

## UML-Maoist election alliance: Cards or compulsion?

Kathmandu: The CPN-UML and the CPN (Maoist Centre) are mulling over forming an alliance for the upcoming federal and provincial elections. As the parties are busy selecting their candidates for the two crucial polls, leaders on both sides say informal discussions for the purpose are going on. The development follows reports that the Nepali Congress and the Maoist Centre are working to enter into alliance in more than 50 seats of the federal parliament. Both the parties are said to have realised the need for cooperation after the results of the third phase of local elections in Province 2. Voices are growing in the UML for unity with leftist parties, particularly the Maoist Centre, in order to secure a majority in the federal parliament.

The UML faction led by Madhav Kumar Nepal, and influential leader Bam Dev Gautam are pressing the party leadership to take initiatives to form an alliance with the Maoist Centre, which stands third in the total number of top local federal unit



- To form an eight-member party unification coordination committee with the objective to merge the three parties.
- The committee will have four members from the UML, three from the Maoist Centre and one from Naya Shakti Party-Nepal. The committee will prepare a detailed blueprint and plan .
- To form a document drafting committee to prepare the party's policy and statute. Complete the unification process after holding the parliamentary and provincial elections.
- To hold discussions on the party issues and not to speak derogative statements against each other in public
- UML and Maoist Centre to forge an electoral alliance to share seats in Federal Parliament and Provincial Assemblies in a 60:40 ratio.
- To prepare a joint manifesto for the upcoming elections and form a manifesto drafting committee for the upcoming Parliamentary elections.
- To call on other political forces to forge electoral alliance.

posts won. The recently concluded Central Committee meeting of the UML blamed the party's poor showing in the local level elections in Province 2 for its "lack of interest" for

alliance with like-minded forces. Some UML leaders have regretted the end to the UML-Maoist alliance that was forged when the party was in power. "We cannot do anything if

the NC and the Maoists continue their alliance. If the Maoists agree, we're ready for alliance [with them]," Nepal said at a programme on Tuesday. Many in the UML are calling for efforts

to breach the NC-UML unity that has sustained for a year already. Among the Maoists as well, there are strong voices for unity with leftist forces. In Province 2, the Maoists had expected an alliance with the Congress as in the first and second phases of the local level elections. However, the NC largely refused to share local government seats with the Maoists in the eight Tarai districts. After this episode, calls grew louder in the Maoist party for unity with the UML if the NC was not serious about it. Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Tuesday said his party was in talks for possible alliance with both the NC and the UML. The two largest parties believe that the Maoists will emerge as the third largest force after provincial elections, which means the former rebel force will have a decisive role in government formation at the centre as well as in the provinces. Some in the UML fear there might be an understanding between the NC and the Maoists to continue with their alliance

Continue in page 5 ..

## Nepal proposes removing illegal structures on no-man's land

Kathmandu: Nepal has proposed removing illegal structures built on no-man's land along the Nepal-India border. During the fifth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) meeting that concluded in Kathmandu, Nepali side made the proposal to maintain international standards and ensure scientific management of the border between the two countries.

"No man's land has been encroached from Indian side. Nepali side has also found to have encroached the 'no-man's



land' in some places," said a member of the EPG from Nepal side Dr Rajan Bhattarai. He said that the Nepali side has proposed removing illegal structures along the border in line with the existing international standards. While Nepal-India share border disputes in different places, the illegal structures built along the no-man's land have also caused dispute between the two countries. The head of the EPG from Nepal, Bhekh Bahadur

Continue in page 4 ..



# Editorial

## Maoist Centre is trying to sail on two boats

The three political parties—the CPN-UML, CPN-Maoist Centre and Naya Shakti Party-Nepal — announced that they would be forging an electoral alliance for the upcoming federal and provincial elections and ultimately opt for party unification after the elections.

While forging an electoral alliance and/or coming together of 'like-minded' political forces may be a welcome development, the turn of events is absolutely perplexing. The CPN-Maoist Centre has decided to forge the electoral alliance with the main opposition UML while still being a coalition partner in the government with the Nepali Congress.

This is not at all a political culture as the Maoist Centre is trying to sail on two boats. Because the CPN-Maoist Centre has decided to change the bedfellows it should show the minimum political culture and quit the government.

The coalition government was supposed to hold the provincial and parliamentary elections scheduled for November 26 and December 7.

The sudden shift of Maoist Centre's political allegiance with the main opposition has put Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba in a fix, for without the support of the CPN-MC the NC-led government would be in a minority, and it would not be right for Deuba to hold on to power.

