

Challenges for development and long-term vision

Kathmandu: Various factors and figures documented by the National Planning Commission (NPC) shows that achieving the development agenda would be challenging in lack of adequate investment from both government and private sector.

The report provided by the Commission to the Parliamentary Committee has mentioned that enough attention was not paid by the concerned authorities and stakeholders to labour force participation as well as productivity in the economic growth.

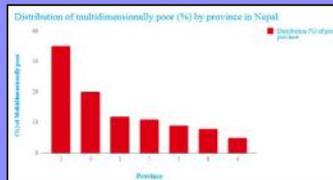
According to Commission's Vice-Chairman Dr Pushparaj Kandel, it has been increasingly difficult to gain demographic advantages in lack of human resources development projects and lack of good-governance in many projects and inability to capitalize on the natural and cultural diversity of the country.



Story of Province 2

Janakpur: There are seven newly formed provinces in Nepal. Among them, Province 2 has the highest number of multidimensionally poor Nepalis. More than 2.5 million people are multidimensionally poor in Province 2, representing 35% of all poor Nepalis according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the Nepali Government.

Unlike traditional poverty rates which look at monetary indicators, the Multidimensional Poverty Index looks at ten indicators, including child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, nutrition,



cooking fuel, improved sanitation, improved drinking water, electricity, asset ownership and flooring and roofing. If a Nepali is deprived in at least three of these areas, then she/he is considered poor.

Nepal's Multidimensional Poverty Index is aligned with the Sustainable

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The Commission concludes that the adequate coordination was not seen between the mobilization of public properties and economic development policy.

The report further states there was lack of formulation of laws based on research and studies and lack of respecting labour as well as entrepreneurship cultures among the people adversely affecting the realization of development agendas.

The Commission, in its report, has also reasoned political instability to be one of the reasons why the economic development had not gained importance in the country.

21.6 per cent poverty

The income poverty has fallen down to 21.3 per cent while the multidimensional poverty to 28.6 per cent. The average annual per capital income of Nepali stands at USD 1,400.

The net admission of students at primary level has reached 97.2 per cent while the child

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Janakpurdham-Patna direct bus service starts

Janakpur: The direct bus service from Janakpur, the provincial capital of Province No 2 to Patna of Bihar State of India has kicked off.

Province No. 2 Chief Minister Lal Babu Raut flagged off the Janakpur-Patna Bus Service and sent the bus ferrying passengers going to Patna.

A total of four buses will be operated along the Janakpur-Patna route and Kathmandu-Bodhgaya on a daily basis.

The Patna-Janakpur direct service, however, came into operation from last Tuesday. The Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar flagged off the bus carrying passengers from Patna to Janakpur.

Similarly, Bodhgaya-Kathmandu direct bus services also started on Tuesday.

The bus services were operated by Syambhu Manjushree Pvt Ltd from Nepal while the Bihar Government operated the bus services to Janakpur and Kathmandu, according to Janakpur Zone Bus Entrepreneur Association President Manoj Chaudhary.

Chaudhary shared that well-equipped offices were also set up at the bus stops along these routes. The bus from Janakpur reaches Patna via Bhattamode and Sitamadi while the bus leaving from Kathmandu reaches Patna via Birgunj, Raxaul and Motihari.

The distance between Janakpur to Patna is 225



kilometres and the fare is priced at Rs 440 while the fair for Kathmandu-Bodhgaya costs Rs 2000 and Kathmandu-Patna Rs 1,640.



Editorial

Justice for Ram Manohar Yadav

An attention must be drawn towards the death of a man who was arrested on the charge of rebellion against the state in Bardiya, on August 23. 30-year-old Ram Manohar Yadav died while receiving treatment, in police custody. He was arrested for waving a black flag in a programme attended by Minister for Health and Population Upendra Yadav. There is the need to conduct a fair investigation into the death of Yadav, to take action against the guilty, and to provide compensation. The government to be sensitive in retaining human rights by arranging effective treatment for those who fall ill, physically or mentally, in police custody.

