour of democracy and people's mandate: Mahato



Rajendra Mahato

Kathmandu: RJP-Nepal presidium

coordinator Rajendra Mahato has hailed the oath ceremony of Resham Chaudhary as an honour of democracy and people's mandate.

"The oath has elated RJP-Nepal leaders. This is a welcome move. Now, we want the government to take steps towards constitution amendment, said Mahato.

Mahato asked that Chaudhary deserved to be administered the oath since he was elected by the people. He told, 'So far as the court case is concerned, we

believe the court will also provide him justice.'

Mahato made such remarks, while responding to media persons after Speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chaudhary, the main accused in 2015 Tikapur incident. He made it clear that his party will not join the government though Chaudhary was administered the oath of office and secrecy.

Leader Mahato said his party will keep on piling pressure on the government until the latter amend the constitution, release the leaders and cadres arrested

during the Tarai movement.

"Constitution is yet to be amended. The issue of those who are in the custody has not been settled. The pressure will be continued. The party won't join the government," he said.

Chaudhary is the main accused in the lynching of eight police personnel and an infant in Tikapur of Kailali district of August 2015. He was on the run after being charge-sheeted for his alleged key role but later surrendered before Kailali District Court on February 26, 2018.

Lawmaker Pradeep Yadav demands punishment against guilty in rape cases

Kathmandu: Lawmaker Pradeep Yadav has demanded the provision of a capital punishment against the guilty in rape cases.

Putting his views in the 'zero hour' of the House of Representatives, the lower house member drew the attention of the government and parliament towards the rape of a five-year-old girl in Parsa, seeking a death penalty against the guilty. Dev Kumar Patel of the same district has been accused of raping the girl.

Likewise, lawmaker Nawaraj Raut raised the issue of a delay in constructing the bridge over the Bheri River; Narayan Prasad

Marasini demanded compensation for the loss of crops to farmers of Putali Bazar municipality of Syangja; Parbati Bisunkhe drew the government's attention towards proper management of victims of Kalikot fire and Prem Bahadur Ale pressed the government to make arrangements for medical treatment of those injured in the Amargadhi bus accident.

Likewise, lawmaker Prem Suwal urged Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to reply lawmakers in regard with his commitment to operate ship in Nepal by December 31, 2018.

Police to control vehicle negligence in Bara

Bara: District Police Office, Bara has stationed its teams including traffic police personnel at various villages in the district to bring traffic negligence under control by carrying out vehicle checking. Police started the initiative in rural areas of the district in order to bring under control cases of accidents, which have increased in recent times, said spokesperson at the DPO, Deputy Superintendent of Police Ranjit Singh Rathore. Various discrepancies have been noted in compliance with traffic rules in rural Bara such as motorcyclists not wearing

helmets and overloading their motorbikes, driving under the influence of alcohol, not carrying required documents while driving or riding, among others. DSP Rathore added that the initiative was started to check such shortcomings and raise public awareness.

Under the initiative, on Tuesday, police team including personnel from temporary traffic police post in Kalaiya intercepted and took action against 21 vehicles from three different locations in the district.

No constitution amendment, no withdrawal of support What does RJP do now?

Kathmandu: One weak time sought by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli given to RJP to fulfill demands of Madhes with constitution amendment has ended on Tuesday. But the commitment made by the prime minister in a week is not fulfilled; now the RJP has also confused that what it should do. Even though RJP is still mum even the time taken by the Prime Minister has ended. Even the leaders have not stopped



giving a challenge saying "a strong step against the government". But RJP leaders accused that the government has not shown concerns on their demands.

Madhesi people do not want RJP-Nepal in status quo. It is the common desire of Madhesi people to take special initiatives for addressing the issue raised by RJP.

'Relationship with India reached into new phase'

Kathmandu: Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, has spoken of the need of national dialogues to build the nations' foreign policy on the basis of mass consensus.

Reviewing his 10-month stay at the office, the Minister said he had to confront with several problems in the beginning at his office and now the nation was moving ahead adopting healthy and balanced foreign policies. "The development of foreign relations as per the interests of the nation is taking place," he claimed.

During a discussion programme with chiefs of national media today, the Foreign Minister made it clear that Nepal was not entertaining external interference in the domestic affairs and was developing the international relations focusing the national prosperity. He took a time to recall that interest of the nation was the

major basis of Nepal's foreign policy.

According to him, diplomatic code of conduct will be revised in the context of federalism. He called upon on people concerned to narrow down a gap existing between the government and media regarding the foreign policy. As he said, the government was exercising to garner the support from the world community to the efforts meant for national prosperity and economic development by further consolidating the ties with neighbours with the branding of political achievements the country made so far. "The relationship with India has reached a new phase," he claimed.

"We have been able to assure our neighbours that our foreign policy is independent and balanced, in which they have a trust," he said.

Saying Nepal has cordial relations with northern neighbour China, he said the process to open nine transit points with China has reached the implementation phase.

Governments of other countries viewed that they started feeling the presence of this mechanism following the fourth BIMSTEC Summit last year in Nepal, he said. Referring to his recent official visit to Japan, he said Nepal has entered a process to explore Japan as a new labour

destination.

Also, he said the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act would be amended as per need to address international concerns, concerns of the victims and court's verdicts.

In another context, he said a study is being carried out to find ways how to treat the USA's Indo-Pacific Strategy.

PM counts his achievements

Kathmandu: Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said draft amendments of 165 laws were readied to implement the federal system. The laws on fundamental rights were already brought into force.

At the meeting of the House of Representatives, PM Oli shared the information that PM employment programme was initiated; President Chure Programme continued; special watch maintained on the project facing problems; and livestock insurance programme handed over to the concerned department.

According to him, construction of fast track was satisfactory; integration of information continuous; digital action room set up at PM's office to monitor the national pride projects; a new department of national identity card set up; working journalists' wage increased by 25 percent; work permit granted from Janakpur and Birgunj as well; and safe and integrated citizens

housing programme launched. As many as 17,000 houses were built and handed over under the citizens housing programme. Contribution based social security programme was launched, the PM added.

The lawmakers were further made aware that the Kodari highway would be brought into operation from coming Baisakh. In order to materialize the dream of railway, feasibility study was continuous on the railway connecting Rasuwa-Kathmandu, Kathmandu-Lumbini and Birgunj-Kathmandu. The PM shared that efforts were on to prepare country's own satellite by coming Baisakh.

"I've been feeling strange in the recent days. Questions are raised over performance. It is time to devote to development. If not done now, when to do? I don't want to entangle on any logic. People have voted for the government of two-thirds majority," he underscored.

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