CPN-Maoist Centre Chairman Puspha Kamal Dahal is, however, reported to have assured Deuba that he would continue supporting him till the elections that would determine the country's future. What we are seeing now is polarization among the major political forces. The uniting of the three parties into a single party was being mooted since long.

The democratic forces are also attempting to forge an alliance. This political development is taking place with the contending parties to garner majority in the twin elections. As no single party has won even a single majority in the past two Constituent Assemblies the major political parties had to make coalitions to run the governments that lasted only for a few months. Even as the three leftist parties have reached an agreement for electoral alliance and unification later on, they have also sought support of other communists and leftist parties so that they can form a majority government.

Strange as it may seem the two antagonistic forces are heading towards the direction to be unified as a single party.

The Nepali Congress for its part is also seeking to forge a broader democratic alliance consisting of Rastriya Janata Party Nepal, Federal Socialist Forum led by Upendra Yadav, Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal and Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Democratic.

The unification efforts of political parties should also be taken positively.

Now the main question is about the legitimacy of the Deuba-led government. To repeat, the Maoist Centre has made an electoral alliance with the main opposition and, together with UML and Naya Shakti, has unveiled a rough sketch leading to the unification after the provincial and parliamentary elections.

Even if the Maoist Centre has not yet 'officially informed' the prime minister of its decision, politically, the Deuba government lacks the majority in parliament to stay on in power. The Prime Minister is expected to accept the fact that his government is already in the minority.

A government that is in the minority is either required to prove the majority or is plainly expected to step down in keeping up with the parliamentary norms and political culture.

## Daunting Tasks Ahead For Left Alliance

Raj Kumar KC

In the aftermath of Bijaya Dashami, the Nepalese political realm witnessed a remarkable change with the announcement of the alliance between three leftist forces - the CPN-UML, CPN - Maoist Centre and Naya Shakti Party Nepal. The announcement came as a big surprise in the political spheres as to whether the collaboration would be sustainable, leading to the political stability and economic development.

As a matter of fact, this collaboration, which is said to culminate in unification, has not only radiated a hope for political stability, but also sent strong message for unity to the democratic forces in building a stable nation. There is no need to vent antagonism. Nobody needs to make any spiteful remarks over the alliance. The collaboration should be welcomed without any prejudice because the Nepalese people have been longing for political stability and unity among the left forces for long.

**Bitter reality**

It is a bitter reality that the left parties have suffered 'breakup' immediately after establishment in 1950. Still three are three dozen fringe left parties in existence. This historic alliance has certainly inspired all political forces to stand united for common cause rather than squabble over partisan and personal interests. It seems that the leaders of major political forces particularly the UML and the Maoist Centre agreed to forge an alliance to advance the country's left movement no matter what are the interests behind the move. Obviously, the alliance occurred after calculating every permutation and combination from each side. The credit for the alliance should go to the leaders of the UML the biggest left force in the country (based on the results of local elections and organisational structure) and the Maoist Centre which, despite their differences in major political agenda, including the UML's 'people's multi-party democracy' and the Centre's Maoism.

However, the would-be unity is not so easy. It entails a tough task. Leaders of UML and Maoist Centre are equally responsible to make the unification a success. If not, there is a fear that the entire left movement will have to pay a huge price, leading to unmanageable splits in the country's politics. Hence, a proper political management is a must to ensure a sustainability of the alliance.

Doubts have been raised from different quarters about the success of the left alliance. It has been said that the UML initiated the unification process after its poor show in the local level election in Province No 2. The UML as the largest party had never expected such a disappointing result in the plains. This has been a big blow to the UML.

Besides, the Maoist Centre has been experiencing a difficult time within the party and at the same time it has realised that the general people are not happy with it. It seems that instead of going to the public, it has been in defensive position in recent years. Why does a political party that emerged from a decade long 'people

war' prefer to stick to the government in every coalition? This obviously reveals that the Centre is losing confidence in the people.

The Maoists who launched their 'people's war' which cost the lives of over 15,000 people had vowed to bring a positive change along with the economic empowerment to the downtrodden and poor. How can the Maoist leaders fulfil their promises? The election results show that they are losing people's faith every day. Moreover, the Baburam Bhattarai-led Naya Shakti in the alliance has no meaning at all because it has hardly any presence in the Nepalese political sphere. What political message does the Naya Shakti give to the Nepalese people? It is obvious that inclusion of the fringe groups like the Naya Shakti will cost more to the entire alliance if it is to last longer.

Devising the equation for an alliance is not an easy process. Leaders of the UML and Maoist Centre while forging alliance should feel more accountable to make the broader left alliance in the interest of general people. Otherwise, the much-touted left alliance will make them more frustrated.