Actually, Yadav died due to the carelessness of police and

It was blatant violation of democratic principles to detain somebody just for waving black flag at a minister. The police were part of the government and the government was thus responsible for Yadav's death.

delay in treatment. A patient of high blood pressure, Yadav died as he was taken to hospital late.

The government form judicial and parliamentary investigation committees to investigate the custodial death of Yadav because there is concern about Yadav's death. Yadav's death in police custody was indicative of serious negligence on the part of the government, and therefore, the incident should be probed by a judicial committee and guilty police officers punished.

By arresting someone the government authorities take responsibility to save the detainee's life, but here a detainee was killed in custody. A judicial body, and not a relevant department, should investigate the death. The compensation for the victim's family also should be given. It was blatant violation of democratic principles to detain somebody just for waving black flag at a minister. The police were part of the government and the government was thus responsible for Yadav's death.

Whether Nepalis were living in a democracy or an autocratic system? "How can a government with two-third majority arrest someone for waving a black flag at a minister and put him in custody?"

These are worrying signs. While police have botched the investigation, the government has maintained an extremely blasé attitude about such a heinous crime. The police were trying to cover up the incident.

Law enforcement agency is an extension of the state, and when it fails in its duty, it is the failure of the state. KP Oli leads the most powerful government now, but what purpose it will serve when it cannot ensure justice to Yadav. If a government cannot protect its citizens and ensure justice to them, it loses its legitimacy to govern. PM Oli may claim that his government is backed by a two-thirds majority in Parliament, but lest he forget, legitimacy comes not from the numbers but from its accountability towards its people and actions to protect its citizens, guarantee their safety and security and deliver justice to them. It's a shame that heinous crimes like rape are getting lost in the din of Oli's grandiose promises of prosperity, rail and ship. Oli must get out of his coterie of an obsequious group of people and face the reality. It's high time Oli himself took the lead and bring all the agencies together to ensure justice to Yadav.

Can Imran Khan change Pakistan?

M Ilyas Khan

This is the climax of a career that began in the 1970s for a man once widely seen in the West, and particularly in the UK, as an Oxford-educated playboy, as at home in London's nightclubs as he was at the batting crease.

In the West, writes Jonathan Boone, a former Pakistan correspondent for the Guardian, his politics are still "presumed to be as liberal as his private life". The coming months and years will determine if that's true.

He started his political career in the late 1990s, still basking in the glow of having led Pakistan's cricket team to a World Cup win in 1992. But it took a further two decades for him to become a serious contender for power.

In 2013, his Pakistan Justice Movement (PTI) party emerged from obscurity as the third largest political force, after former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former president Asif Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). So for Mr Khan, and many of his followers, this is a dream come true.

He brings with him the promise of change; improved education and health facilities, and more jobs for young people - who constitute nearly 64% of the country's population and provide the bulk of Mr Khan's electoral support.

He seems to be comfortably placed to make this happen. With his tally of parliamentary seats, he will be able to muster the required majority by attracting independent candidates instead of having to make uncomfortable alliances with organised parties.

His initial challenge as prime minister will be to gain legitimacy - he is seen by critics and rivals as a proxy of the country's powerful military establishment, which they say manipulated the electoral process to propel him to power.

Mr Khan is also accused of undermining democracy by conducting a vicious five-year-long campaign against Mr Sharif - who was ousted as prime minister by the Supreme Court last year - despite the fact that Mr Sharif's election in 2013 was seen by domestic and international observers as largely free and fair. But this is only half of the problem. Observers say Mr Khan's most significant challenges are likely to flow from his rather simplistic notion of what actually ails Pakistan. This is apparent from what he

has been telling his followers in recent years.

