

All eyes on Dhanusha-3 as district heavy-weights vie in polls

Janakpurdharm : As the election fever has already gripped the country, the Dhanusha constituency no. 3 has grabbed the wider public attention with the registration of candidacies by two 'powerful' leaders for the election to the House of Representatives to be held in the district on December 7 as other 44 districts.

Nepali Congress leader Bimlendra Nidhi and Rastriya Janata Party's Rajendra Mahato, who are taken as influential leaders within their respective party, are in the election race.

NC leader Nidhi a popular face in the district and familiar figure in the national politics as well, has already served at different ministries and as the Deputy Prime Minister, while the presence of Mahato, cannot be underrated in this Terai district. "Who will win the election, either Nidhi or Mahato," the Dhanusha



Bimlendra Nidhi



Rajendra Mahato

people are busy in giving their prediction. Both leaders have intensified the election publicity campaign in a bid to win people's confidence. They keep themselves busy from dawn to dusk in the publicity campaign as the seemed sure that they would be in a tight race in the election. Vote from the Muslim community in the constituency are likely to count more in the determination of fate of election candidates and the two are seemed making utmost efforts to win their hearts as they do not want to lose the opportunity to represent the constituency in the centre. Nidhi who had already enjoyed his twice victory from the Dhanusha-3 in the previous elections had won once from the Dhanusha-4 as well.

Mahato had moved to the district leaving his hometown Sarlahi. However, Ram Singh Yadav, the election candidate from the leftist alliance is a new face for the people of Dhanusha constituency no.3.

Dhanusha is the ancestral district of Nidhi. Son of popular Nepali Congress leader Mahendra Narayan Nidhi, Bimlendra Nidhi has already won two elections from Dhanusha. He won Nepal Legislative election 1994, and Constitution Assembly election 2013. Though was defeated by Krishna Pratap Malla in 1999 Legislative election, his ancestral legacy and previous wins are strong bases for Nidhi's victory in the upcoming polls. But, Mahato is a new and strong challenger for Nidhi. Mahato is also hopeful of getting support from left alliance since NC is

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President Bhandari honors former President Yadav with Jana Aandolan Swarna Padaka



Kathmandu: President Bidya Devi Bhandari has decorated for former President Dr Ram Baran Yadav with the 'Jana Aandolan Swarna Padaka 2074' and honoured him on the occasion of the 103rd birth anniversary of the late Ganesh Man Singh, the commander of the Jana Aandolan or People's Movement.

Dr Yadav, the first President of Nepal, was honored and decorated by the Ganesh Man Singh and the People's Movement Martyrs Peace Foundation amidst a function in Kathmandu.

The former President has been honored in recognition of the contributions he made in various stages of the

peace process, for playing the role of a campaigner fostering unity between the Himal, pahad and Tarai and also for shouldering the historic role of issuing the constitution of the federal republic of Nepal, according to the Foundation.

Addressing the function, President Bhandari appealed to all the people to take part in the impending House of Representatives and State Assembly elections as a political celebration, the same way they enthusiastically participated in the recently-concluded local level elections.

Former President Yadav stressed on the need of taking the country forward towards the path of economic prosperity through the full implementation of the federal democratic constitution of Nepal which is accepted by all.

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Editorial

Political Chameleons

Come elections, the political chameleons make headlines. They create a sensation by deserting their own parties and joining the rival ones. Their party bosses are shocked at the volte-face of their functionaries. Such scenes offer cheap entertainment to the commoners during the heated moments of poll.

Political observers are at sixes and sevens owing to their mercurial character and action. It becomes hard to examine the conduct of such chameleons through the prism of political ideology. These people have remained committed to their previous parties for years. They publicly profess to follow the principles and policies of the parties they were associated with. But, they kicked their parties in moments when their electoral ambition is shattered. Many of them had already enjoyed the post of ministers and lawmakers provided by their former parties.

Every party is infested with the apostates. Look at some of the guys, who gave a jolt to their parties after learning that they were not going to be awarded the election tickets. Irony is that new parties instantly roll out red carpet for them with the lucrative offer.

UML former lawmaker Mohan Singh Rathaur was immediately granted an election ticket by the Nepali Congress (NC) after he quit his party. He used to harbour strong anti-NC posture but he joined it which does not share a modicum of his ideology. Former Deputy Speaker Ganga Narayan Yadav joined the UML one day after the Legislature-Parliament was dissolved. The then Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal elected him to the post of Deputy Speaker but he ditched it after the UML decided to include him in the list of PR candidates.