The alliance should make its goals and intention clear before the people. If the collaboration is just for winning more seats in the upcoming elections and forming government one after another, this will be disastrous for the country because none of them have done anything to bring a noticeable economic change in the country. Leaders should come with certain agenda that alliance would deliver certain level of economic benefits to the poor and needy groups.

Forging left alliance is a good start to ensure political stability in the country. Everybody is happy about the announcement of ultimate merger of the parties. If the unification process is intended for the economic prosperity, development and democracy, it should be welcomed. The alliance formation has led to new political polarisation which largely contributes to the healthy democratic exercise like that in the developed countries. This alliance, if it is not guided by any vested interests will be a catalytic factor in bringing all political parties together for the common national interests. Challenges

The success of left alliance largely depends on the attitude of the leaders and their cadres. Are all leaders truly and equally committed to the basic tenets of the alliance? Let's hope everybody will be equally serious about broader left alliance. However, the challenges are indomitable. Management of party resources at different levels of organisation is not an easy task. Besides, the announcement of the left alliance has made the Nepali Congress, the largest party in the country, more serious about formation of similar alliance of the democratic forces.

Every party go for soul-searching and realise its strength and weaknesses to let the merger become more productive and people-oriented. If it has taken place just for winning elections, it will have no real significance. Hence, the architects of the left alliance need to demonstrate true commitment and honesty to make it a grand success.

## No Madheshi leaders honest for Madhesh issues

**Madheshi leaders have also made an agreement with CPN Maoist Center and UML, not only with Congress. It seems that no Madheshi leaders honest for Madhesh issues. Madheshi issues have fallen at risk due to these Madheshi leaders. Let's see the history of the past 20 years.**

**Why have you left the Federal Socialist Forum Nepal where you spend many years?**

In today, the situation in the country is holding any kind of political ideology. In our country there is a democratic and communist pole and as I am for democratic force so I am dedicate for that

**Do people believe in the election if you contest from Congress?**

People trust the leader. So far nothing has done wrong. Honesty in politics is the biggest wealth. I have earned that wealth so the people trust me. They also trusted in past and in coming days too.

**Looking the current political situation, most communist parties seem to be united and how can the politics of would take course?**

Due to poverty in Nepal, people are often given priority to communist ideology. But communist ideology could not work in any country. In such situations, communist is only confusing the people and spreading illusions.

**UML, CPN Maoist Center and New Force have united and made strong left force. What is your opinion in it?**

When the country becomes in indecision, leaders who consider themselves weak, they go and join together. Let's see how relevant the left alliance. The communist ideology is only good when speaking to the public but in practice; it does not have significant as it always rule on the people. By birth, Nepalese people are a community of democratic ideology.

**Why did you have entered Nepali Congress?**

The Nepali Congress is a democratic party. The Nepali Congress has history. I have a family relation with Congress. The main reasons why I selected Congress are my family background. Whether the country has any ideas or whether communist or ultra communist, it should be strengthened by the party who has been taking a democratic ideology to consolidate that which is why I have chosen Nepali Congress.

**Now the election of provincial assemblies and Representative Assembly has come near, so you entered the Congress in eve of the election. Now, how people believe you and Congress?**

There have been many bases for the people to believe. People know that the Congress has started to amend the constitution. Congress is only a party that focuses on everything either the voice of Madhes, indigenous nationalities or any communities, Congress listens everyone. Due to this reason, finally I have chosen Nepali Congress. Also the public is confident for Congress.

**You are the leader of politics by taking Madhesh issue. You served in Forum Nepal and now joined the Congress.**

**While understanding the two parties, what is the major guilty of not having an implementation of agreements with Madhesh?** Madheshi leaders have also made an agreement with CPN Maoist Center and UML, not only with Congress. It seems that no Madheshi leaders honest for Madhesh issues. Madheshi issues have fallen at risk due to these Madheshi leaders. Let's see the history of the past 20 years. The leader

who did politics for Madhesh 20 years ago have fine financial situation currently. It is now necessary to analyze the status of Madheshi leaders.

**When the Congress, UML and CPN Maoist issued the constitution, you had opposed when you was in Forum Nepal. Now you are in the Congress, and how you have to accept the constitution that you have opposed in the past?**

I have not accepted the constitution even when I came to the Congress. I also demanded the referendum to see the acceptance of this constitution. The people to decide either it will be



**Abhishek Pratap Shah  
Leader, Nepali  
Congress**

forwarded or to make another constitution. I always say that even Madheshi, indigenous nationalities have not accepted this constitution. Thus, to make this constitution all-acceptable, it should also be initiated from within the party and outside the party.