Mr Khan says the only way he can fulfil his promise of job creation and improved services is by dealing a death blow to dynastic politics - his two chief rivals, the PML-N and PPP parties, have alternatively held power during democratic interregnums since 1988 - and by catching

party's fold in the run up to elections, he may not find it an easy target to achieve.

A failure to rein in the army would also hurt the country's international standing.

It already faces aid restrictions from Washington, hitherto the country's main source of security and development funding.

And it has been included on the watchlist of an international terror-financing watchdog, the Paris-based Financial Action



Imran Khan

corrupt leaders and making them cough up stolen wealth. He has shown no inclination to distinguish between undiluted democracy and a democratic facade dominated by a military that seeks to control the country's security and foreign policies, and that runs a huge business empire of its own. He has also not indicated that he sees religious militancy as a problem. Many believe that in the medium term he may find himself on a collision course with the military establishment, as has been the experience of his two predecessors.

This is because once he assumes power and takes sight of the bigger picture, veteran political observers say, he will find that the route to improving health and education, and to creating jobs and triggering the economic growth that Pakistan needs, passes through territory appropriated by the military. Like his predecessors he will realise, they say, that he must first reduce conflict and tension in the region, especially with India, where such issues are widely blamed on Pakistan's security establishment.

He will also have to reform the country's bureaucracy and judiciary, and ensure and reinforce the writ of the government in areas ceded to rent-seeking business interests often allied with the military.

But having drawn many of those rentier-capitalists to his

Task Force (FATF), which carries further implications for its international funding.

The country is already in a financial crisis - its foreign debt has ballooned and its currency is in freefall.

Interestingly, just as it was being greylisted by FATF in late June, the country lifted restrictions on a host of internationally wanted militant leaders to contest the election, reportedly under a military-sponsored policy of the "mainstreaming" of militants. This has not gone down well with either Delhi or Washington, but unlike his top political rivals, Mr Khan avoided raising this issue during his election campaign.

Analysts say he is likely to end up walking one of two possible routes. He may find a way to work with rival parties like the PML-N and PPP - the ones who have the distinction of having seen the reality of Pakistan from the high seat of power and who are now poised to raise a formidable opposition front, given their combined parliamentary strength, which is not much less than that of Mr Khan and his PTI.

Since his decade of political campaigning has focused on casting these two parties as the chief enemies, however, this may take some nerve.

The other option is to govern with his youthful followers under the country's continuing system of controlled democracy. In that case, he may sit back and enjoy the position while the going is good.

Opposing the Constitution Day is symbolic to mount pressure for amendment

If the constitution has been amended, the Forum or Upendra Yadav does not get the credit but it will go for Prime Minister and the RJP.

How do you remember the Constitution Day because the government is preparing to celebrate the Constitution Day while Madheshi parties preparing to oppose?

According to the expectations of the people after the historic people's Movement, Madhesh movement and the People's War, the constitution issued by the Constituent Assembly should be taken in a positive manner. However, it was not the purpose that the constitution should be issued from the Constituent Assembly. It was also desire to reflect the, aspiration suppressed people. According to that, the day the constitution should be taken positively. But as depressed, Madheshi, people are disappointed with the constitution, it is desperate.

The Madhes-based parties in the past were opposed to the Constituent Day by showing a black flag. But this time RJP and Federal Socialist Forum still undecided about how to mark the Constitution Day?

There were some demands for the depressed people including the Madhes during the constitution making and they also wanted to be addressed by the constitution. Instead, they have opposed the weaknesses in the constitution for

correction. But at that time the government thought that they are just protestors and always protesting. Madheshi parties have not opposed the constitution completely. But they have given pressures to remove the provisions and articles that are against the Madhesh. Those who are not in power oppose peacefully. When the constitution was drafting, Madheshi parties were not in power. They were united for reflection of aspiration and issues of Madhesh in the constitution to be drafted by the Constituent Assembly. Now Federal Socialist Forum is in the government and after going to the government, the party has moral obligation to work with the government's policies and decisions. In the present situation, the Forum should not be taken as Madhesh-centric party by ruling party. RJP is out from the government and opposed the constitution from very early. So there is also an obligation for the RJP to oppose the constitution as its demands are not yet fulfilled. Regarding the opposition party and also as Madhesi party, it is natural for the RJP to oppose the Constituent Day.

