

Federal Socialist Forum's entry in government

Kathmandu : The ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) has consolidated its grip on the government through its latest political move. The chairpersons of the Upendra Yadav-led Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal (SSFN) to join their majority government. Yadav's entry into the government turned the ruling party into a powerful dispensation that now commands more than two-thirds majority in the federal parliament. The NCP chairpersons, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, had brought Yadav into the government with the assurances of amending the constitution as demanded by the Madhesi parties-the SSFN and the Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJP-N).

The assurances from the top two NCP bigwigs helped Yadav soften up his stance and join the government. Subsequently, Yadav, who had not been in any government for the past seven years, was appointed as Health Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. As the DPM, Yadav is ranked third senior-most leader in the government after PM Oli and another DPM and Defense Minister Ishwor Pokharel. The ruling party enjoyed a strong majority in the parliament after the unification between the then CPN-UML and the Maoist Centre. But the majority swelled into a whopping two-thirds majority after



The entry of FSFN into the government happened despite the fact that the ruling NCP pulled out its support the party had given to the SSFN's Chief Minister of Province 2. After FSFN's entry, many now think that the alliance in Province 2 would change as NCP and SSFN are well placed to run the government in the province.

the SSFN with its 16 lawmakers in the House of Representatives, or the federal parliament, joined the government. Now, the two-thirds majority places the ruling coalition in an exalted position to effect any amendment in the constitution and take major political and other decisions.

The SSFN and another Madhes-

based party, Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJP-N), had earlier lent their support from outside to the Oli government. After the unification of the two ruling communist parties, the NCP leaders were out to bring Yadav into the government. Yadav was once a communist leader, who had contested an earlier general elections as a member of the then

UML. He started raising Madhesh issues only after the successful people's movement in 2006/2007.

Under Yadav's leadership, Madhesh region witnessed a "successful" movement which ushered in new era in Madhes. The success turned him into a prominent Madhesh leader. Since then, Yadav and his partymen had raised the Madhesi issues vociferously, accusing the traditional parties, the then UML, Maoists, the Nepali Congress and others as anti-Madhes and pro-hill parties. Because of his relentless pro-Madhes demands, the Madhes parties successfully won the Province-2 elections against the traditional parties, which enabled them to form a coalition government with RJP-N in the province now.

After SSFN chair joined the government of NCP, all eyes are now on him regarding the amendment of the present constitution to "provide needful" rights to the Madhesi people. After his entry, many Madhes people have hoped that the government would address the demands of amending the constitutional provision on the citizenship, use of Hindi as official language of the Madhesh and number of parliamentary seats for the Madhesh on the basis of population and several other

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Government in Province 2 for next five years: CM Raut

Rauthat: Chief Minister of Province 2 Lal Babu Raut has asserted that the incumbent provincial government will remain for next five years. Speaking at a press meet in Gaur, organized by Federal Press Forum, CM Raut said that Federal Socialist Forum Nepal (FSFN) have joint the central government after two points agreement with Nepal Communist Party and dismissed rumor of change in the coalition government led by FSFN and Rastriya Janata Party in Province 2. CM Raut



criticized some media for promoting unnecessary rumor regarding the fall of the provincial government.

Likewise, he said that FSFN has joint the government to amend the constitution by a two-thirds majority and reiterated the

central government is obliged to amend the constitution.

Talking about the expenses made during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CM Raut criticized the central government for not assisting the provincial government financially. "The central government has invited the state guest but did not allocate the budget for the preparation", CM Raut commented. CM Raut said that the provincial government is committed to develop the province and to fulfill the public needs and wants.



Editorial

Observatory of Upendra

A month ago, when Federal Socialist Forum participated in the government, leader Rajendra Shrestha asked that the party is not keen to join in KP Oli-led government. He claimed that they would not go to the government unless the constitution was amended. However, just after one-month, Forum has been participating in the government of communist leadership for the constitution amendment. However, Shrestha's efforts to take the party in the government meant that there should be amendment of the constitution.

The debate has begun whether it was appropriate to go to the government for the Forum which has been struggling for the constitutional amendment from long time. Similarly, the discussion has begun about the future of the Alliance Government, which has been formed by the Forum-RJP- Nepal in the Province 2. The coalition government of Forum and RJP-Nepal in Province 2 was also supported by then UML and CPN Maoist Center but after unification of left force, they withdraw the support. There is no impact on Province 2 government led by Forum and RJP-Nepal jointly after withdrawing the support by CPN but dispute surfaced between Forum and RJP-Nepal after Forum's participation in the central government.