**What were your pre-conditions before entering the Congress?**

I have not put forth any condition. I have been honestly in the party.

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## SAARC Development Fund meeting concludes



Kathmandu: SAARC member states (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) met in Thimphu, Bhutan from October 4 to 6 for the Counterpart Agencies Meeting of SAARC Development Fund.

The meeting reviewed the status of ongoing SDF-funded Social Window projects in the SAARC member states, challenges faced by SDF in implementation of projects in the member states, importance and role of the counterpart agencies of SDF and other important matters pertaining to SDF, read a press release issued by the Thimphu-base SDF.

Counterpart Agencies are the focal points nominated by the finance ministries in order to coordinate and facilitate on

behalf of SDF in the respective member states. During the meeting Sunil Motiwal, CEO of SDF said, "Counterpart Agencies have a very vital role in effective implementation of projects in the SAARC member states as they act as coordinator/facilitator on behalf of SDF as and when requested by SDF. Their role as Counterpart Agencies will certainly benefit SDF even more in times to come. SDF along with its counterpart agencies is fully committed to bring synergies in the member states through project funding."

SDF is the umbrella financial institution for projects and programmes implemented in the SAARC member states. Its focus is to strengthen regional integration in the SAARC region through project funding and collaboration.

## Left electoral alliance leaves NC in tight spot

Kathmandu: Leaders of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) appeared sharply divided during the party's executive committee meeting on Thursday over the party's next move in the wake of rapid political developments which have brought communist forces together.

An announcement of a left electoral alliance between the CPN-UML, the CPN (Maoist Centre) and Naya Shakti Nepal on Tuesday has left the ruling party scrambling. Some NC leaders during meeting were of the view that the Maoist Centre "has lost the moral and political ground to stay in the government" and that Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba should sack the Maoist ministers and induct new ministers into his Cabinet from other parties. Others, however, said there was no need to change the ministers "as the Maoist Centre has expressed its commitment to continue its support" to the government.

Youth leaders like Gagan Thapa and Min Bishwokarma among others came up with strong views that the Maoist Centre should leave the government on moral ground. The NC's Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting called for Friday is set to discuss the agenda. PM Deuba is

learnt to have been in consultation with party leaders and legal experts about the possible crisis that his government could face in the wake of what the NC has described as an unexpected and unusual development. Some NC leaders even fear that the UML and the Maoist Centre could move a no-confidence motion in a bid to form their government ahead of elections.

"The party's executive committee meeting witnessed two schools of thought on the Cabinet reshuffle. The CWC will discuss the issue on Friday," said NC leader Bimalendra Nidhi. Another leader, Prakash Sharan Mahat, however, said there are no immediate plans to reshuffle the Cabinet. "The party has not yet held discussion on sacking the ministers from the Maoist Centre," he said.

But the party did dwell on the next move in the event of Maoist Centre's decision to withdraw support to the government, according to some leaders. NC leaders, however, seem confident that the Deuba government will not fall into minority even if the Maoist Centre decides to withdraw support.

## Constitution now available in Tharu language

**Gulariya:** The Nepal's constitution has been published in the Tharu language, spoken in western Nepal. Yek Raj Chaudhary has translated the country's main law into the Tharu language. The translation was done following the permission from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Federal Affairs.

*Prachin Sirjansheel Adibasi Society* in Bardiya took initiation to avail the constitution in the language of the Tharu community.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers in December decided to publish the constitution in the Tharu language.

## EC harbors poll deferral fears

Kathmandu: The Election Commission (EC) has expressed concerns that the ongoing processes of forming new electoral alliances by the parties could affect the planned federal and provincial elections.



The EC is particularly concerned about the possible attempt to reshuffle the Cabinet or the possibility of a no-confidence motion against the government, saying such moves could affect the polls which have been scheduled for November 26 and December 7. Issuing a press release on Friday, the EC asked the government, parties and the concerned stakeholders not to indulge in activities that could affect the elections.

"We are concerned by the possibility of any attempts to postpone the polls," said Election Commissioner Sudhir Shah. "We have reached an understanding that the EC will not accept any proposal from the government intending to postpone the polls," said Shah.

### **Nepal proposes removing illegal...**

Thapa said that they have proposed making the border further secure. Thapa said that Nepal-India border needs to be regulated, not closed, to stop illegal activities along the bordering areas. "We need to understand the definition of open border of the past in the changed context. Both sides have stepped back from the traditional concept of 'openness,'" he said while addressing a press meeting organized on Sunday.