MJF-Loktantrik chair Bijaya Kumar Gachchhadar returned to his old party, NC, after sensing that his party is unlikely to secure minimum votes to be qualified as the national one. So was the case with its co-chair Rameshwor Raya Yadav, who joined the Maoist Centre to seal his political fate.

Billionaire Binod Chaudhary has now become a PR candidate from the NC. He was a UML lawmaker under the PR category in the first CA. Industrialist Motilal Dugad has made to the PR list of UML. Singer Komal Oli had quit RPP and joined the UML with a hope of getting the ticket in the election. But she was denied the ticket to her big chagrin. She revolted against her new party and filed her candidacy as an independent. Finally, she withdrew her candidacy at the request of UML leaders. Her political drama is not only interesting but also puzzling.

The chameleons shift their allegiance for the sake of post and power in a jiffy. The neophytes hijack the position of devoted leaders, who have spent their entire career and energy for their parties. This creates very odd situation. For example, the NC has awarded the tickets to controversial figures such as Ganesh Lama, Minkrishna Shrestha and Sunil Sharma but not to the leaders like Dhanraj Gurung, Gururaj Ghimire, Kalyan Gurung and Badri Pandey, who have maintained clean image during their long political innings.

Confusing political developments - 2

Dr. Tilak Rawal

The NC leaders are free to say that this sudden political development has pushed the country towards polarization but fact of the matter is that they are left with no choice but to form an alliance of the like-minded party to contest the remaining elections at the federal and province level, which could be affected as the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle by Deuba to drop Ministers representing the Maoist Centre or moving a no-confidence motion against the government by the duo (Oli\Prachanda) is wide open. More than anything else the two blocks are currently engaged in wooing parties to get majority of lawmaker on their side.

Somewhat forced into the task of forming an alliance, NC has accelerated consultations with different parties of which the Sanghiya Samjibadi Forum-Nepal (SSF-N) and the Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJP-N) are the noted ones. It may be recalled that the SSF-N and RJP-N bagged 26 and 25 wins, securing number 2 and 3 positions respectively in Province-2 local polls. Prime Minister Deuba held discussion even with Rastriya Parjatantra Party (RPP) chair Kamal Thapa who had accused the Deuba-led government of engineering the vertical split in his party leading to the creation of RPP led By Pashupati Rana. While RJP-N is said not to be in consultation with the left alliance, Upendra Yadav-led SSF-N is reported to be in regular contact with the left leaders. While both sides are trying hard to bring the SSF-N into their fold, the two Madhesh-based parties have formed an electoral alliance for the federal and provincial polls which could dent the ruling NC's plan to form a democratic alliance to counter the recent left initiative. The SSF-N and the RJP-N have announced that they would contest the polls, scheduled for November 26 and December 7, jointly. It is interesting that these two parties were said to be making necessary preparations to join the NC-led alliance and had even participated in a meeting to discuss matters with NC just one day after the news of left alliance was made public.

These two parties have, however, not yet closed the door on NC

because they have made it clear that any alliance with other political parties and fronts will be forged jointly. In the present context, it is likely that these two parties will choose NC-led alliance if they decide to go for a broader alliance. NC is still in talks with like-minded parties and is not likely to reach any conclusion soon on division of First-Past-the-Post constituencies, despite the urgency to form an alliance to counter the challenges posed by the left alliance.

Yadav and Thakur have demanded 57 out of the 165 parliamentary positions and they want 24 positions in Province-2 alone, leaving NC and other parties in discussion with only 8 seats. Their order is no less tall in case of allocations related to provincial elections. Despite the difficult demand, NC cannot show them the door because the NC stalwarts know very well that any alliance formed without the two Madhes-based parties in it would be meaningless from the standpoint of provincial and parliamentary elections because other parties showing interest to cooperate may not be able to help themselves, let alone being of any help to Deuba-led NC. Yadav and Thakur have the advantage of bargaining with NC from a position of strength because they know well that if what happened in Province-2 local elections could be extended to other parts of Madhes, the two parties together can emerge as a post-election major political force capable enough to bargain for the top executive post of the country. Deuba and his associates have to realize that their party is little bit awkwardly placed after the formation of the left alliance and also runs the risk of being isolated without any mention-worthy alliance partner for the elections. Let us see how NC handles the difficult and delicate situation that it is in currently.

