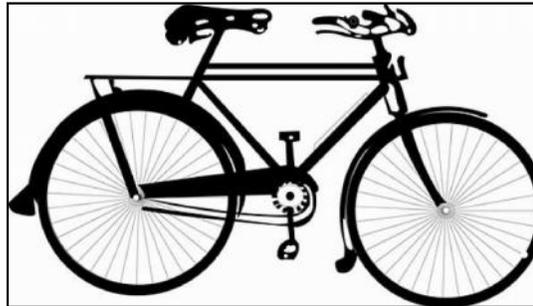


Does elections as part of struggle for RJP-Nepal

The Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) has decided to utilize election as part of the struggle for rights. Making public its election manifesto for the upcoming local level election being held in Province No 2 on Sept 18, the party has decided to take the election both as opportunity and challenge. During a press conference attended by senior leaders of the party including its coordinator Mahath Thakur, presidium member of the party, Rajendra Mahato said, "Our party is participating in the election as per people's aspiration. This election itself is a struggle. We've accepted it as a challenge. Participating in the election is to honour people's

mandate." Leader Mahato argued the Madhes agitation was caused by the weakness of big three political parties. RJPN will accept the election results, he added. Responding to a query relating to party's expected result in the election, he said, "We expect all victory in our favour, but voters are the determinants. So, we accept it without any reservation." The party in its manifesto has mentioned that it would continue its struggle for the constitution amendment even after the election. The manifesto has further claimed that Federal Socialist Forum Nepal, Nepal Loktantrik Forum party were individualistic and self-centered, which tarnished image of Madhes and shadowed



Madhes issues. At a time election fever has gripped Province No 2, the RJPN leaders are still in the capital city. Similarly, influential leaders of the party have been defecting to different parties following the internal dispute, which is likely to dent the election result. The RJPN is the party merged out of various six splinters advocating for Madhes issues. The major battle as in the previous elections is with the big

parties as Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and the CPN (Maoist Centre). The party has put the development of Birgunj in its top priority, thereby making it a smart city. It has incorporated various local problems as of irrigation, livestock, fertilizers, campaign against dowry system. **RJP-N's manifesto** RJP-Nepal has made a scathing criticism of the CPN (Maoist Centre), rather than the CPN-UML

which its leaders and cadres have been flaying for the party's "anti-Madhes" stance, in the newly united force's election manifesto. In the document, the RJP-Nepal has accused the Maoist Centre of killing 52 Madhesi activists including Ramesh Mahato during the MadhesAndolan. The RJP has also held the former rebel force responsible for widespread impunity, corruption, insecurity and the state of chaos and conflict in the country. "Since the Maoist Centre believes in an authoritarian rule, the party's main character is anti-federalism," the party manifesto states. The party also charges three major parties with

Continue in page 4...

EC registers 87 parties, allocates election symbols



Kathmandu: Election Commission has registered and allocated election symbols to 87 different political parties for the purpose of the election to the members of the House of Representatives and the State Assemblies. A meeting of the election commissioners chaired by Chief Commissioner Dr

Ayodhee Prasad Yadav took the decision to this effect, in response to the applications registered at the Election Commission by 95 political parties seeking to be registered for the election purposes as per the Article 271 of the Constitution. Likewise, the Election Commission, in the case of political parties which want to participate in the elections taking a single electoral symbol after the merger of two or more political parties, has decided to register and allocate the election symbols to them in accordance with the Clause 49 of the Act Related to the Political Parties, 2073 BS, spokesman of the Election Commission Nawaraj Dhakal said.

UML doesn't have moral high ground to solicit votes: Upendra Yadav

Janakpur: Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal Chairman Upendra Yadav says the main opposition CPN-UML does not have any moral high ground to solicit votes from people of Terai as it voted against the constitution amendment bill introduced in a bid to address demands of agitating Madheshi parties. "The UML has committed a grave mistake by voting against the bill, thereby losing the moral foundation to seek votes from Madheshi people," he says, adding other big parties have



Upendra Yadav

also not done anything for the region. While speaking with journalists in Janarkpur, Yadav said Madheshi parties would get sufficient votes in the upcoming elections to correct the constitution.



Editorial

Litmus test For Madhesi parties

Contrary to the ubiquitous misperceptions, the people and political parties demonstrated their great enthusiasm for the local level polls in Province No 2 slated for September 18. The number of nominations and participation of voters during candidacy registration speak volumes about their aspirations for the meaningful role in the democratic process. The province endured senseless agitations in the aftermath of the promulgation of new constitution. This had given bad impression that the Terai heartland was not ready for the election that holds the key to settling the substantive political and constitutional questions. The Madhes-based parties had dug their heels in for long time and refused to join the electoral fray until their demands were met. They finally woke up to their political miscalculation and agreed to take part in the election by accepting the outcome of voting on the controversial statute amendment Bill in the parliament.