The Nepali side had put forth all issues of contention including 1950 peace and friendship treaty with the Indian side during the two-day EPG meeting held in Kathmandu. Since they have not yet reached to any conclusion yet, it is not appropriate to bring the issue to public, according to EPG members from Nepal. Thapa said they have yet to reach agreement on whether to replace or amend the 1950 treaty with India or not. "We are all convinced that this will remain in the status quo. We would not wait for 70 years if this was to be scrapped altogether. This is the reason why we have chosen the path for the improvement," he further said.

## UML-Maoist election alliance: ...

for the elections and also in the governing coalitions that follow. The results of the local level election indicate that the NC, UML and the Maoists will emerge as the first, second and third parties, respectively. If this happens, the Maoist Centre will be the kingmaker and thus a desirable ally for both the large parties.

### Game-changing potential

When the left-wing parties, aided by the powerful show of the then CPN Maoist, now the CPN (Maoist Center), a new entrant in the mainstream politics, clinched near two-thirds majority in the

the table of CPN-UML and Maoist Center without much progress. Though cross party leaders from both UML and Maoist Center never really gave up on their efforts, they had not found a strong reason for left unity. The results of the local elections came as that reason. The local polls had once again shifted the balance of power to the left. Of the 753 local units in the country, UML and Maoist Center had respectively own 294 and 105 seats.

UML and Maoist Center leaders were quick

do not look as smooth for the left alliance as it may appear. Cross party leaders said the announcement of unification is an important step forward but it is still too early to say whether it will materialize. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the alliance will produce expected results.

"Much will depend on how well we fare in the upcoming elections and the power sharing deal that follows," said Mani Thapa, a Maoist Center leader. UML leader Yogesh Bhattarai said that the alliance faces some obvious challenges but insisted that the challenges are worth it.

"We have overcome the biggest challenge by forging the alliance. If everything goes well, it will be far easier to overcome the remaining challenges," said Bhattarai.

### Role of external actor

Although there are rumors making the rounds that external actors, particularly northern neighbor, had a role in facilitating the forging of leftist alliance, chairs of both UML and Maoist Center brushed aside such suggestions in implicit manner. Speaking at a function organized to announce the unification agreement, the two leaders even assured that the alliance was not aimed against any of the neighbors, apparently to allay the concerns of New Delhi.

Maoist Center Chairman Dahal said their overture was not aimed at any of the neighbors. "This alliance is in favor of Nepal as a country and the Nepali people. This is in favor of Nepal's sovereignty," he said, while adding that their alliance is aimed at bringing social justice and unleash economic prosperity in the country. Dahal also clarified that their alliance is not aimed against the ruling Nepali Congress.

Similarly, UML Chair Oli said that their alliance was not directed against anyone, apparently hinting at possible discomfort of New Delhi. "This is in

favor of Nepal. This is the aspiration of the Nepali people. This is the desire of the Nepali people," he said, while adding that the alliance between the UML and Maoist Center would drive the country toward political stability and economic prosperity.

Oli said that they want to maintain balanced and friendly relations with neighboring countries based on mutual equality and in the capacity of sovereign countries.

"We will maintain foreign relations based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, non-aligned movement, and five principles of peaceful co-existence," he said.

### What will happen to the government?

Although UML Chairman Oli said during the function that their priority for now is not the government, there are discussions within the UML and Maoist Center to form a new government.

As the current parliament expires on October 21, a section of UML and Maoist Center leaders are concerned about the likelihood of Prime Minister Deuba's possible move to defer the elections scheduled for November 26 and December 7.

UML and Maoist Center leaders said serious discussions are underway within both the UML and Maoist Center.

"We want to ensure elections at any cost in the stipulated date. There are concerns that change in the government could jeopardize the prospect of holding the polls within the stipulated dates," a leader familiar about the development told Republica.

Both provincial and federal elections must be held before the constitutional deadlines of January 21, 2018 to bring the new constitution into implementation. Some leaders of UML and Maoist Center have maintained that the NC may not go to that extent to derail the ongoing peace process by deferring the polls.



first Constituent Assembly (CA) elections in 2008, it came as a dream come true for Nepal's left support base and longtime advocates of left unity.

The reasons were obvious. Despite their long existence in Nepali politics, leftwing forces in Nepal were seldom in a position to lead the government. No communist leader except UML's Manmohan Adhikari have had the chance to lead the government.

The success of the first CA changed everything. It did not only put the left-wing forces in a comfortable position to lead the government but also gave a strong reason to the longtime advocates of left unity to pursue their cause.

The advocates of left unity had inched much closer in realizing their dream of forming an indomitable left alliance by mediating a power sharing deal between the CPN (Maoist Center) and UML following the first CA.