In the ongoing struggle for power, major parties will have to make sure that their activities in no way affect the planned federal and provincial elections. In this context, the Election Commission is right in urging the political parties, government and other stakeholders not to indulge in activities that could affect the elections. Prachanda is quoted saying repeatedly that his party does not intend to topple the government

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State discriminates Madhesh for its development

The state is major responsible for the non-development of Madhesh. If the state had invested, it would have been developed. The state never thought to develop Madhesh and thus it did not invest here. If you look at the north of Madhesh, it is another place. But Madhesh looks like hell. People are forced to live in the backwardness. By facing these challenges we are now going to move the development into speed.



Upendra Yadav

Chairperson, Federal Socialist Forum, Nepal

How much you are busy for the elections as it is coming nearer?

Off course, I am busy in election campaigns. The work of publicity is increasing further.

What are the problems in your area from where you are contesting the elections and how are you identified them?

Saptari is a very backward district. It is a district where no industries, no resources for good hospitals, clean drinking water, healthy environment and others resources. If you go to rural area of Saptari, that looks like remote. The party has sent me here to develop this area.

MPs were also elected in the first, but why did that area not grow?

Saptari district is not only facing entire lack of infrastructures and development but whole Madhesh is in same ratio. There are two reasons why these areas are not developed. The first is the discrimination in everything by the state and the never thought for development of Madhesh. Other thing is also that Madhesh could not get the right leadership who struggled for the development. But Madhesh is ignored by the state time and again.

You told that the remote areas of Madhesh are most undeveloped. For this only state is responsible or others also?

The state is major responsible for the non-development of Madhesh. If the state had invested, it would have been developed. The state never thought to develop Madhesh and thus it did not invest here. If you look at the north of Madhesh, it is another place. But Madhesh looks like hell. People are forced to live in the backwardness. By facing these challenges we are now going to move the development into speed.

This is the main challenge to further the campaign for the struggle of the people of Madhesh, their rights, equality, recognition of national identity, proportional inclusion and territorial prosperity and autonomy.

What the people of Saptari-2 have given priority?

The conscious people want the development. They need their rights. It means the people wanted both rights and development.

What are the reasons why Rajbiraj Municipality should be declared as metropolitan city?

Rajbiraj Municipality has made hell more than municipalities. It should not like municipality.

We have to start it at the beginning, to further increase the speed of development, to improve the resources, to increase investment in other areas, to achieve the rights of the people there.

You asked that the state does invest in Madhesh but it is investing equally in the mountains and Terai, but why did not it develop?

If you see past budgets, only 14 percent of the budget has been distributed for the Madhesh where there is half the population living. In Madhesh, there are more than 76 percent sources of resources. Whereas there is a possibility of development, the government has allocated minimum budget.

You said the state allocated the low budget in Madhesh, but the same budget has also been utilized?

The use of the budget is not going anywhere. The state promoted corruption in organized manner. Here democracy has been used by corrupt persons. So its effect is in all parts of the country. The leaders of corrupts rule from Singhdarwar.

Regarding the rights of the state, what is the authority given to the voters in this state while holding Madhesi party?

Nepal is the only federalism in Nepal. The name of federalism has been decentralized. Unless the autonomy in the state comes, the people do not get enough good governance. The public does not have the right to self-determination, the autonomous state; the right is not the state. The federalism system of Nepal is just the shell and he inside material is concentrated on unitary. No more authority has been given to the local level. Such federal system is found to be incorrectly enforced and unsuccessful, and conspiracy to eliminate federalism.

Why electoral alliance was not forged with Nepali Congress?

We left the Congress in some districts and the Congress also left us in one district. But in Saptari-2 from I am contesting the polls; Congress candidate did not withdrew his candidacy. Even I hoped he would support me. The most important part, the Congress could not take generous policy.

Govt to announce provincial capitals after scheduled polls



Kathmandu: The government will announce temporary capitals of seven provinces and governors immediately after the federal and provincial elections, fearing strong protests from the ground if any dispute arises ahead of the scheduled polls, according to officials.