After the Forum's participation in the name of constitution amendment, it has also kept the politics of Madhes hot. Now, what does RJP do, how the Forum goes ahead, either constitution to be amended or not. But this cannot be answered easily. The political developments of the next few days will confirm this.

Forum's present power journey after the seven years is also risky. There is no need to go to the government to amend the constitution or fulfill its demands. If the Forum would like to make such a reason, why did it not participate in NC, UML and Maoist government after the constitution drafting? If the demand was completed in the government, there would have been participation in the previous governments. But now it is not clear that the two-thirds of the obvious majority of the government's going to the government and trying to convey the message. For Forum only the power is important and to be realized that there is real revision in the coming days.

There is no similar opinion between the Forum and RJP regarding a constitution amendment and there is no also working alliance between them. Both parties are raising different modifications. The name of this amendment, RJP is also seeking a way to enter in the government. The two parties fought together in Madhes's case in the past, after the elections' fresh mandates and political situation, why they have not gone together on the similar agenda? Time has come to seek such serious questions.

RJP also wants to be the principal consensus made by the ruling party regarding the amendment of constitution. As the agreement with the Forum Nepal has been with RJP, it seems to be easy to attend the government. Constitutional amendment require two-thirds majority and for this, the leaders of those parties who want to go to the government. They have not only sought the constitution to amend the Constitution.

Hope and fear in Kathmandu

In the 68 years since the birth of the first communist party, the communist movement in Nepal has seen many ups and downs. Ideological debates and numerous splits have characterised the movement, with some groups even working in close alliance with the monarchy until 2006, ostensibly in the tactical defence of nationalism and national sovereignty. However, throughout, they did not abandon the talk of the need for a single communist party.

The dream nearly came true, as the two largest communist parties — the Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) — announced the dissolution of their individual existence and formed the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN). The CPN will have an almost two-third majority in Parliament and governments in six of the seven provinces.

Communist unity was a promise that prime minister and UML chief K P Oli and Maoist chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal had made in early October last year, while announcing their pre-poll alliance. The two parties swept the polls, both at the Centre and in the provinces, and subsequently formed the government. However, the unification of the parties got postponed as the leaderships debated the Maoists' claim for a fair share in party committees, over the election symbol, the recognition of insurgency as a people's war, general amnesty to Maoists accused in human rights violation cases and so on.

The two parties have a history. They were not just political rivals but have been sworn enemies during the insurgency years. The CPN-UML had demanded deployment of the army against the rebels and the Maoists had targeted and killed a large number of UML cadres and supporters, accusing them of being "class enemies". Even after the peace process began in 2006 with India playing a key role in bringing the Maoists to the centre of power politics in Nepal, the UML remained consistent in its demand for investigating human right violation cases and punishing the guilty. Subhash Nembang, deputy leader of the UML in Parliament, had ordered the

government as the House speaker 10 years ago to sign the Rome Statute and have the rights violation cases tried by the International Criminal Court. The order could not be implemented because of objections from the Nepali Congress, Nepal army and the Maoists.

Politics, however, makes for strange bed fellows. It is believed that the biggest concession the UML offered to the Maoists was that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in existence for the past three years, will be rendered powerless, with the Maoists not having to worry about cases. Many believe that the formation of the 441-member central committee, 43-member standing committee and the nine-member central secretariat on 55:45 (UML/Maoist) ratio, with Oli and Dahal continuing as "chairman" with equal powers and status till the party congress, would not have been achieved without Oli promising immunity to Maoists in cases pertaining to the insurgency era.

Oli seems the happiest with regard to the unification of the two parties. "Nepal's journey towards prosperity and stability begins now," he said. Habituated to sarcasm, he asked the demoralised main opposition, the Nepali Congress, not to get upset. "It happens in politics, and we have also suffered setbacks in the past." The Nepali Congress fears that the communists enjoying a post-poll two-thirds majority in Parliament is not a good sign for democracy in Nepal. The fears are not unfounded. Not only is the opposition weak and demoralised, the judiciary is neither free nor fair. It has demonstrated total servility towards the legislature and executive in recent years. The absence of accountability in governance has become the norm and a demoralised civil administration provides the best conditions for the growth of authoritarianism and totalitarianism. However, the merger enhances the political credibility of the rulers and gives them a great opportunity to govern effectively.

A declaration said the new party will practice the principle of democratic centralism, while the constitution promulgated two years ago favours radical federalism and decentralisation. This may push the new party to change or amend the constitution and its fundamental character.



Yubaraj Ghimire

The unification, thus, creates a situation of hope and fear for Nepal at the moment, but this major development will also be watched with interest by stakeholders in the international community. The unification took place a week after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kathmandu. Understandably, India was not in favour of communist unity as it may give China a much more powerful and trustworthy government in Nepal.