With the candidates busy canvassing the voters, several interesting scenarios have come to light. The ruling Nepali Congress and CPN-Maoist Centre had announced to forge mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) against the opposition CPN-UML by bringing other parties, including the Rastriya Janata Party Nepal to their fold. But the attempts to create electoral alliance and polarisation between the parties went up in smoke owing to several factors. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and Maoist Centre chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda have been determined to back the UML into a corner so that it would not maintain its winning streak in the third phase of local polls.

Seemingly, Deuba and Prachanda are wary of UML's nationalistic wave having a sway across the country. In UML, they found their common enemy after it emerged the largest force from the first and second phase of the local election. The RJP-N's singeing attack on the three major parties is intended to vilify them in Madhes. However, this sort of skewed political comment has some indirect benefit to the UML that was singled out as anti-Madhesi force by the NC, MC and the Madhes-based parties. The RJP-N's virulent posture has dealt a blow to its possible alignment with the NC and MC. These three forces were supposed to build a broader alliance to roll over the UML in the Terai. With animosity engulfing them, the UML can safely mobilise its voters to garner more votes during the election. Moreover, the election is a litmus test for the RJP-N and other Madhesi parties that have been treating Madhes as if it were their fiefdom.

Scale, scope and impact of agroforestry systems in Terai Madhesh of Nepal

The people of Nepal near India boarder have not fairly access in national forest due to distance. Needs of those not having consume to existing forests is a big issue. In Terai Madhesh south part of Nepal, 20 to 25 percent of the district population has no access to national forests for the direct benefits such as timber and fuel-wood. The major problem is distance of 50 to 60 Kilometers.

The result indicated that distant users are getting more timber compared to the users who lived close to National forest. It was opposite in case of fuel wood . About 75% and 85% of fuel wood needs is fulfilled from the private source. Trees grown on private farmland or agro-forester fulfill needs of fuelwood.

The further problem become in the marginalize and landless. They are not able or permission to use private land for agro-forestry practices to meet basic forest products. Some people practice for agro-forestry in small area on the basis of lease. As most of the public land is uncultivated requiring significant investment (labor and other resources) to make it productive, larger communities (including elites) have not aggressively opposed (barring some exceptions) the poor and landless to invest resources and to earn livelihoods. If government makes a policy for uses of public land for agro-forestry through marginalize community, then will success and empower entire community.

The agro-forestry will success in the uncultivated public land. For this activities follow a new approach in creating natural resources especially for the marginalize and landless in the southern belt of the Terai Madesh. It could also contribute to augmenting livelihood assets of the landless, marginalize and socially excluded people. The potential of public lands to impact positively through new agro-forestry on livelihood .

The sustainability of these public land is highly questionable due to the lack of strong policy. The will of marzinelize community is



Rakesh Prasad Chaudhary

not addressed due to this policy. The Government of Nepal, which will formulate policy should consider the valid demand of the people living in the Terai Madhesh for their access to forest resources for agro-forestry.

The business and economy class people have opposed to allocate public lands for agro-forestry commons. They are arugging that the lands belong to the their ancestors. Which was gifted to the government in past. The interest of conflict make this land uncultivated. If economic strong community make peace then whole society will benefited. The ecosystem services through agro-forestry is the best way .After this the landless and marginalized will use the public lands for agro-forestry.

Plantation will be usefull with the help of marginalize people in the total available public land covering with fast growing species. It is expected to generate more than hundred tonnes of fuelwood per year. This wood will be used for furniture and other works and facilities in community. Every year the people of marginlize community faced flood due to deforestation in national forest. National forest situated in chure, where deforestation is high. If people exercise agro-forestry, they would save their lives and land from flood. Mahdeshi people faith that government will have make a policy for agro-forestry in public land for making barrier of flood. The distance of Indo-Nepal east and west boarder length is 885 km.

Election strengthens the future movements of Madhesh

I clearly say that going to the polls is the only thing in itself. The problem is solved by election. If you go to the election, you will be afraid to lose your village from municipalities and territories. My idea is that the Madhes parties should come to the polls to strengthen the future movements.

What is the atmosphere of election in Madhesh?

The environment of election in Madhesh was already created. It was hoped that the local level election will be held in Madhesh in first phase but now it has been scheduled for September 18 in the third phase. Although some people had doubt either the election will be held in Madhesh or not. But now all suspicion has ended and the environment for election in Madhesh has been created and people are keen to vote.

What should have the situation if the election in Province 2 was held in first or second phase?