Do you want to say the role played by RJP and Forum is correct?

In the present situation, we should look at the Forum and the RJP in two ways. If the purpose of both these parties

was the same, then they should have been united like UML and the Maoists. But it is reality the RJP and Forum have different ideology even they fight for Madhesh. It is natural to oppose the Constituent Day, while RJP is not in the government and the demands that they have kept in place are not addressed.

We know that from outside, the RJP also supported this government and also contested the three levels of elections and elected. The lawmakers of RJP are also taking allowance as per the provision of constitution. So does it correct to oppose the Constitution Day?

We also know that RJP has not even asked not to obey the constitution. We should understand they are protesting the constitution only against the anti-Madhes provisions and demanded for their correction. RJP-Nepal is not against the constitution. RJP is the democratic party to believe in the parliamentary system. I think that RJP is not in favor to bring change through the street movement. It is the goal of RJP to solve the problem of Madesh from this parliamentary process. This is the majority government and there is no meaning of RJP's support to the government. But the RJP has given support to the government with believed that the government will flexible for the constitution



Sukeshwor Pathak

Senior Madheshi Journalist

amendment. The meaning to oppose the Constitution Day is to create the pressure on the government to amend the constitution. Unless, the errors of the constitution are corrected, the whole nation does not have the opportunity to celebrate the Constitution Day.

Do you say it is correct for RJP to oppose the Constitution Day?

From the day when the constitution was issued, the RJP was in movement and continuously opposing it and celebrated as the black day and that case is still continued. As there is no progress in its demands, obviously it is moral duty for RJP to oppose the Constitution Day.

Earlier Federal Socialist Forum demanded rewriting the constitution but now it is in the government saying for the constitution amendment. How do you get the Forum's role?

The Forum raised the slogan of the re-writing of the constitution was very fierce and it wanted to show that it is more revolutionary than the RJP. It was not possible to rewrite the

constitution. As both Forum and RJP are two different parties they have also separate political ambitions. It is the parties' strategy how to fulfill their ambitions so the Forum also did the same.

The Forum has agreed to amend the constitution with this government. If the constitution is amended, RJP was afraid that its credit goes to the Forum?

It was ritual to make an agreement while participating in the government. The agreement between Forum and government was just a showcase. It was not easy for the Forum to participate in the government without agreement. I do not think the constitution to be amended with such an agreement.

Prime Minister KP Oli holds the capability to amend the constitution. Therefore, if the constitution has been amended, the Forum or Upendra Yadav does not get the credit but it will go for Prime Minister and the RJP. The RJP has still stayed with the stand not to joining the government without the amendment of the constitution.

RJP-N lawmaker Chaudhary demands Gandaki CM Gurung's resignation



Shanta Chaudhary

Kathmandu: Parliamentarian Shanta Chaudhary from Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal has questioned state's priority amid increasing violence against women, including rapes. She has also demanded chief minister Prithvi Subba Gurung of Gandaki Province to tender his resignations on moral grounds.

"At a time when the state is yet to nab the culprit of Nirmala Panta and provide a safe environment for women, it is shameful that the the Chief Minister wants to legalize prostitution and generate tax," Chaudhary said as she addressed the parliament.

She also scorned the whole idea of legalizing prostitution in a country that was home to "Bhrikuti and goddess Sita."

On September 11, Gurung had proposed to provide identity cards to sex workers to manage the sex industries because the sex industry was flourishing in the shadows despite ample attempts to curb it. Gurung opined that doing so would help the government to collect tax and avoid exploitations and profits to certain individuals. Gurung had said so during a program organized by Hotels Association of Nepal.