In fact, a senior Indian diplomat who had played a key role in bringing the Maoists to the centrestage of Nepali politics 12 years ago is believed to have advised Dahal against the merger. He has warned Dahal that it would reduce the Maoists to a non-entity, and that the international community, including India, would be happy dealing solely with Oli. Oli will be visiting China next month as the most powerful leader of Nepal in recent history, but what will matter is how he delivers on promises and whether he respects democratic values and norms.

For the European Union (EU), the unification of the two left parties guarantees "secularism", implying the right to conversion being irreversibly placed in the statute. The recent visit of Narendra Modi, his display of a Hindu face, and a common pledge by the two prime ministers to promote culture and religion, initially by linking the Buddhist and Ramayan circuits, is being seen as Nepal pursuing a Hindu agenda. Although the EU may not be happy over the likely death of the transitional justice system and the neutralisation of the Truth and Reconciliation Process, the promise of Nepal continuing as a secular republic will be a big respite for the EU.

This article first appeared in The Indian Express.

Upendraji joins government just becoming minister

If the opinion of Upendranji and Praandandji goes to the government, the opinion is only with us. Go to Province 2 and ask the party's position how much weak. I believe that the reason why Upendra Yadav has gone to the government without discussing other leaders inside the party also gets a loss.

Although there is a completion of one year of the formation of the RJP-Nepal but there is no general convention. What are you preparing after the letter from the Election Commission to hold the convention by July?

From very early we are thinking to hold the party's general convention. But it was delayed due to the elections. We formed the party with merging of six Madheshi parties. It is a matter of what we already think of. It is in the Act that it will be especially useful for adding 6 months. It should be done by adding 6 months to the time period. So far there is no preparation in districts. This can also cause a little delay.

How much it possible to hold the general convention as per the deadline given by the Election Commission?

We will do it and consult with everyone. The general convention does not matter to anyone. It should be formed from village to center. **Does your party add time?**

Time can be added for 6 months.

Your party's central committee has not been able to sit, even controversy appears in the party, why is it?

A group comprising 6 Madheshi parties has been formed. Everyone has their own thoughts. There is also dispute in Nepali

Congress and Nepal Communist Party. Which party is not in dispute and then? In all the party, there is dispute and in our party too, but there is no controversy like the media said. We go together because we do not have any other option except to meet our goal. The goal is to accomplish it.

RJP-Nepal was formed after merging of six parties but it still seems like an alliance?

No, no. This is not alliance. I said that there is a dispute between in parties and it is also in our party.

As long as we do not solve the problem of Madesh and Madhesi, we will go ahead as well. If the enemies of each other like UML and Maoist joined together, then we are the party members in Madhes. Therefore, we do not go to this dispute together to proceed.

You cannot adjust your sister organizations even after one year. There are native organizations in the past form in districts, so did not it look like a front?

It is not so, in my district Nawalparasi the six parties sitting together. Not so in other districts. Our discussions are also with the sister organizations. The Central Committee meeting was delayed shortly. It is now going to be called to the sister organizations. A

discussion is being made to make the central committee of the sister organization. **RJP only keeping the Province 2 in priority and ignoring other districts of Madhes and other states, do you think that?**

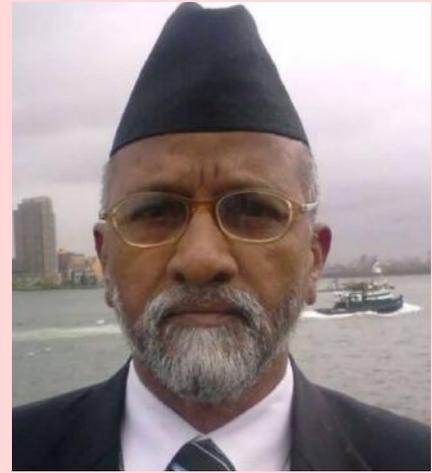
Especially there are all leaders from Province 2. Chairperson is also from Province 2. If we have not been able to work accordingly, we did not only find the post of the president. Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Dang is from the area of Madhes till Kanchanpur. The government is suffering from accusing MP while talking to Resham Chaudhary. Our leaders are trying to release him. We do not go the government unless he is released. Now how you say that the RJP ignored the West. I do not believe it and we should be active ourselves. We should make our own home.

RJP seems weak in other districts than Province 2, why?

We had an impact, we did not go to the local elections in Province 5 and we boycotted. After we boycotted the elections, the MLAs were affected. If we have been in the local elections, we are not less than Province 2, but there is no reason for the election.