If the election in Madhesh was happened during the first phase, the outcome should have positive. In that time, environment of Madhesh was good. All political parties were ready for the polls in Madhesh. But strategically, the leaders were not ready to go to Madhesh. But Madhesi leaders failed to take such environment in grip for their own favor.

It means, the previous election for Madhes was result-oriented?

Yes, if the local election was held in first phase, it should have well for Madhesh. But Madhesi parties rigidly stand on the constitution amendment as they knew well that the amendment is not possible due to lack of two-third majority. So raising the issue of constitution amendment and pushed the local election

three months last was not fruitful for Madhesh.

But there was also pressure from the people to go to the polls only after making amendments in the constitution?

Madheshi people have believed as the constitution to be amended and their issues also to be addressed but they know that it was not possible. Because the major three parties intentionally do not want amendment in the constitution.

Earlier, there was uncertainty for going to the election as constitution was not amended but now the path has been cleared. Not?

Yes, Madhesi parties have not pressure from any sections. But earlier there was pressure on them to join the election process.

If the Province 2 election was held in second phase and Madhesi parties jointly contested the election, what was the situation?

I am absolutely convinced that the situation should have well. If Province 2 election was held in the second phase, no one had to go to the other party. Everyone had to vote from their own party.

Since three months, RJP-Nepal asked they would not take part in the election unless the constitution is amended. But they suddenly changed their view and decided to join the election, why?

In the first phase, Upendra Yadav became criticized. He argued that the three major parties would not amend the constitution anyhow so there

is the need to go to the election. But RJP-Nepal did not believe him. But today, his idea and argument become correct. The RJP-Nepal follows Upendra Yadav's path of election.

Does Upendra Yadav look more visible than other leaders?

Absolutely, he becomes foresight than the leaders of RJP-Nepal. He was also accused when his party decided to go to the election without the constitution amendment.

Is Madhesi parties'



Rambharos Kapdi
Political analyst

decision to participate in the election correct without amending the constitution?

I clearly say that going to the polls is the only thing in itself. The problem is solved by election. If you go to the election, you will be afraid to lose your village from municipalities and territories. My idea is that the Madhes parties should come to the polls to strengthen the future movements.

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Puri lays foundation stone for the proposed Pension Paying Office



Kathmandu : Indian ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri has laid the foundation stone for the proposed Pension Paying Office (PPO) at Butwal. Colonel Man Raj Singh Mann, Defence Attaché gave the introductory speech. He highlighted that this bond with the Ex-Servicemen contributes immensely to the bonhomie and strength of India-Nepal relationships.

The proposed PPO is being established in the present District Soldiers Board (DSB), Butwal which was established in 1995, along with additional land allotted by Nepal government on 20 Mar 2017. The sanction for the PPO was accorded by the Nepal government on 29 Jan 2004 and in principle approval by Indian government was accorded on 30 Jun 2009. This PPO will benefit approx 45,000 Indian Army Gorkha pensioners and family pensioners in the region, in addition to the already existing PPOs at Pokhara, Dharan and MPB, Kathmandu and will go a long way in serving the 1,26,000 Ex-Servicemen and family pensioners in Nepal.

Does elections as ...

transforming the agenda of federalism and inclusiveness into “exclusion” and “centralisation” to serve their interests. On other Madhes-based parties including the Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum Nepal and the Nepal Loktantrik Forum, the RJP says they were engaged in self-centred activities in ways to “tarnish the image of Madhes”. The manifesto advocates conservation of forests and the Chure region and urges the Chure Tarai Madhes Conservation and Development authority to check degradation of rivers caused by haphazard mining of sand and gravel.

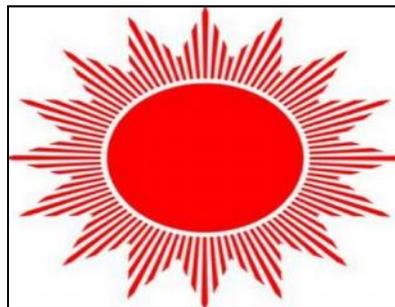
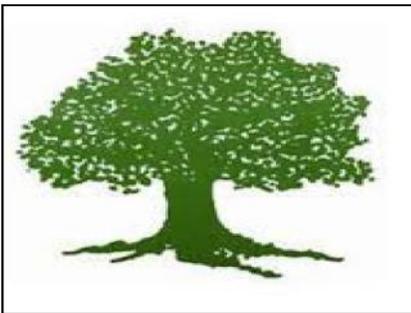
17 parties register for participation in proportional election

Kathmandu: Seventeen political parties have applied at the Election Commission for their participation in the proportional representation election under the coming election of the House of Representatives and the State Assembly.