But it did not last longer due to numerous reasons, mainly due to the tussle between the then Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's government and Nepal Army, Dahal's ego and personal rivalry with other communist leaders both inside and outside his party.

Efforts to unite left faced a major roadblock with the emergence of Nepali Congress as the largest party in the second CA followed by a vertical split in the CPN Maoist.

The grand left alliance comprising UML, CPN (Maoist Center) and Naya Shakti Nepal announced earlier this week should be seen as the continuation of the post 2008 CA elections efforts to bring the left parties together.

### Local poll results change everything

The issue of unifying left forces kept coming on

to see that a unified left would put them in a comfortable position to get majority in the upcoming provincial and parliamentary elections scheduled for November 26 and December 7.

In addition to that, both UML and Maoist Center saw greater benefits to secure their short-term and long-term interest. For UML, this came as an opportune moment to break the alliance between NC and Maoist Center. If the alliance succeeds in repeating the success of the local polls in the upcoming elections, it would ensure a stable government for the next five years.

The Maoist Center, on the other hand, saw it as an opportunity for a safe landing. Though the party had somehow managed to win in over 100 units in the local polls, leaders of Maoist Center were increasingly concerned with the party's shrinking space.

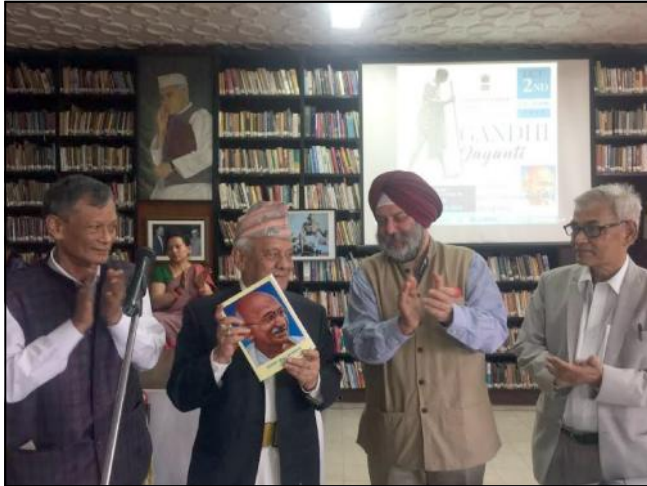
With 40 percent stake in the unified party, Maoist Center Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal will continue to remain a kingmaker in Nepali politics.

The left alliance, if it achieves the expected success in the upcoming polls, could significantly alter the balance of power in Kathmandu. If the result of the local poll is anything to go by, the alliance will dominate power at least for five years and can consolidate further power by bringing fringe communist parties on board.

This could be instrumental in bringing about a much-needed opportunity to usher Nepal into an era of political stability and economic prosperity.

Despite its game-changing potential, things

## Nepali edition of Gandhi's autobiography launched



Kathmandu: Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated amid a function at the Nepal-Bharat Library in the Capita. Former Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand launched the Nepali edition of the Gandhi's autobiography "The Story of My Experiments With Truth" translated by Shekhar Giri and published by Shivalik Prakashan.

The release programme, organised by the Embassy of India and BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation, was attended by more than 150 Nepali writers, artists,

intellectuals and media persons.

In his address at the programme, former PM Chand spoke about the role of Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle of India and the contributions of Gandhi and called him an icon of world peace, the embassy said in a statement.

Lawmaker and renowned Gandhian Pradeep Giri and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri jointly released the book along with Chand. Speaking at the programme, Giri stressed on how the principle of 'ahimsa'

had the power to bring stability in administration and society of a country.

Ambassador Puri spoke about the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings also to modern day world. Ambassador Puri commended Vice President of Nepal-India Friendship Association Shekhar Giri for his "immense labour" for the translation of the iconic autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi, the statement read.

On the occasion, an exhibition of some rare photographs from

the life of Mahatma Gandhi was held and a documentary on life of Gandhi. The members of Kalaguthi and students of famous Gandhian of Nepal late Tulasi Mehar, demonstrated process of producing fabrics from 'Charkha'.

The books related to Gandhiji were also showcased. Dedicated follower of Gandhiji Uma Jee sang the famous hymn of Gandhiji titled 'Baishanab Jan to tene kahiye jo peer parai jane re'.



## Left electoral alliance leaves NC in tight spot

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Friday is set to discuss the agenda. PM Deuba is learnt to have been in consultation with party leaders and legal experts about the possible crisis that his government could face in the wake of what the NC has described as an unexpected and unusual development. Some NC leaders even fear that the UML and the Maoist Centre could

move a no-confidence motion in a bid to form their government ahead of elections.