In other districts than Province 2, the party is not in good situation?

We were in competition with



Allaudin Ansari

Vice President, RJP-Nepal

Nepali Congress and UML. We did not bring 18 thousand votes from Nawalparasi area so that how you asked the party is not in good position. **The CPN has also withdrawn the support of the RJP- Forum government. In such cases, do you have to withdraw back the support given to the federal government? What is your perception?**

In the present situation, we do not even have to withdraw from the government and we do not take the support of the government anymore. In our present situation, we have our idea of supporting the government by sitting in the government. We did not compromise for the center. Province 2 has been compromised for the government. The Federal Socialist Forum, according to its opinion, has gone to the government, but later it is as if it loses itself.

If the opinion of Upendranji and Praandandji goes to the government, the opinion is only with us. Go to Province 2 and ask the party's position how much weak. I believe that the reason why Upendra Yadav has gone to the government without discussing other leaders inside the party also gets a loss.

What is the main

reason why RJP has not joined the government despite supported the government?

Resolution of our Madhes and Madhesi problem, demand of release of Resham Chaudhary is our main reason.

These demands fulfilled also by going to the government?

We do not think so now. People do not even demand.

As long as the demand is not completed, there is a voice of the people that we would not join the government.

How reliable are you in the constitutional amendment by the participation of Federal Socialist Forum the federal government?

These are false things. This is the agreement that has been done. The deal has already been done before this. Upendraji is not going to the government to amend the constitution. His thoughts will be a part of the government, become a minister.

Another thing, he is a doubt about me, even before the communist ideology, he goes to the Communist Party. I feel that even after leaving all the problems of Madhes, Nepal is involved in the Communist Party.

CoAS Chhetri calls on India's Defense Minister



Kathmandu: Chief of Army Staff, Rajendra Chhetri, who is currently in India visit, had a courtesy meeting with Defense Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, at the latter's office in New Delhi.

During the meeting, they discussed about the longstanding relations between the two armies, which has remained as an important component of the overall Nepal-India bilateral relations,

said a press statement issued by Embassy of Nepal in India.

CoAS Chhetri extended thanks to the Government of India for the ongoing cooperation in defense sector including defense hardware and capacity building. Minister Sitharaman stated that such support and cooperation will continue in future as required and requested by Nepali Army.

Earlier, the CoAS had separate meetings with the National Security Advisor of India, Ajit Doval, Defense Secretary, Sanjay Mitra, Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army, General Bipin Rawat, and Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P.

CoAS Chhetri is on a visit to India at the invitation of the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.

Federal Socialist...

demands which have hitherto been termed as anti-national by the then UML.

With SSFN joining the government, the government can make the changes as per the demands raised by the SSFN and RJP-N. These two parties appear to have supported Oli government in the hope that the majority government would consider their demands positively. It can, however, be recalled that during his first tenure as the Prime Minister in 2015-2016, Prime Minister Oli had shown his deep dislike for amending the constitution as per the demand of the Madhesi parties. The PM had then termed the Madhesi demands as anti-national. Now, the PM is said to have been positive about the demands of two Madhes-based parties regarding the amendments to the constitution. It is also true that the PM Oli and chairman Prachanda had in the past expressed that the "genuine demands of the Madhes" would be addressed in earnest.

Now, everyone would be watching Yadav whether or not he would be able to convince the NCP leaders in amending the statute to address the Madhesi demands. If he fails in doing so, then his image as the leading Madhes leader would be dented as he could be taken as a "position-hungry leader", who joined the government only to enjoy the trappings of ministerial portfolio.

He said that he joined the government after getting assurances that the government would amend the constitution. Much would depend on whether the government would work to dilute the demands of Madhes. If any dilution in the demands of Madhes takes place, then the Yadav and his party would find itself at the receiving end. The RJP-N, which has still been demanding that the government should address all of their demands, may rethink about its alliance with the SSFN, and think about its political realignment with another party in the opposition, the Nepali Congress.

The entry of Yadav into the government happened despite the fact that the ruling NCP pulled out its support the party had given to the SSFN's Chief Minister of Province 2. The NCP did so by accusing the chief minister Lal Babu Raut for his speech during the civic reception of the Indian Prime Minister in Janakpur last month. After Yadav's entry, many now think that the alliance in Province 2 would change as NCP and SSFN are well placed to run the government in the province.

Talks are doing round that the Yadav led SSFN would unify with the NCP at any time. If this happens then the Yadav's image as a prominent Madhes leader would receive a blow. The handling of Madhesi issues in the aftermath of Yadav and his party joining the government would also provide enough fodder to the Madhesi and others to evaluate the present NCP government regarding its attitude and stance vis-à-vis Madhes and its people.