The political parties have been given ten days for the registration from Sunday. The government has announced to hold the election of the House of Representatives on November 21 and of the provincial parliament on December 7.

On the first day alone, the political parties applying at EC are Nepali Congress, Naya Shakti Party Nepal, Rastriya Prajatantra Party, Rastriya Prajatantra Party (Democratic), Rastriya Janamorcha, CPN-ML, NWPP and others, said the EC.

Charter revision on parties' poll agenda



Kathmandu: Almost all the parties except the CPN-UML have been canvassing for votes in Province 2 promising the Madhesi people constitution amendment. The parties have pledged to register a constitution amendment bill in Parliament after the provincial and federal parliamentary elections. Parties including the Nepali Congress, Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal and the CPN (Maoist Centre) have blamed the UML for the failure of the amendment bill during a vote in Parliament last month. However, the UML argues that it protested against the bill as the other parties had tried to provide “national language” status to Hindi. The UML is campaigning with a message that Maithali, Abadhi and Tharu languages should be prioritised as national languages. Shree Prasad Sah, a central member of the UML, said the NC, the Maoist Centre and the RJP-N were staging a drama over constitution amendment. Another UML cadre in Janakpur, Krishna Kumar Jha said the party was not against constitution amendment. “Only some people were against the bill,” he said. Political analyst Bhogendra Jha said another political force will emerge in the

Madhes if the existing parties fail to address the issue of constitution amendment on time. Another observer Surendra Labh sees the elections as ‘mini referendum’ on the constitution promulgated two years ago. The NC has made construction of the Hulaki Highway as its main agenda. The UML has promised good governance at the local level. The RJP-N, Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum and the Nepal Loktantrik Forum have stressed development, establishment of universities, Chure conservation and resettlement of flood victims during their campaigns.

Nepal, China to expedite cross-border railway



Kathmandu: China has expressed readiness to conduct a detailed project survey, design and feasibility study to construct the much-talked-about cross-border railway between the two neighbors at the earliest in a bid to create conditions for a possible China-Nepal-India economic corridor.

At a joint press conference after a bilateral delegation-level meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal Krishna Bahadur Mahara and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, both ministers informed that the two sides agreed to carry out a detailed project survey, design and feasibility study and also work in areas like personnel training and other cooperation for the construction of the cross-border railway between China and Nepal, via Kerung to Kathmandu, Pokhara and Lumbini as soon as possible, under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. "The two sides have agreed to actively conduct a project survey, design, feasibility study and also work in areas like personnel training and other cooperation so that this mission can be translated into reality as soon as possible for the benefit of the two countries and peoples," informed Wang.

Mahara also confirmed that the two sides agreed to carry out a feasibility study survey for a cross-border railway link from Kerung to Kathmandu,

Pokhara and Lumbini as early as possible. Stating that Nepal can become a bridge and link between the two emerging economies of China and India, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang said that China looks forward to gradually creating the conditions to explore and construct the China-Nepal-India economic corridor, and jointly promote the Himalayan region to a new high ground for Asian development.

"China believes that Nepal can also develop the relationship with the two neighboring countries—China and India—in parallel. China and India, as Nepal's common neighbors, should have the minds and responsibilities of great powers, respect Nepal's legitimate rights and interests, support Nepal's independence and help Nepal develop and progress," he said. He also said that the two sides agreed that both sides will continue to look at and develop Sino-Nepal relations from a strategic perspective and strive to elevate the long friendly

and all-round cooperative partnership between China and Nepal to a new height.

During the meeting between the two sides, which lasted for over three hours, they talked in detail about the cross-border railway and other issues of bilateral cooperation that can be enhanced under the Belt and Road framework. Similarly, during meetings with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi, the construction of the cross-border railway at the earliest was focused on. They also stressed the early beginning of the studies required for the construction of the cross-border railway link. Similarly, the two sides have agreed to speed up expansion and repair work on the Araniko Highway and the Rasuwagadhi road. The two roads are traditional land access for connecting the two neighbors.

Likewise, Chinese Minister Wang informed that the two sides have agreed to construct and upgrade the dry ports in Tatopani, Kerung and one more border point and also build the China-Nepal cross-border economic cooperation zone on the basis of the dry ports. He assured that the Tatopani point will resume soon. He said the two sides will also actively research and open other border points according to need.

Likewise, Nepal and China have also agreed to complete the joint feasibility study of the Free Trade Agreement by the end of the year. Similarly, the two sides have agreed to complete 17 post-disaster reconstruction projects on time. Likewise, the two sides also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Energy Cooperation for strengthening cooperation in oil, gas, water, electricity and clean energy in a bid to help Nepal diversify its energy sources.