"If we take such a decision [now], it will hamper the polls," said Minister for Commerce Min Bishwokarma. The government is also undecided about candidates to be appointed governors of the seven provinces. A senior official said it could court a huge controversy if the government announced temporary capitals of the provinces ahead of the elections. The Nepali Congress-led administration also fears a backlash as a result of disputes arising from immediate appointment of the governors.

The governor calls the first sitting of the provincial parliament and invites the

political parties to form the provincial cabinet. Immediately after both rounds of polls are held within a month, arrangements for buildings to house provincial governments and parliaments and offices have to be made. For this, the provincial headquarters have to be designated first.

According to an official at the Prime Minister's Office, there are lobbies for a secretary to lead the administrative wing at the governor's office while others want a joint-secretary in the position. No decision has been taken yet but it will be decided soon, said an official. The delay in announcing the provincial capitals has affected logistical preparations to host the provincial assemblies and administrative offices. The Constitution of Nepal authorises the government to announce the temporary headquarters while a simple majority of the respective provincial assembly will fix the permanent capital.

The committee led by then minister for general administration Tek Bahadur Basnet in the last week of September recommended provincial headquarters to the Cabinet with options for endorsement. After discussion, the report was sent to the financial and infrastructure committee of the Cabinet to study the options. Out of the seven provinces, the committee has recommended single capitals for three, two names each for two, and three and four names for one province each.

However, in the changed political scenario after the formation of the left alliance, the government fears that announcing the capitals could invite public resentment against the ruling coalition, a source at the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development said. There is dispute whether Kavre, Kathmandu or Hetauda should be designated the capital of Province 3 while public opinion is divided over Dang or Butwal as the capital of Province 5.

"For instance, if Dang is chosen, public sentiment in Butwal might go against the government or vice-versa. This could be one of the reasons behind the delay," said an officer at the ministry seeking anonymity. The committee has recommend Biratnagar, Itahari or Dhankuta as the probable capital of Province 1, Janakpur for Province 2; Pokhara for Province 4; Surkhet for Province 6 and Dipayal or Dhangadi of Province 7.

All eyes on Dhanusha-3 as ...

the top rival of CPN-UML and CPN (Maoist Center) alliance. Nevertheless, the left alliance has fielded Maoist Center's leader Ram Singh Yadav as a common candidate in Dhanusha-3 against Mahato and Nidhi. But, Yadav is a weaker candidate comparing to the two heavyweights.

Mahato had won the Constitution Assembly election 2013 from Sarlahi-4. A popular candidate from Madhes, Mahato came to highlight during the Madhes movement that broke after the Constitution promulgation in September 20, 2015. On the contrary, Nidhi was the Home Minister during the Madhes movement. And, Mahato, in his election publicity programs, is campaigning that Nidhi had led the suppression of the Madhes protest that killed 46 people including protestors and 10 security personnel.

Mahato also claims that he came to contest polls in the constituency to replace Nidhi, who despite being elected again and again in previous elections, failed to develop Janakpur. He is also using Madhes issues as his slogan to woo voters in the constituency.

Triangular competition in Bara Constituency-3

Kalैया: A triangular competition is likely to take place in the election to the House of Representatives in Constituency-3 of Bara district.

Minister for Labour Farmullah Mansoor, also a leader of the Nepali Congress, is in the race under the election to the House of Representatives. His rivals in the upcoming parliamentary election are Federal Socialist Forum Nepal, Bara district chairperson Rambabu Kumar Yadav and Adhyananda Pandey from the left alliance.

Voters said that the competition will be held among the three leaders in Bara Constituency-3. Minister Mansoor is a known leader who has gained popularity for his service to the country and the people. He is also popular as a development loving public figure.

Likewise, Forum Nepal Chairperson Yadav has the craze of a leader for his substantial role in the Terai-Madhes movement which was waged for the rights and welfare of the Madhesi people.

Similarly, alliance candidate Pandey is known to be a simple and disciplined leader. The three candidates are equally strong in the Constituency-3 of Bara district. There are a total of 84,669 voters in the Constituency-3.

Elect those who struggled for Madhesh: Jha



Anil Jha

Rautahat: Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal presidium member Anil Kumar Jha urged voters to vote for candidates from the alliance of RJP-N and Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal to establish the rights of Madhes and its people.