Martyrs' families to get livestock for income generation

Rajbiraj: Minister for Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives of Province No. 2 Shailendra Prasad Sah has announced to provide hybrid types of cows and buffaloes to the families of martyrs for their income generation.

Inaugurating a one-day livestock camp in Rajbiraj,

Sah said that the families of the martyrs would be distributed one each hybrid types of cow and buffalo for free in the upcoming fiscal year meant to support their income generation.

Prior to this, the first meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Province No. 2 had decided to provide

employment opportunities to the immediate kin of the martyrs.

Minister Sah said that the new programme is being unveiled as per the province government's policy to provide relief to the martyrs' families.

Normal life affected in Tarai as temperature rises

Janakpur: The normal life in the central and eastern tarai has been affected due to scorching heat for the past four-five days now. With the rise in temperature, the heat wave has blown affecting the normal life badly.

The activities of market area, educational institutions and service delivery from the government offices are also affected due to excessive hot in the tarai districts. On Tuesday, the temperature of Janakpur hit record high of this summer reaching 38.8 degree Celsius.

The temperature of Janakpur was recorded the highest with 42 degree Celsius last year compared to the last



five years' temperature. Likewise, the Office of the Hydrology and Meteorology, Janakpur, has said that the temperature is likely to go up further for some weeks as the skies would remain clear. Chief of Office Munesh Mishra said temperature

would rise in the districts of central and eastern tarai.

Rainfall has not occurred in Janakpur and other adjoining areas for the past one week and there is no immediate forecast of the rainfall.

Congress obstructs Province Assembly meeting in Province 2

Janakpur: The main opposition Nepali Congress obstructed the Province Assembly meeting of Province 2 demanding the province government make public the expenses made during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Janakpur visit.

Congress whip Upendra Kushawa obstructed the Province Assembly meeting demanding the government make public the expense details of Modi's visit.

Though one month has already been passed after Modi's Janakpur visit, he said the province government has not made public the details of expenses. Kushawa



warned that they would not let the Province Assembly to hold the meeting until the government makes public the

expense details.

The Congress has claimed that there were financial

irregularities during Modi's Janakpur visit.

Meanwhile, NC has demanded the Province 2 government to disclose the expenses made during recent visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Janakpur.

Addressing the Province Assembly, NC Parliamentary Party leader Ram Saroj Yadav demanded that the government should furnish the details of expenses made for Modi's visit. Some local news sites have reported about irregularities committed by the province executive and Janakpur Sub-Metropolis in the name of preparations for Modi's Janakpur visit.

RJPN will not accept directly elected executive presidential system: Karna



Kathmandu: Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJP) leader Laxman Lal Karna has clarified that his party will not accept the system of directly elected executive presidential system in the country.

"RJP is on the side of parliamentary system in the country. The NCP is opting to change the constitution of Nepal in power of the two-third majority they command in the House. But it can be their mistake," said leader Karna at an interaction program in Kathmandu. "Prachanda, by opining for the system, cannot take the country to executive presidential system. The system will bring dictatorship in the country. RJP will not accept such system at any cost," he clarified.

Leader Karna also said that he could be one of the candidates for the position of parliamentary party leader.

"The party will hold a meeting on June 18, which will endorse the parliamentary party statute. After that the elections will be held," he said. When asked if he would claim the position, he said: "I have the right to claim the post. RJP has 17 lawmakers in the House and each of them as the right to claim for the position of parliamentary party leader."

Leader Karna also claimed that the new provision under the House of Representatives Regulations has brought for his party lawmaker Resham Lal Chaudhary. "In a common law system, a person is not declared criminal upon his arrest. He remains a suspect unless he is proved guilty by the law. Therefore we said that a lawmaker cannot be suspended unless he is proved guilty by the court."

Dahal rules out possibility of CPN's participation in Province 2 government

Biratnagar: Chair of Communist Party of Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has ruled out the possibility of the party's participation in Province 2 government.

Talking to media persons at Biratnagar Airport, leader Dahal reiterated that the party would not join the province government, despite the participation of Federal Socialist Forum Nepal in the party-led central government.

He went on to say that there was no possibility of switching to the executive presidential system immediately when there was the government formed following the election held under the multi-party system. He added that people's opinions would be taken into consideration to this end in the upcoming elections. Federalism was the maiden practice of Nepal and employees and local representatives had faced some uneasiness to implement it in the beginning, but such situation would end gradually.



RJPN secretary Lama dies

Inaruwa: Central secretary of Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJP), Tenji Lama has passed away. He was 31. He died due to electric shock while taking bath at his house in Itahari, Sunsari district, the District Police Office, Sunsari stated.