The two sides also signed another MoU on the "Nepal Tourism Promotion Year 2017" in China. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang informed that the two sides agreed that China will take initiative to open more direct flights to Nepal for the ease of Chinese travelers while Nepal will also take more measures to protect the safety and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese tourists.



Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal Party announces elections manifesto

Birgunj: The Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal Party on Thursday announced its election manifest amid a special programme in Birgunj.

Organising a press meet at a local hotel in the Metropolis, FSF-N Chairman Upendra Yadav said party has decided to take part in the local polls to safeguard people's right to vote in the election.



"We are taking part in the local polls does not mean we are deviating from our agendas, we will organize protest programmes after the elections as demands put forth by Madhesi people have not been heeded," Chairman Yadav warned. "Madhesi people demands are of national interest, it should have been addressed through constitution amendment bill, however, conspiracy have been hatched to foil it," Yadav lamented. He also said the top political leaders have accepted the fact that there are some errors in the constitution during the time of promulgation. "The Constitution would be scrapped for sure, if it fails to be amended or rewritten," Yadav warned.

Former Foreign Minister Upendra Yadav also said the Federal Socialist Forum Nepal Party has field capable and visionary leaders for the transformation of Birgunj Metropolitan City into one of the most vibrant cities in South Asia. On the occasion, leader Yadav said party has decided to field Vijaya Sarabagi as mayor and Pinky Yadav as deputy mayor of the metropolis today.

Leader Yadav also said the party wouldn't let any stone unturned, for an industrial and centre for Madhes agitation, for the development of the city and would support people's sentiment in making Birgunj as the provincial capital in the region.

RJP-N leader quits party

Kathmandu: The Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJP-N) leader has quit the party not only to join the CPN (Maoist Centre) but also to become the its mayoral candidate.

Narendra Yadav resigned as RJP-N's Mahottari district presidium member on Wednesday after a disagreement with the party leadership over ticket distribution.

The Maoist Centre then welcomed him and declared him the mayoral candidate of Aauahi Municipality.

The last leg of local elections is scheduled for September 18 in eight districts of Province 2.

In Saptari also, several RJP-N cadres have expressed their dissatisfaction with the

leadership over ticket distribution, saying relatives of the central leaders were favoured.

RJP-N's Jangilal Raya resigned as the general secretary.

Raya claimed that the party fielded those candidates who "are weak" in terms of public support.

He had objected to the party's selection of candidates in Kabilas Municipality, Bharampur Rural Municipality and Bishnu Rural Municipality.

Senior RJP-N leaders Mahantha Thakur and Rajendra Mahato took arbitrary decisions while picking the candidates, he said.

Madhesi panel bill endorsed

Kathmandu: Speaker Onasari Gharti was forced to adjourn the meeting of Legislature-Parliament three times on Friday since so many lawmakers left after marking their attendance that the House lacked the minimum number of MPs to meet.

Following a long debate, the parties had agreed to remove the two laws from the House agenda. When the zero hour and special hour proceedings were over, Minister for Land Reforms Gopal Dahit tabled the bill on the Madhesi Commission.

No sooner had Speaker Gharti put the bill up for a vote than Nepal Majdoor Kisan Party lawmaker Prem Suwal demanded that the House meeting be adjourned for it lacked the minimum number of lawmakers. When a headcount was conducted, only 136 lawmakers were in attendance. As many as 305 lawmakers had marked their attendance but most of them had left without appearing in the session.

According to Article 94 of the constitution, at least 148 lawmakers—one fourth of their total number—must be present in the House for the parliamentary process to begin. The House currently has 592 members. The MPs get Rs500 as meeting allowance, in addition to Rs1,000 to cover their transport expenses per sitting. The Speaker adjourned

the session for 15 minutes and asked the ruling parties to guarantee smooth parliamentary proceedings. The House commenced after 158 lawmakers showed up. The meeting then endorsed the bill on Madhesi Commission. However, when Minister Dahit was present to table the bill on Tharu Commission, the same question of lack of quorum was raised by lawmaker Suwal.

Over two dozen lawmakers had already left the House after endorsing the bill on Madhesi Commission, leaving only 127 lawmakers in attendance. The Speaker adjourned the Parliament meeting yet again for 15 minutes. But after finding that the lawmakers had already left the House premises, the meeting was adjourned till September 20.

“The tendency of absenteeism is increasing these days,” said a senior official at the Parliament Secretariat. Sources at the secretariat claim that the House has been adjourned for the lack of quorum for at least a dozen times in a year. The House was scheduled to endorse also the bills on Muslim and Tharu Commissions on Friday.