Nepal & Bhutan can't delink from India due to geography: General Bipin Rawat



Bipin Rawat

New Delhi: Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat said that countries like Nepal and Bhutan cannot delink themselves from India as they are more inclined towards India "because of the geography". He also said the geography does not favour their inclination towards China.

Rawat was speaking to the media after the concluding ceremony of BIMSTEC MILEX-18, a joint military exercise of BIMSTEC member nations, which was underway in Pune from September 10.

Replying to a question on Nepal's absence in the MILEX-18 and its growing ties with China, Gen Rawat said, "They cannot delink themselves from India. Countries like Nepal and Bhutan have to be naturally inclined to India because of the geography. Geography favours their inclination towards India and not towards China. As our leaders say, Neighbourhood First and Act East. BIMSTEC is part of such efforts. We are strengthening our relationship with our neighbours. We

are a bigger country, if we take the initiative, others will follow."

Of the seven BIMSTEC nations, while troops from India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were part of the ground exercise, Nepal and Thailand sent teams of observers.

"China is an emerging competitor. Everything is about economics. They are also looking for market and we are also looking for the same market and there is competition. So, whoever performs better will win the race," he said.

While commenting about Nepal opting for the joint military exercise with China, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said that such alliances are temporary. Nepal will be closely linked with India naturally because of its geographical proximity with India.

He added India should not get too concerned about Nepal sending just its observers for the military exercise while joining China's military exercise.

"India should only focus in getting strong. Our approach should be to engage with our neighbour, take care of our neighbourhood and BIMSTEC is part of that. The motto is neighbourhood first and also act East. India is a bigger country. If we take the initiative, everyone will follow suit. The way India is evolving, other countries are also evolving. Market is common so the struggle is for the same space. The competition for economic growth matters, whoever does better will succeed so let us look at improving our systems," said Rawat.

Challenges for development ...

mortality rate is at 39 per cent per 1,000 children and maternity mortality rate has fallen down to 235 in every 100,000 according to the Commission.

The government confirms the access of drinking water to 90 per cent of the total populations while there has been remarkable expansion of telephone and internet services.

There is some 30,000 kilo metres of road network in the country while the electricity generation has reached 1,073 mega watt, according to the report.

The government has forwarded a long-term vision, aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a development agenda to end all forms of poverty, to protect planet, fight inequalities and tackle climate change among others.

Clean Energy

According to the report, the government has already prepared a draft in line with the policy level concept of Nepal to achieve 17 goals of the SDGs by 2030. There has been the estimation of the resources and the budget ceiling has been determined in the report to achieve the global goal-SDGs.

Commission's Secretary Laxman Aryal shared that the plans were mooted for the distribution of clean energy, production and expansion of grid in all 753 local units by 2022.

9.5 per cent of economic growth

Nepal has prepared and submitted the document at policy-making level regarding upgrading Nepal from the Least Developed Country (LDC) to a developing country by 2022 to the United Nations.

The Commission has also taken mid-term target to achieve 9.5 per cent of economic growth by fiscal year 2077/78 BS.

Towards this end, the Commission has already done review of the 154th Project obtained permit for the concept paper for the 15th Project.

Janakpur sub-metropolis to reduce tax



Janakpur: Janakpur Sub-metropolis has agreed to reduce the rate of tax that had been increased recently.

The agreement was reached during a discussion held between the Nepali Congress municipal committee, the chamber of commerce and industry and the Sub-metropolis officials. The NC municipal committee had been waging an agitation against the taxation increased in sanitation tax, parking fee, property and house tax. As per the agreement reached between the Sub-metropolis and the NC municipal committee, the process of amendment shall be moved ahead after studying the existing taxes.