Lama who was seriously injured due to electrocution died on the way to the BP KOirala Institute of Health Sciences in Dharan. Police is investigating into the incident. He is survived by his wife and two children.



Province 2: Strive for energy independence

Janakpur: Province 2 Governor Ratneshwar Lal Kayastha has announced the provincial government's plan of generating 50MW electricity through alternative sources this year. Presenting the policies and programmers for the upcoming fiscal year in Provincial Assembly, Kayastha said that the provincial government was planning to increase the province's electricity production capacity. Governor Kayastha also outlined the provincial government's plan to harness solar energy by building a solar farm on the premises of



Janakpur Cigarette Factory to power various irrigation facilities. The goal of Province 2 is to

become energy independent to power its homes and industries. There are eight districts in the province, none

of them produce electricity.

The provincial government is also working to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the province by coordinating with the federal government and develop the area between Jaleswor in Mahottari district to Dhalkebar in Dhanusha district as an industrial corridor, Kayastha announced. The policies and programmes of Province 2 government are mainly focused on agriculture, irrigation, forest and environment, land reforms, health and sanitation, education, security, industries, and infrastructure development sectors.

DPM Yadav and Minister Rayin congratulated

Kathmandu: The Federal Socialist Forum Nepal has extended its best wishes and congratulations to newly-appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Upendra Yadav and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Istiyak Rayin.

Ay a programme organized at party's central office Balkumari of Lalitpur, FSFN welcomed and congratulated the both for being inducted to the Council of Ministers. On the occasion, party chair and DPM Yadav said that merely joining government does not mean that the ground for struggle has been abandoned. Party senior leader Ashok Rai said that FSFN has participated in the government to work for the country and people.

FSFN joining Oli govt will not have impact on coalition govt in prov 2: Jha



Anil Jha

Kathmandu: Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) leader Anil Jha has ruled out any possibility in change in Province 2 government. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli inducted two ministers from Federal Socialist Forum Nepal (FSFN) led by Upendra Yadav into his cabinet on Friday. A day earlier, Nepal Communist Party had withdrawn its support from Lal Babu Raut government. The two Madhes-based parties FSFN and RJPN have formed a coalition government in the province 2.

With FSFN joining the NCP-led central government, theories suggest that there are possibilities of realignment of power equation in province 2 government. NCP's withdrawal of its support given to Raut government has been taken as a mathematical move aimed at changing the government in province 2. Following the FSFN's decision to join Oli government, RJPN leader Manish Suman had claimed that NCP would form its own government in Madhes toppling the Raut's government.

"The decision of FSFN to join the government will not have any impact on the provincial government," said Jha at an interaction program organized by the Reporters' Club Nepal. "FSFN's decision will not be a reason for the fall of coalition government in province. The coalition of RJPN and FSFN will stay intact," he claimed. supported Oli during the premiership election. We were hopeful that if both FSFN and RJPN supports Oli government, the constitution can be amended with two-third majority," he furthered. "We still hope the government will revise constitution and addresses the issues of Madhes. The RJPN will continue supporting the Oli government," he added.

No possibility for unification with NCP: Forum

Kathmandu: Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal Chairperson Upendra Yadav has clarified that his party is not preparing for the merger with Nepal Communist Party anytime soon.

Whereas some media have claimed that the two parties have begun informal negotiations for the unification after the merger of then CPN-UML and CPN-Maoist Centre into the NCP, Yadav says the reports are baseless.

Some media had claimed that the Forum is willing to merge with the NCP and its decision to join the government is also an indication for the desire to become a part of the big party. However, Yadav, also a Deputy Prime Minister in Oli's Cabinet, says his party is open



to unification with likeminded parties and organisations in the future though such a possibility is slim anytime soon.

He says a recent meeting of the party has decided to unify with the parties which have similar policies, principles and ideologies, no concrete steps have been taken towards that end after that.

RJP warns withdrawal support to Province 2 govt

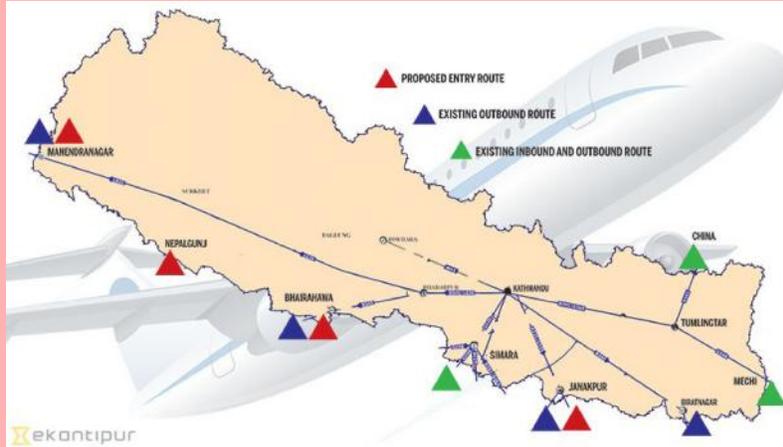
Kathmandu: RJP-Nepal General Secretary Manish Suman has warned that his party will soon withdraw its support to the Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum-led government in Province 2.