Speaking at a press meet organised in Gaur, Jha, who had filed his nomination for the House of Representative from Constituency No 1 in Rautahat, said Madhes and the Madhesi people would get their rights if RJP-N and FSF-N alliance won the election. He urged voters to cast ballots in favor of the alliance to make the dreams of those who lost their lives during Madhes protest

a reality.

"RJP-N and FSF-Nepal have struggled for the people of Madhes," he said. Jha said the alliance's win was necessary for constitution amendment.

Jha said the alliance has been struggling to empower the Madhes and its people. "Election is also another part of the struggle," he added. Jha said it was the moral responsibility of Madhesis to elect the candidates in the struggle to ascertain the rights of Madhes.

At the programme, Babul Sah Kanu and Yogendra Yadav of Constituency No 1 ka and Kha respectively said the Madhesi people would support the alliance and would help elect the it.

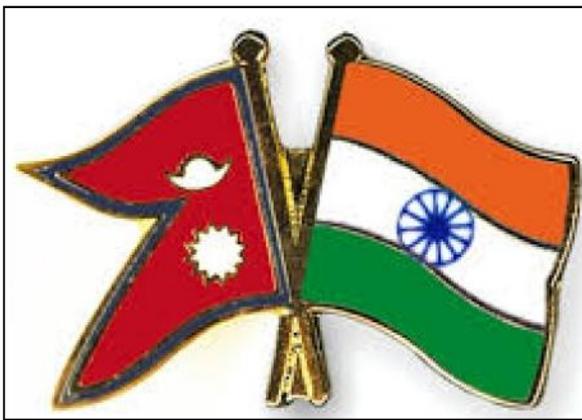
Planned meetings of Nepal-India stalled till elections

Kathmandu : All planned bilateral meetings with India, including the meeting of Eminent Persons Group, have stalled until the elections and are likely to resume only after the formation of a new government.

Many of these meetings were due to take place in India, but the elections code of conduct prohibits government officials from

Jayant Prasad, India's key EPG member and former Indian ambassador to Nepal, the other meetings were put off because of Nepal elections.

Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, the coordinator of EPG from the Nepali side, said the Indian side postponed the meeting after Prasad suffered a health complication. The meeting was going to be deferred any way due to the elections



making foreign trips to attend bilateral events, a senior official at the Foreign Ministry said.

Nepal has the highest number of bilateral engagements with India. Their outcomes and progress achieved so far could be affected with the deferral of scheduled meetings between the two governments.

The official at the Foreign Ministry said Nepal and India had various issues at hand that needed to be dealt with, including hydro electricity projects, matters related to trade and transit, and affairs of commerce and supplies.

Whatever progress and decisions that could have been made on these areas have stalled for now as Nepal is gearing up to conduct the elections of provincial assembly and federal parliament.

How things are going to pan out we will see after the elections are over, the official said.

While the sixth EPG meeting, which was scheduled to convene in New Delhi on Saturday, was deferred at India's request, owing to health issue of

in the country, he added. One of Nepal's EPG members, Rajan Bhattarai, is also contesting in the upcoming elections.

The sixth EPG meeting was due to prepare the first draft report on the status of Nepal-India ties and suggest a new road map. It is important that all EPG members are present at the meeting as it is expected to set the tone for future ties between Nepal and India and suggest revisions in the existing bilateral treaties, Thapa said. An official privy to the communications between the two countries told the Post that the sixth EPG meeting would likely take place in the first week of January 2018.

The first report of the EPG is expected to come out in July.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the other key Nepal-India bilateral exchanges that got pushed back due to the elections in Nepal are secretarial-level meeting of Inter-government Committee on resolving issues related to trade and transit, and the meeting of Joint Committee on Water Resources.

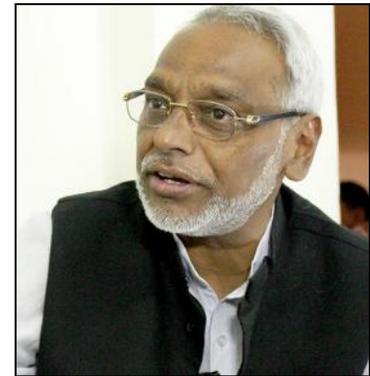
People's vote should come in favor of Madhesh movement: Mahato

Janakpur: Leader of Rastriya Janata Party Nepal Rajendra Mahato has claimed that people of Dhanusha constituency-3 will rather vote him instead of Nepali Congress leader Bimalendra Nidhi in the upcoming House of Representatives elections. People's vote should come in favor of Madhes movement. No voters should cast their votes to the leaders who have suppressed Madhes movement, murdered

Madhesi people and confiscated of their rights," said Mahato while speaking at an interaction program in Janakpur, Dhanusha. "The voters will not cast their votes to Nidhi in order to teach him some good lessons," he claimed.