Though it is insincerity of all parliamentarians, the duty to ensure the adequate numbers lies with the ruling parties. “I agree it’s our weakness,” Rekha Sharma, chief whip of the CPN (Maoist Centre), told the Post, clarifying that lawmakers were busy with the elections.

UML is a fake nationalist party, says NC leader



people and garner their sympathy.

Mahat said, “Only socialism advocated by late BP Koirala can do good to the country.” He added that NC was a nationalist party in the true sense. The NC leader said, “Ranting on nationalism in the street does not make anyone a nationalist.” He also claimed that his party would win a majority of seats in both provincial and parliamentary elections polls to be held later this year.

Dolakha: Nepali Congress leader Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat accused CPN-UML of being a fake nationalist party.

Speaking at a party interaction held at the Dolakha headquarters of Charikot to mark late BP Koirala’s 103rd birth anniversary, Mahat alleged that UML Chairperson KP Oli had been trumpeting the slogan of fake nationalism to deceive the

EC to seek Rs 10.27bn for Nov, Dec polls

Kathmandu: The Election Commission has estimated that it needs Rs 10.27 billion to conduct the provincial and parliamentary elections slated for November 26 and December 7.

The EC stated that the amount would be utilised for making logistics arrangement, spreading awareness about polls, procuring electoral materials and human resources and training poll staff.

Addressing media persons, Chief Election Commissioner Ayodhi Prasad Yadav said the poll panel would write to the government seeking budget for the provincial and parliamentary polls.

He added that the EC’s poll budget estimate did not include cost of security arrangements for elections, as that did not fall under its jurisdiction.

The poll panel, which had sought Rs 10.30 billion for the local level elections, spent about Rs 7 billion in the first and second phases of civic elections. CEC Yadav said the EC had returned Rs 3 billion to the government and sought Rs 1.85 billion for the third phase of local level elections.

PM Deuba to address election assemblies in province no 2

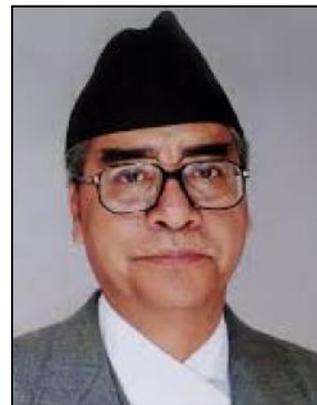
Kathmandu: Prime Minister and Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba is to address election assemblies to be organized in eight districts of province no 2.

The third round of local-level election is taking place in province no 2 on coming September 18.

According to party central office, Party President Deuba would go to province no 2 on September 12 and would return Kathmandu on September 15. PM Deuba is scheduled to address the mass gathering at Rajbiraj of Saptari and election assembly to be organised at zero-mile of Siraha on September 12.

Similarly, PM Deuba would head towards Janakpur on the same day. He would visit Ramjanaki Temple in the morning on September 13 and would address the election assembly to be organised at Janakpurdham at 1:00 pm on the same day.

Likewise, NC President Deuba is scheduled to address the election



Sher Bahadur Deuba

assemblies of Sarlahi and Rautahat on September 14. PM Deuba would move towards Birgunj after addressing the programmes there, according to the party central office.

He would address an election assembly to be organized at 1:00 pm in Bara on September 15 as well as would address the election assembly at 2:00 pm to be organised in Birgunj of Parsa on the same day. After addressing the election assemblies, PM Deuba is scheduled to return Kathmandu on the same day.

International

Pakistan, ISIS allegedly behind Rakhine imbroglio: Myanmar's Mizzima

Kolkotta: The Mizzima newspaper, citing Indian and Bangladesh intelligence officials, said in a report that “the intelligence intercepted three long-duration calls between Hafiz Tohar,

“Hafiz Tohar set up the Aqa Mul Mujahideen (AMM) and was trained in Pakistan by the dreaded Lashkar e Tayyaba (LET) after he was recruited by Abdul Qadoos Burmi, the chief of Harkat ul Jihad al



military wing chief of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on Aug 23 and 24, that hold the key to why the militant group unleashed the pre-dawn offensive against Myanmar security forces”. Nearly 125,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since Aug 25 following an army crackdown triggered by attacks by Rohingya insurgents in Buddhist-majority Myanmar’s northwestern Rakhine State. According to the Mizzima report, the ARSA is determined to thwart national leader Aung Sung Suu Kyi’s intentions to implement the Kofi Annan report that recommended for a durable solution to the decades-old crisis. “The ARSA wants to brutalise the discourse in Rakhine and help remilitarise the area so that the narrative of torture and extra-judicial killings help them boost the level of jihad and find recruits,” the report said citing a top Bangladesh intelligence official who was not named.