Leade Suman, who was speaking at a programme in Kathmandu, said that his party will pull out from the government as coalition partner Forum has joined the federal government. "Upendra Yadav and his party joined the government against the spirit of the Madhesh movement. The agreement between Forum and NCP has no other purpose but to induct Yadav into the government," he added.

RJP's key leaders will meet on Friday to discuss the issue and decide to withdraw support to the provincial government. He hinted that the party could also withdraw its support to the federal government. He said that the NCP lied to the Madheshis saying that it will amend the constitution, but it never plans to do so.

Talks on air routes between Nepal-India next week

Kathmandu: A technical delegation from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is scheduled to arrive in Nepal on June 14 to discuss cross-border airspace issues that have been pending for the last five years, Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (Caan) officials said. The Indian team will be led by Anil Kumar Dutta, member of Air Navigation Services and board member of the AAI. The two sides will discuss three key cross-border routes that Nepal has sought from India: Janakpur in the eastern, Nepalgunj in the mid-western and Mahendranagar in the far western regions. Nepal asked India to formally open the new cross-border air routes during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kathmandu in 2014. The proposed bi-directional or incoming and outgoing air routes will facilitate the operation of international flights from Bhairahawa,



Pokhara and Nijgadh airports. "We don't know about the mandate that the Indian delegation has been entrusted with by its government, but we are prepared to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) if the discussions yield a positive outcome," said a high-level Caan official. "If the MoU is signed during this meeting, it will open the door for both sides to conduct a safety assessment of the proposed routes soon." After a safety assessment has been completed by the technical teams of both

sides, a report needs to be published in an aeronautical information publication (AIP) before the new air paths can become operational. The issue of new air routes was on the agenda of the visit of the Indian premier to Nepal on May 11. In August 2014, a joint communiqué issued by the two countries at the end of the visit said, "The cross-border direct routes will facilitate flights between regional airports in Pokhara and Bhairahawa, and this will save time and money for air travellers and also improve air connectivity

between India and Nepal." Subsequently, the prime ministers of the two countries directed the concerned authorities to meet within the next six months to resolve the issue. Based on this instruction, Nepal and India agreed to make the Kathmandu - Mahendranagar-Delhi (L626) route bi-directional or two-way in 2016. But its safety assessment is yet to be done. Nepal has been pushing the agenda of expanding cross-border air routes for the last nine years, as

there is only a single entry point in Simara for most of the airlines flying to the country. In contrast, there are seven exit points for aircraft flying out of Nepal: Bhairahawa and Mahendranagar in the west, and Simara, Biratnagar, Tumlingtar, Kakarbhitta and Janakpur in the east. Besides Simara, two other entry points over Mechi and Tumlingtar (Nonim which is in the east of Everest) have been specifically designated for planes coming from Bhutan and Lhasa respectively. The Simara entry point is used by a majority of aircraft flying to Nepal and is, therefore, congested most of the time. The two upcoming international airports in Bhairahawa and Pokhara will not be financially and technically feasible if India does not allow aircraft to enter Nepal from one of the proposed cross-border air routes in Bhairahawa, Nepalgunj or Mahendranagar.

NCP lawmaker Sah slapped in Dhanusha



Janakpur: Newly formed Nepal Communist Party (NCP) lawmaker Manju Yadav slapped her party's another lawmaker Kishori Sah at the party's Parliamentary Party office after the province assembly meeting. NCP Lawmakers who were present in the Parliamentary Party office said that Yadav

slapped Sah over a dispute arose while typing the projects of lawmakers. Initially, lawmaker Yadav had a verbal dispute with a person who was typing the projects of party lawmakers to be sent to the concerned ministry. The dispute had arisen after Yadav said that she would type her project herself. When Yadav was having a verbal dispute with the computer operator,

lawmaker Sah suddenly appeared in the middle of the duo and warned Yadav that he would slap twice on her face if she did not keep quiet. After Yadav felt that she was misbehaved, anguished Yadav slapped Sah on his face. Parliamentary Party leader Satya Narayan Mandal and another lawmaker Nagendra Sah were also there when the incident occurred. Yadav elected under the proportional representation category from the then CPN-UML while Sah was elected under the first-past-the-post category from Dhanusha constituency 1 in the recently held elections.