"The ruling party used bullets to deprive Madhesi people of their rights. But, now time is in our favor. We have ballots, a weapon more powerful than bullets," he said.

"Time has come to respond them," he added. "Six innocent Madhesi brothers lost their lives in Maleth of Saptri district. Now people reply to this incident as well through ballot boxes," he furthered. He further stated: "The constitution of Nepal was



Rajendra Mahato

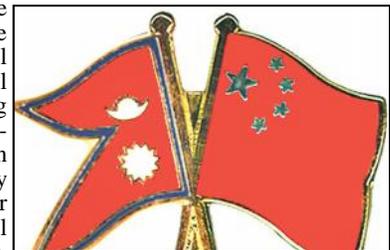
promulgated going against the sentiment of Madhesi people. We can never accept such constitution. NC's Madhes-based top leader himself signed the constitution and forced Madhesi people for this too. He is from Janakpur."

On the occasion, Mahato also requested people not to take his candidacy in Dhanusha-3 otherwise. Mahato's home town is Sarlahi. He added, "I am running the election from Dhanusha as advised by the party leadership, and as demanded by the people."

"Nepali Congress' day here in Madhes is gone now. They didn't develop our place. People know this. Now, Madhesi parties will rise here. We have ballot boxes. We will use this weapon (ballot boxes and votes) and turn time in our favor."

Kathmandu-Kerung rail possible: Chinese team

Kathmandu : A Chinese delegation that studied the feasibility of railways in Nepal have concluded that two rail routes—Kathmandu-Kerung and Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini—could be developed in the country. The team led by Zheng Jian, the deputy director (Vice-Minister) of National Railway Administration of China, had arrived in the country to conduct preliminary studies on possible railroads. After completing the field trips to Kerung, Pokhara and Lumbini as part of their study, the team held a meeting with the Nepali side at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT) and suggested the latter to move ahead with railway



related projects.

According to the Department of Railways (DoR) spokesperson Prakash Bhakta Upadhyaya, the Chinese team cleared out many technical reservations, especially geological ones. "The altitude variation between Syaprubeshi and Kerung and the gap created between Indian and Tibetan tectonic plates after the 2015 earthquake were our major concerns.

Third Tripathi-Jayasawal face-off in Nawalparasi



Hridayes Tripathi

Nawalparasi: Having quit Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal, Hridayes Tripathi is contesting as a left alliance candidate in the upcoming parliamentary election.

One of the most influential Madhesi leaders, Tripathi is taking on his former two-time rival Nepali Congress's Dewakaran Jayasawal from Bardaghat Susta West-1, Nawalparasi.

Having contested seven times in elections, Tripathi had won four times including in the first Constituent Assembly election from the same constituency. He, however, had lost to Jayasawal in the second CA poll. This is the third contest between Tripathi, who started politics as a student, and Jayasawal, who made his way into politics from the farmers' agitation.

Tripathi's defection from RJP-

N in a constituency where the party is deemed to have a sound vote base has affected the party, and is sure to affect the election result. While Tripathi is said to be counting on his chances of victory with the support of RJP-N cadres, his own supporters and the support of the left alliance, Jayasawal seemed confident about his win as long as he could secure his earlier vote base.

"As people want development and prosperity from the elected candidate, I will move ahead by devising necessary strategies for the same," said Tripathi, who had lost by over 6,000 votes to Jayasawal in the second CA election after winning against him by a meagre margin of 163 votes in the first CA poll. On his part, Jayasawal identified himself as a farmer's son and hoped voters would vote for him after evaluating his contribution. Constituency No 1 comprises Bardaghat municipality, along with Susta and Pratappur rural municipality and Ward Nos 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Sarawal rural municipality. While the UML had won in the two local units here during local election, NC and Nepal Forum Democratic had garnered one seat each. The constituency has a total of 123,068 voters.