Islami -Arakan (HUJI-A) from Kyauk Pyin Siek village of Maungdaw in 2014,” according to the report. He merged his group into the ARSA after it was formed in the summer of 2016 and is widely believed to be behind the deadly attacks on Myanmar security forces from October 9-10 last year and on Aug 25 this year. Following the training of a few initial recruits of the AMM in Pakistan, new cadres were recruited from among Rohingya youths in Rakhine and refugee camps in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazaar. They were then trained in camps set up on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, especially one at Naikhongcherri in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, Mizzima said. One “Major Salammat” of Pakistan’s I n t e r - S e r v i c e s Intelligence, deputed for undercover operations with the LET, was responsible for these training during April-May 2016, according to the report.

Madheshvani Radio Program (Sunday to Friday)

Devoted towards the National Integration, Nationality and Madheshbad

F.M	MHZ	Place	Time
 Radio Rajdhani	100.6	Kathmandu	10:40 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Sunrise	90.2	Jhapa (Birtamod)	6:30 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Red F.M	101	Morang (Biratnagar)	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:30 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Rubaru F.M	104.5	Banke	8:15 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Rudraksha	98.8	Mahottari (Jaleshwar)	8:15 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Popular F.M.	95.2	Sunsari (Inaruwa)	9:00 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Jay Madhesh	93.5	Saptari (Dharampur)	5.20 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Janakpur	97	Dhanusha (Janakpurdham)	5.30 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Swarnim F.M	96.3	Sarlahi (Malangawa)	8.25 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Rautahat F.M	90.8	Rautahat (Gaur)	6.30 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Saugat	88.1	Siraha (Lahan)	7.30 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Dhadkan	89.6	Siraha	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:30 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Birgunj	99	Birgunj (Parsa)	9.15 P.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Safalta	103.4	Kaski (Pokhara)	7.15 P.M (E xcluded Friday and Saturday)
 Radio Madhesh	89.3	Sarlahi (Malangawa)	9.15 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Madhesh Janaawaja	98.6	Rautahat	7.30 AM (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Madhesh Masala	106.4	Rautahat	7:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 7:30 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Aakashganga	107.6	Siraha	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:30 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Baadal	89	Bara	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:00 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Tilaurakot	107.6	Kapilbastu	7.30 PM (E xcluded Saturday)
 Radio Madi	107.6	Chitwan (Madi)	Every Wednesday 5.30 PM to 6 PM
 Radio Samarthyia	92.1	Kawasoti (Navalparasi)	7.00 PM (E xcluded Saturday)
Radio Sahalesh	88.8	Siraha	6:30 PM Re- Broadcast 7:30 A.M (E xcluded Saturday)

House endorses two election-related bills

Kathmandu: Parliament endorsed two election-related bills. The Bill on Election of House of Representatives and the Bill on Election of Provincial Assembly were stuck in the State Affairs Committee (SAC) of Parliament for about two months, even as the Election Commission (EC) continued to press for election laws, saying its preparations for federal and provincial polls were hampered due to lack of laws.

The federal and provincial elections have been called for November 26 and December 7.

One of the most contentious issues was Nepali Congress (NC) lawmakers' demand that a provision barring convicts of corruption and other serious crimes from contesting in elections be removed. The NC had met with severe criticism for demanding that there should not be a life-time ban on corruption convicts and that they should be allowed to contest in elections after they have served their jail terms.

The provision of barring convicts of corruption from contesting in elections, however, has been retained.

The new laws will come into force after President Bidya Devi Bhandari authenticates them.

The bills endorsed by the House have retained the threshold provisions, as per which parties must secure at least three percent votes and win one seat under the first-past-the-post system to have their representation in the federal parliament. Similarly, they must secure at least 1.5 percent votes and one seat to ensure their representation in the provincial assemblies.

Parties failing to meet the threshold would have their candidates both in the federal parliament and provincial assemblies as independents. Smaller parties had objected to threshold provisions, saying they favoured big parties. Nepal Majdoor Kisan Party

and some other small parties had written a note of dissent when SAC approved the bills on Monday.

While tabling the bills in the House, Minister for Home Affairs Janardan Sharma, however, said the provisions will help ensure stability.

There were also differences over the provision of "Right to No Vote". But going against a Supreme Court ruling, the provision was withdrawn following strong reservations mainly from the main opposition CPN-UML.

Both the bills have the provisions of 33 percent women representation in federal parliament and provincial assemblies. While submitting the closed list to the EC, the parties must ensure 13.8 percent participation of Dalits, 28.7 percent of indigenous nationalities, 31.2 percent of Khas Arya, 15.3 percent of Madhesis, 6.6 percent of Tharus and 4.4 of Muslims.