Committee Chair Manoj Shah said that both sides have agreed to immediately move ahead with the review process to amend the tax, non-tax and service fee determined by the financial act, 2075. Mayor Lal Kishore Shah, Deputy Mayor Rita Kumari Mishra, NC officials and the Chamber General Secretary Jitendra Kumar Shah among others were present in the discussion.

Province 2 to celebrate Constitution Day

Janakpur: Even as the Rastriya Janta Party-Nepal (RJP-N), a key coalition partner of Province 2 government, has decided to observe the Constitution Day as a black day, the Province 2 government has been making preparations to celebrate the day. However, the programmes to be held on the constitution day have not been finalised.

The province government—a coalition of RJP-N and Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum—has planned a tree plantation programme on the premises of Janakpur Cigarette factory that houses the province ministry offices to mark the day. “We have only decided a tree plantation programme,” said Province 2 Chief Secretary Rajendra Man Singh. “Discussions are being held to decide other programmes.”



In the past two years, Both the Madhes-based political parties had marked the anniversary of the charter promulgation as a black day. The constitution was promulgated on September 19, 2015, amid protests from the Madhesi community. However, both the parties—ruling partners of the Province 2 government—seem to be in a dilemma

whether to mark the day with celebration or protest as they have supported the federal government.

The federal government has issued a circular to the provincial governments to celebrate the constitution day on Wednesday (September 19). The Province 2 government is preparing to mark the day by forming a main organising committee. “We are yet to form

the organising committee,” said Secretary Singh. “The committee will finalise the programmes for the constitution day.” He said the constitution day should be observed as the provincial government was formed according to the provision of the charter.

However, the Rastriya Janta Party-Nepal (RJP-N), a key coalition partner of Province 2 government, has decided to stage protest in Madhes on the constitution day. A meeting of RJP-N presidium held in Kathmandu on September 10-13 had deputed its ministers and state ministers to address the protest rallies in various places on the Constitution Day. The meeting had decided to organise protests against the Constitution Day to express its reservations over some provisions in the charter that it believes are against the Madhesi community.

Vice President Pun leaving for China on September 19



Kathmandu: Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun is scheduled to attend the 17th Western China International Fair to be organized at Chengdu, Sichuan in China. Pun is leaving Kathmandu for China on September 19 for the purpose. The fair will kick off on September 20 and come to an end on September 24. Western China International Fair is an important investment promotion, trade cooperation and diplomatic service platform for China in the western region for realizing western cooperation, east-west cooperation and Sino-foreign cooperation in the

western region.

It focuses on the China Western Development, and adheres to highlighting western characteristics, internationalization, economic and trade achievements, and investment promotion.

Vice President Pun is attending the event at the invitation of Communist Party Secretary of Sichuan Province Peng Qinghua and People's Republic of China, Sichuan province governor Yin Li.

According to Vice President Pun's press coordinator Manoj Gharti, VP Pun is scheduled to address the fair at Chengdu on September 20 and will also deliver his speech at a digital forum on September 21.

It is stated that the Vice President will call on high level government officials and CPC high ranking leaders and will also observe the developmental projects there during his stay. Vice President Pun will return home on September 24.

CPN Chair Dahal embarks on China visit



Kathmandu: CPN Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has left for China visit.

He is visiting China at the special invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Before leaving, Chairman Dahal told media at Tribhuvan International Airport that major agenda of the visit was to extend and strengthen the relations between CPN and Communist Party of China.

Another focus of his visit, as Dahal said, would be the initiative to implement various issues of agreement and cooperation reached between the two countries in the past.

During his stay, the CPN Chair and former Prime Minister would hold talks with high level leaders

of China on mutual relations and also on bilateral relations.

In a different note, he said discussions were underway to unify the sister organizations of the former CPN (UML) and Maoist parties as per the party unity.

“Immediately after I return from China, all remaining issues of the unification of sister organizations would be concluded. There is no doubt unity concludes before Dashain festival,” he asserted.