Saptari Constituency-2 'kha' talk of town

Rajbiraj: As the date for the elections draw closer, election fever has gone up in provincial election Constituency No 2 'kha' in Saptari of late.

While Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal General Secretary Manish Suman is contesting for the provincial seat on behalf of the RJPN-Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal alliance, CPN-MC's Mahesh Prasad Yadav is running from the CPN-UML-CPN-MC alliance. Besides, seven other

'unfair' election ticket distribution to contest from a different party is also taken as a challenge to Manish's candidacy.

Suman seemed pretty confident about his win. "As my candidacy is for development in the Madhes and constitution amendment and to address other concerns of the Madhes, people will of course vote for me," he said, vowing to develop Saptari as one of the most prosperous



candidates including Nepali Congress's Mahananda Yadav, Paramananda Mehata of United Rastriya Prajatantra Party (Rastrabadi) and independent candidate Laxman Yadav are also in the fray. The electoral battle here merits greater attention also given the fact that Rajbiraj, which has the largest number of voters and is strategically important, falls in this provincial constituency.

It is important to note that RJP-N had won both the posts of mayor and deputy mayor in Rajbiraj municipality in the local elections. As the constituency is considered the most secure, the RJPN-FSN alliance is said to have fielded its general secretary from here. But, with the decision of Laxman Yadav, RJP-N area president, to file his candidacy as an independent candidate by leaving the party, Suman's win seems a little difficult. What more, RJP-N central member Paramananda Mehata's decision to abandon his party over

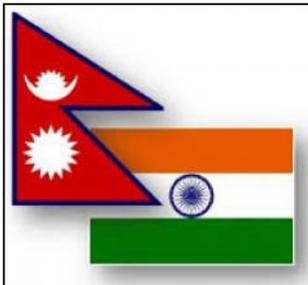
districts in the Madhes.

Similarly, left alliance candidate Yadav said people will evaluate his party's contribution to the development of Madhes while being in the power, independent candidate Yadav said his candidacy was in line with the wish of the locals. "I was on the frontline of the Madhes agitation and other struggles. As people like me, I decided to run in the election as per the wishes of the people here," he said, pledging to leave no stone unturned for the development of the constituency and the district if elected.

Mehata, on his part, said his contribution to the downtrodden and poor will help him win the election.

Provincial assembly Constituency No 2 'kha' comprising Rajbiraj municipality and wards 1 and 3 of Mahadeva rural municipality has a total of 37,502 voters.

Officials review progress in India-funded projects in Nepal



Kathmandu: The fifth meeting of the Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and Ambassador of India Manjeev Singh Puri, was held in Kathmandu.

The meeting made a comprehensive review of the progress made in the implementation of bilateral projects since the fourth meeting of the mechanism held on July 6, the Ministry of Foreign Ministry (MoFA) said in a press statement.

Both sides reiterated their

commitment to early completion of all bilateral economic and development cooperation projects within specified timeframe by providing required facilities and resolving difficulties in an expeditious manner, the statement added.

Officials, however, said there has not been much progress in clearing the bottlenecks despite the mechanism holding the meetings for the last one year. Our meetings with the Indian said have been positive but we are yet to see tangible results due to various reasons, an official said.

The Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism was set up as per an understanding reached in September last year during the state visit of then prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal. The mechanism was formed with an aim to ensure that all ongoing bilateral projects are implemented within the defined timeline.

PM promises charter revision in favor of Madhesh



Sher Bahadur Deuba

Janakpur: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has urged the people to vote for the Nepali Congress in the upcoming federal and provincial elections for amending the constitution in favour of Madhes and the Madhesi people.

“The Congress is committed to amending the constitution in favour of the Madhesi people. We need a two-thirds majority for amendment,” the NC president told a gathering of

party activists in Janakpur.

He promised that the constitution would be amended if his party won the upcoming polls to rectify “some shortcomings” in the charter. “Madhes still has poverty. Madhesi people are also deprived of their rights. All these problems will be sorted only through constitutional amendments,” the PM said.

Calling Janakpur a cultural and religious heritage site, Deuba said the city has contributed to the strengthening of ties between Nepal and India.