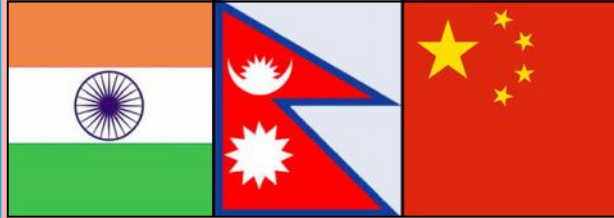
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"The party has not yet held discussion on sacking the ministers from the Maoist Centre," he said. But the party did dwell on the next move in the event of Maoist Centre's decision to withdraw support to the government, according to some leaders. NC leaders, however, seem confident that the Deuba government will not fall into minority even if the Maoist Centre decides to withdraw support.

## Envoys ask government to strengthen foreign ministry, missions

Kathmandu: Nepal's ambassadors to India, China and the United States have suggested strengthening the Foreign Ministry as well as the Nepali missions abroad to tap the "vast opportunities" for Nepal in the three countries. During a meeting of the Labour and International Relations Committee of Parliament, where they were invited to suggest ways to strengthen Nepal's diplomacy in New Delhi, Beijing and Washington

Ambassador to China Leela Mani Paudyal said Nepal has failed to seize the opportunities from China particularly those offered by the Belt and Road Initiative even as several neighbours like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan have benefited greatly from their relations with Beijing. Outlining potential areas of cooperation under the BRI and the prospects of tourism, he



DC, the envoys pointed out several shortcomings in handling foreign affairs from Kathmandu. They jointly told the meeting, which the House panel claimed to be the first of its kind, that Nepal should adopt pro-active diplomacy, strengthen the capability of its missions, hire more diplomats and support staff, and provide the missions with strong backing from Kathmandu. Ambassador to India Deep Kumar Upadhyay said that he had found numerous illusions about Nepal in the neighbouring country which could be corrected through several means yet to be employed. By pursuing "quiet diplomacy", Nepal could allay such misconceptions among Indian citizens and officials, he said. For this, frequent high-level visits are necessary, he stressed. "If we pursue our agenda rightly, it is not impossible even to review the Koshi, Gandak and Mahakali treaties," Upadhyay said.

called for Nepal's speedy participation in the Chinese connectivity project. Paudyal stressed the need for more investment in tourism infrastructure in order to attract Chinese tourists. "We need an aggressive policy of promoting our goods in China which can be a vast market for Nepali goods at a time when China has given zero tariff access to 7,000 Nepali products," he said. Nepal's Ambassador to the United States Arjun Karki said there had been no improvements in 30 years in the way the Nepali Embassy in Washington functions. "Our mechanisms in Washington and Kathmandu are not capable of handling the new opportunities emerging in the US," he said. "Our foreign policy is running on an ad hoc basis. This needs to change immediately."

## Deuba mulls sacking Maoist ministers

Kathmandu: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is mulling over reshuffling his cabinet after the coalition partner CPN (Maoist Center) forged an electoral alliance with the main opposition party, CPN-UML.

Senior Nepali Congress (NC) leaders close to Prime Minister Deuba said the prime minister is mulling over sacking the Maoist Center ministers once he is able to secure comfortable majority votes in parliament. NC leaders have been maintaining that Maoist ministers should either resign voluntarily on moral grounds or Deuba should sack them as their party has already decided to join the leftist alliance.

Amid pressure from within the party, Deuba had held one-on-one with the leaders of various parties that have been part of the 'democratic' alliance and even consulted legal experts to relieve the Maoist ministers of their responsibilities. At least 297 votes are required to secure majority in parliament. While the UML and Maoist Center alliance so far has 261 votes in its fold, NC-led alliance will have 302 votes if Kamal Thapa-led Rastriya Prajatantra Party and Uppendra Yadav-led Federal Socialist Forum Nepal formally decided to be part of the alliance.

RPP chairperson Thapa and FSN chairperson Yadav have maintained their silence about the issue of reshuffling the government, although they have agreed to join the NC-led alliance. Sources said the NC-led alliance is also trying to woo other fringe parties in parliament to secure comfortable majority votes in its fold. Sources said internal preparations are being made to share ministries to the parties joining the alliance in the fresh cabinet reshuffle.

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

## Envoy Upadhyay quits to contest polls



Deep Kumar Upadhyay

Kathmandu : Nepal's Ambassador to India Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned from his post to contest the upcoming federal parliamentary elections from Kapilvastu.