Chairman Dahal had recently held a visit to the southern neighbour, India, and met the Indian PM, Home Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and discussed dimension of Nepal-India relations.

Province 2 ministers to address protest rallies

Janakpur: Rastriya Janta Party-Nepal (RJP-N), a key coalition partner of Province 2 government, has decided to send its ministers and state ministers to address the protest rallies that are being held in various places on the Constitution Day on Wednesday.

The meeting of the RJP-N presidium held in the Capital from September 10-13 had decided to organise protests the Constitution Day to express its reservations over some provisions in the charter that it believes is against the Madhesi community.

RJP-N, a Madhes-based political party, has decided to observe the day as a black day. According to the decision taken by the RJP-N presidium Coordinator Mahanta Thakur, Province 2 Physical

Infrastructure Minister Jitendra Sonal will address a protest rally in Saptari, Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment Ram Naresh Raya will attend the rally in Siraha,

Social Development Minister Nawal Kishor Sah in Dhanusha, and State Minister for Physical Infrastructure Dimple Jha will address a

protest assembly in Mahottari. Similarly, State Minister for Social Development Abhiram Sharma will take part in a rally in Sarlahi and State Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment Suresh Mandal will address a rally in Rautahat.

Senior RJP-N leaders will also be attend the rallies in various parts of Province 2, Province 5 and Province 7. Thakur is scheduled to address the rallies in Parsa and Bara districts, Rajendra Mahato in Banke and Bardiya districts, Mahendra Rae Yadav in Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts of Province 5, and Anil Kumar Jha in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of Province 7. Sharat Singh Bhandari will attend a protest rally in Jhapa of Province 1. Raj Kishor Yadav will participate in two rallies in Morang and Sunsari in Province 1.

RJP-N to protest on Constitution Day

Kathmandu: The RJP-Nepal has decided to protest the event on the Constitution Day. The RJP reiterating its displeasure at the constitution promulgated three years ago. The Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal, which is now in government, was another prominent party that highlighted constitutional provisions it deemed unfair to the people of Madhes.

The Forum is a coalition partner while the RJP-N supports the Nepal Communist Party-led government. Both the parties are pressing for constitutional amendments.

"Since the anti-Madhes constitution was promulgated on September 19,



the day will be observed by organising various protest programmes," reads the RJP-N circular issued after a two-day meeting of the party presidium. The party also boycotted the meeting held at the Home Ministry on September 2 called to chart out the plan for marking the day and to form an organising committee.

Schools closed in Swine Flu and Hong Kong Flu hit area

Rajbiraj: Schools will be closed for three days from Sunday in Kanchanrup Municipality and Hanumannagar Kankalani Municipality of Saptari district after the outbreak of swine flu and Hong Kong flu in the areas. An emergency meeting of the Kanchanrup Municipality today declared the municipality a disaster-hit area and decided to close the schools, the municipality mayor Basanta

Mishra informed.

The Municipality has urged one and all to remain alert and conscious in the context of the outbreak of the diseases.

Mayor Mishra said the decision to shut down schools has been taken in view of the possibility of the disease virus spreading among the pupils. He added that the schools will remain closed until the prevalence of the infection was removed.

Health check-up camps have

been set up at various places after scores of people started suffering from the fever, cough and cold at the two municipalities as well as in Mahadeva rural municipality.

People suffering from cough and fever in the municipality area were found to be carrying the H1N1 (Swine flu) and H3N2 (Hong Kong flu) virus. Of the 24 samples sent to Kathmandu, one person was found suffering from Swine flu and 10 from

Hong Kong flu, according to chief of district public health office, Saptari Niranjan Prasad Yadav.

Five people have died so far, including Bhalsardevi Sardar, 60, of ward no. 4, Dipbans Basnet, 14, Kishore Ram, 14, and Amod Kumar Ram, 14, of ward no. 7 in the municipality and eight-year-old Mahaful Alam of Mahadeva rural municipality. However, it is not yet confirmed that the deaths were due to the virus.