RJP urges EC to extend deadline to hold general convention

Kathmandu: Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJP-N) has decided to urge the Election Commission (EC) to extend the time to hold the party's general convention. The chairman council meeting has decided to urge the EC to extend the deadline from one month to six months to hold the general convention, RJP leader Keshav Jha. The RJP-N leadership had been in confusion over the party's establishment date. The RJP-N was formed after a six-party merger on April 20, 2017 and was endorsed by the central committee on May 2 before getting registered with the EC. As the party has not done any preparations, it's not possible to hold the general convention within a month. So the party has decided to urge the Commission to extend the time by six months. Earlier, the Election Commission directed the Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJP-N) to hold its national convention and inform it within July 14. The EC has also told the RJP-N could use the date as its establishment day, confirming that the party was registered with it on July 14 last year. Citing Article 22(10) of the party's statute, the poll body has directed the RJP-N to hold its national convention within a year and update it about the development.

National prosperity with political stability: DPM Yadav



Pokhara: Upendra Yadav, chairman of Federal Socialist Forum Nepal and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population has said that political stability will lead the nation on the way to prosperity.

In a press meet organized by Federal Press Forum Kaski, DPM Yadav stressed on

modernization of agricultural sector, development of tourism and hydro sectors to eradicate the poverty in the country.

On another note, he added that his party had joined the government after forging consensus with the government and Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to correct the errors seen in the constitution.

With the participation of the party in the NCP-led government, it had over a two-third majority. "It is essential to make provinces powerful by formulating required laws," DPM Yadav added.

Feasibility study for Raxaul-Kathmandu railway starts

Kathmandu: The preliminary feasibility study for the proposed Raxaul-Kathmandu railway has begun. Nepal's Department of Railways says a team comprising technicians from India and Nepal are carrying out the study.

In the first phase of the study, they will observe a place in Chobhar of Kathmandu where a railway station is proposed, according to the Department's senior engineer Prakash Bhakta Upadhyaya.

Meanwhile, the Nepal government has put on hold the process it had begun to recruit a company for the project after Indian government told Kathmandu that it would cover all the costs. The railway will be 113 kilometre long. Around 20 per cent of it will be tunnels and bridges.

The report of preliminary study is expected within next three months. After that, the detailed project report will be prepared. It will take 15 months.

Even if everything goes well, the actual construction will begin after around two years only.

Coalition in Province will intact: RJP-Nepal

Kathmandu: Rastriya Janata Party has decided not to withdraw the ruling coalition on Province 2.

A meeting of the party's top leaders in Kathmandu decided to stay put even as reports suggested that the RJP was in the mood to quit. Party leaders were under pressure to leave the government after senior partner Forum-Nepal joined the federal government without reaching an agreement with the NCP to amend the constitution to address the demands of the Madhesh movements.

Party leaders have also cautioned the RJP rank and file not to criticise the provincial government. They have said that the RJP will respect the mandate of the Madheshi people and not leave the government.

Evidences of old civilization found in Dhanusha

Kathmandu: The Department of Archaeology has claimed that they have found evidences to prove that an ancient civilization dating back to the third or second century BC existed on the banks of the Jamuni River in Dhanusha district.

The location lies 16-km southeast from historic Janaki temple.

Earlier in March, locals of Mukhiya Patti Musarahaniya Village Committee had requested the DoA to conduct extensive research in the area after they discovered ancient idols while embanking the Jamuni River. Later, the DAO deployed a team of researchers in the area.

According to the DoA's press release, they have found evidences of as many as eight human civilisations that existed in different time periods. "The DoA said that the cultural layers in the area date back to Kusand period of the first to second Century AD to Mourya Period of the third to second Century

BC," the press release reads.

Similarly, Under-secretary at DoA Ram Bahadur Kunwar, who led the team, said they had found dozens of evidences such as ancient brick walls, floors of human settlement, human-made pits, piles of mud utensils and post wholes which were used to place wooden pillars. He said that all of the artefacts had unique features of Maurya period civilisation.

Some comparatively advanced relics of Kusand Period like iron slag, terracotta beads, terracotta bangles and bricks were also discovered in the area.

Kunwar said that they also discovered unique utensil pieces called Northern Black Polished Ware which date back to 600 to 300 Century BC.

The excavation was undertaken by digging a four-metre wide and three-metre deep trench.

Officials have collected samples of Charcoal, bone and mud for further research in the area.

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