Upadhyay confirmed that he submitted his resignation to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Krishna Bahadur Mahara. He would continue as the Nepali ambassador to India until his resignation is approved. He has cited some "social reasons" for

quitting the job even as he expressed his desire earlier to make a comeback in politics. Upadhyay refused to comment on his plans saying that his resignation was yet to be approved by the Cabinet.

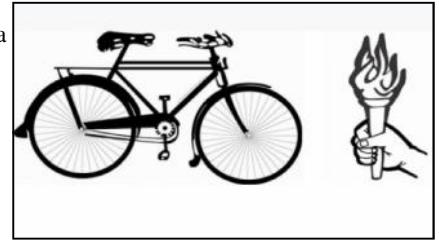
Before flying to Kathmandu, the envoy met External Affairs Minister of India Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi to inform her about his possible resignation. A former minister, Upadhyay has served twice as Nepal's ambassador to New Delhi. Appointed from the Nepali Congress quota by the Sushil Koirala-led government in April 2015, Upadhyay was recalled by the government headed by CPN-UML Chairman KP Sharma Oli in May, 2016 on the charge of working against the regime. He was reinstated by the subsequent government led by CPN (Maoist Centre) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal in September, 2016.

"Once the Cabinet approves my resignation, I will visit New Delhi for a farewell call," he said.

## RJP, FSF-N agree on forging electoral alliance

Kathmandu : The Rastriya Janata Party (RJP)-Nepal and Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal have agreed on forging an electoral alliance for the upcoming federal and provincial elections.

The RJP presidium coordinator Mahantha Thakur and Chairman of the Forum Upendra Yadav issued a joint press release for forging an electoral alliance for the upcoming elections. The press statement also stated that the parties have also agreed on forging an electoral alliance with other parties for the upcoming elections. RJP leader Keshav Jha said that both the parties have agreed to ally for the upcoming elections. "An agreement has been reached with both parties for forging alliance for the upcoming



federal and provincial elections," Jha said, "However, both the parties will use separate election symbol."

Earlier, these two Madhes-centered parties were in the preparation of joining a broader democratic alliance to be formed under the Nepali Congress leadership. The representatives of both the parties were present during the meeting held among six parties to form a taskforce for the formation of the democratic alliance.

## NC joins forces with five parties for poll alliance

Kathmandu: A day after the two major leftist forces CPN-UML and CPN (Maoist Centre), along with the Baburam Bhattarai-led Naya Shakti Party-Nepal, announced a broader electoral alliance, the ruling party Nepali Congress (NC) decided to form an electoral alliance of 'democratic forces' for the upcoming provincial and federal parliamentary elections.

The NC started reaching out to the Rastriya Janta Party-Nepal (RJP-N), the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum-Loktantrik, the Kamal Thapa-led Rastriya Prajatantra Party and the Pashupati Shumsher Rana-led Rastriya Prajatantra Party (Prajatantrik) and the Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum-Nepal led by Upendra Yadav.

Before long, a meeting of the six parties convened by NC President and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba at Baluwatar decided to form a seven-member taskforce to finalise details for forming a broader democratic alliance.

The taskforce have two members from the NC, one member each from the five parties. "The parties

have reached a consensus on forming an electoral alliance among the democratic and federal forces," Nepali Congress leader Bimendra Nidhi said.

During the meeting, the five parties requested the NC to take a lead in forming such an alliance. The parties also assured their 'unflinching' support to the government. Deuba said that the left alliance has posed a threat to the federal and provincial elections but the government is committed to hold the elections on November 26 and December 7 as scheduled.

In the meeting, NC President and PM Deuba tabled a proposal on the formation of a boarder democratic alliance, with other members of the party's top echelon quickly lending their voice.

The party maintains that the left alliance is not a good indication for democracy. "A broader democratic alliance is the need of the hour to strengthen the democratic forces in the country," said NC Central Working Committee member Arjun Narasingh KC.

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### आकासका साथी

बुद्ध एयरलाइन्सले गरेको मद्दतको मेहेलत छ । हाम्रो अनुभवी विमान परिचालकहरू प्रत्येकको दुस्रोमा रहेको एयरक्राफ्ट उत्पादक कम्पनीद्वारा विशेष तालिम प्राप्त गरेका छन् । यात्रु सेवालाई पुस्तकुरत राख्न हरेक ६ मद्दतको अन्तरालमा विशेष तालिमको पनि व्यवस्था रहेको छ ।

तापूर्वको यात्रुलाई सहज, सजिलो र आरामदायी बनाउन हाम्रो विमान परिचालकहरू अर्कातिर तापूर्वको यात्राको साथी सदैव तयार हुन्छन्, त्यसैले त हामी अत्यन्तै प्रसन्न छौ ।

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