The parties must compensate the shortfall in the FPTP category through proportional representation.

The bills have been endorsed with the provision that gives the government the authority to call elections. The EC had demanded that the authority to announce elections should be given to it.

Key facts

-Convicts of corruption barred from contesting in elections

-1.5 percent and 3 percent threshold provisions for provincial assembly and federal parliament elections respectively. Parties must win at least one seat under FPTP system

-'Right to No Vote' provision removed

-Govt holds the authority to announce elections

-33 percent women representation provision retained

-Parties must ensure representation of Dalits (13.8 percent), indigenous nationalities (28.7 percent), Khas Arya (31.2 percent), Madhesis (15.3 percent), Tharus (6.6 percent) and Muslims (4.4 percent)

Voters unhappy that martyrs family were not given tickets

Mahottari: Local voters here are sad that the martyr family of Jaleswar municipality-8, Mahottari that lost two members in last year's Madhesh movement was not given tickets to stand in the upcoming local level elections.

Binaya Chaudhary of Jaleswar-8 had lost both his father and son in the movement. And he was tipped to be nominated as a candidate by the Rastriya Janata Party. However, the RJP decided otherwise at the last moment, to the disappointment of the local voters.

Chaudhary's 16-year-old son Rohan was returning home after taking private tuition classes in the district headquarters Jaleswar and his 70-year-old father Ganesh

Prasad was returning home after buying vegetables at the local market in Jaleswar when they were killed in police firing in September last year.

Voters had demanded ticket to Binaya and were confident that he would get a nomination for a major post in the Jaleswar municipality. RJP-Nepal has not made Binaya a candidate of any post. A local voter Manoj Kumar Thakur said that the RJP-Nepal has disrespected the Martyr family by not making Binaj as a candidate for any post.

Tarai Madhesh Loktantrik Party District Chairman of RJP-Nepal, Abhiram Sharma, however, said that Binaya would be nominated to a post after RJP-Nepal wins the election in the Municipality.

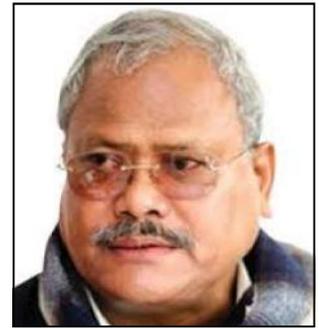
EC seeks clarification from DPM Gachhadar

Kathmandu: The Election Commission sought clarification from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Federal Affairs and Local Development Bijay Kumar Gachhadar, who is also chairman of Nepal Democratic Forum, and the NDF mayoral candidate for Birgunj Metropolitan Bimal Prasad Srivastav regarding violation of the poll code.

The EC sought clarification from both within 24 hours, said EC Spokesperson Navraj Dhakal. Dhakal said clarification was sought from Gachhadar as he was in the motorcycle rally taken out by his party candidate Srivastav. Election Commissioner Ila Sharma said the polls panel asked Srivastav to state why his candidacy should not be cancelled. Sharma said the EC had video footage that showed Srivastav bringing out the motorcycle rally. The EC received complaints that Srivastav had brought out a rally comprising almost 100 motor cycles and two dozen four-wheelers.

Similarly, the EC also sought clarification from Minister of State for Irrigation Amar Singh Pun for ferrying party cadres in his office vehicle in Jitpur-Simara sub-metropolis. Pun is associated with the Nepali Congress.

EC has the power to cancel candidacy for violating the poll code. Parties and candidates are prohibited from taking out motor cycle rallies and distributing election symbol-printed caps and T-shirts during poll campaigning.



Bijay Kumar Gachhadar

www.buddhaair.com

आकासका साथी

बुद्ध धरका हरेक विमान परिचरिकाको गीठो सम्बोधन र नुरकाको पध्दति उनीहरूले गरेको मद्दिनीको मेहेनत छ । हाम्रो अनुभवी विमान परिचरिकाहरू प्रायःकाम रद्दको धवरजापट्ट उत्पादन कम्पनीद्वारा विशेष तालिम प्राप्त गरेका छन् । यात्रु सेवालाई पुस्तकस्त राख्न हरेक ६ मद्दिनीको अन्तरालमा विशेष तालिमको पनि व्यवस्था रद्दको छ ।

सपाईको यात्रलाई सहज, सजिलो र आराम्कायी बनाउन हाम्रो विमान परिचरिकाहरू अर्कात् सपाईको यात्रको साथी सदैव तयार हुन्छन्, त्यसैले त हामी अरुभन्दा पृथक छौ ।

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