Two ex-ministers face off in Siraha-4

Siraha: Two former ministers are in the fray for the upcoming parliamentary election from Siraha Constituency-4. While CPN-Maoist Centre’s politburo member and former minister Ajaya Shankar Nayak is contesting from the left alliance, former minister and Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal presidium member Rajkishor Yadav is running for a House of Representatives seat from the Madhes alliance. Nepali Congress’s former lawmaker Mokhtar Alam is also contesting the poll in the constituency.

Considering the local level election results in the district, the left alliance is clearly ahead of other parties in the constituency. CPN-MC had won top posts in Mirchaiya and Karjanha municipalities both of which fall in the constituency, while UML had bagged victory in Naraha rural municipality of the district in the election.

NC had won a mayoral post in Kalyanpur Municipality and Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal had clinched chair in Bishnupur Rural Municipality. Then, RJP-N had managed to win four ward chair posts in the district.

As per sources, though FSF-N and RJP-N, as allies, are said to be in a strong position to win in the

upcoming election, misgivings still persist between rival party cadres at many places, which is likely to impact the overall election result.

“Though the left alliance is speculated to be ahead of other parties on the basis of the past election results, we can’t say for sure that all the voters who cast their votes either for a UML or a Maoist candidate during the local election, will again vote for the alliance in this parliamentary and provincial election,” observed Laldev Sah, a local who is also headteacher of Kalyanpur-based Ramdulari Secondary School.

Left alliance candidate Nayak, however, seemed confident about his victory in the upcoming election. “This place has remained a communist stronghold for long and also the electoral alliance between UML and CPN-MC has increased our chances for victory here,” he said.

In contrary, RJP-N candidate Yadav said, “I have visited the people in this constituency and found that most of them support Madhes-based parties, unlike the way this place is described as a communist stronghold.”

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)

petroleum pipeline to be completed in three years



Kathmandu: The officials of Nepal and India have inspected the construction works of much-hyped Amlekhgunj-Raxual petroleum pipeline project. A three-member Indian team had arrived in Kathmandu on Thursday for the onsite visit of the project. Spokesperson of Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) Birendra Goit said that officials of both the countries inspected the pipeline site and pipeline expansion ways. The team has concluded that the though the pipeline works were easier along the route some houses and electric poles and transformers should be dislocated. Goit said, "The route for pipeline

has already been fixed. There is no such problem for land as the route would be along the road. We will precede ahead the tasks for rest issues by holding talks with the local administration." The visiting Indian team also held talks with the high-level officials of NOC about different aspects of the project. It is said that bidding of the pipeline plantation of 38-km-long Amlekhgunj to Raxual project would be completed and entire equipments would be arrived by December. Goit added that the project of Rs 4.20 billion would be completed within 36 months after the beginning of the construction works. India would expand the pipeline upto Motihari in Indian side. Secretary at the Ministry of Supplies Krishna Prasad Devkota has led the Nepali team while director of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Anish Agrawal is the head of Indian delegate.

India-Nepal Khadi fashion organized

Kathmandu: Embassy of Indian supported the South Asia Foundation in organizing India-Nepal Folk Craft Festival. The Festival was supported by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Council of Handicrafts Development Corporation (COHAND) and the B. P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation as well as received support from leading Indian and Nepali designers. As part of the Festival, 50 artisans and craft persons from India including 20 Scheduled Castes artisans as well as 30 artisans from Nepal showcased their products over 5 days from 7-11 November. The exhibition provided a sound platform to the artisans to promote the local crafts from different parts of India and Nepal. A Khadi Nepal Fashion Event was also held at Embassy Premises on 10th November, 2017 wherein Khadi and other hand woven eco-friendly products were



showcased. The Fashion Event saw participation from leading Indian and Nepali fashion models as well as showcased khadi products from Indian and Nepali designers. The event also included a small exhibition of handicraft products at the Embassy premises. Both, India-Nepal Craft Festival and the Kathmandu Fashion Event were celebrated under the aegis of "70 years of India's Independence" and were successful in reaching out to the Nepali public, Nepali dignitaries as well as international community living in Nepal.

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आकासका साथी

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सम्पर्कको लागि सहाय, सजिलो र आरामकारी बनाउन हाम्रो विमान परिचरिकाहरू अर्थात् राधाको बाउको साथी सदैव तयार हुन्छन्, त्यसैले त हामी अरुभन्दा प्साक छौ ।

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