Japan gives mobile clinic to Siraha-based hospital



Kathmandu: Ambassador of Japan to Nepal Masamichi Saigo handed over a mobile clinic to Siraha-based Phul Kumari Mahato Memorial Hospital at a function organised at Nepal Medicit Hospital.

The mobile clinic is a

specialised car manufactured by Toy Factory and comes with basic medical equipment for diagnosis and treatment of patients.

According to Bijay Rimal, general manager at Nepal Medicit Hospital, the hospital

will provide free health services in the mobile clinic. He informed that one consultant doctor and a paramedic will be in the car to provide treatment to patients.

"The mobile clinic also has an ICU with ventilator. Hence, treatment can also be provided in emergency cases, such as road accidents," said Rimal. The mobile clinic can be used for transporting patients.

The Phul Kumari Mahato Memorial Hospital is located in a village called Karjanha and is the only medical facility in the area.

It provides a wide range of medical services and focuses on treatment of local women and children for a minimum charge.

Municipality sending every child to school

Janakpur: The Mithila municipality has declared that no children of school going age are out of school.

This was announced by Mayor Hari Narayan Mahato at a programme organised to mark the Children's Day at Dhalkebar. He also claimed that the municipality was the first to complete the school enrolment campaign initiated by the government.

Mayor Mahato also said that the next priority of the municipality was to make it fully literate in the next few years.

Deputy Mayor Tara Basnet Lama said that the municipality was running a programme with a special focus on educating daughters.

Border dispute with India should not continue: PM



Kp Oli

Kathmandu: Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said that there should be no border dispute between Nepal and India.

Addressing the Nepal-India international border meeting at Singha Durbar, he said that as disputes seen in the border are not that cannot be solved, there was no need to bicker over it.

"If any problems are seen, then resolve it through discussion between the two sides considering the past evidence and experts' suggestion," he said while urging the authorities of the two sides to make recommendations to the government for the same.

The Prime Minister noted that Nepal-India relations have taken a new height, and hence consultation with India should be held accordingly. "We are not in favour of a dispute, but for friendship between the two countries," he said.

At the event, Director General of Department of Survey Ganesh Prasad Bhatta presented a working paper on the present status of Nepal-India border, according to the PM's Secretariat.

Panel formed after dispute between mayor and deputy goes intense

Nawalparasi: A probe committee has been constituted after a debate between mayor and deputy mayor turned worse in Gaindakot Municipality of the east Nawalparasi.

The dispute between Mayor Chhatraraj Poudel and Deputy Mayor Bishnu Kumari Kandel escalated after the deputy mayor padlocked the municipality office demanding financial transparency and the mayor termed the move of deputy against the law. However, mayor Poudel has said that the deputy Kandel was trading barbs adding that financial transparency has been maintained in the municipality.

The padlock fixed on Tuesday was unlocked on Wednesday following an understanding after the talks between the mayor, deputy mayor and Chief District Officer Dipak Raj Nepal.

Deputy Mayor Kandel said that consensus has been made after an agreement to get an access to the financial details of the last month of the previous fiscal year.

Likewise, a seven-member committee has been formed under the leadership of chief of district treasury office Mahesh Sharan Bhandari to probe into the financial details of the period.

Katari Hospital runs short of medical officers

Gaighat: With the three medical officers quitting the job in Katari Hospital in Udayapur district at the same time, the Hospital has been facing shortage of health workers, which has affected the health services.

The patients vesting the hospital either has to wait for the medical officers for the whole day or has to reach the nearest private clinics to avail health services, grieved the patients' attendants. Around 50-100 patients visit the hospital every day.

One such attendants Ram Prasad Poudel said, "Until a month ago, the doctors here used to render health services to the patients shortly after their visit to the Hospital but lately the patients and their attendants have to wait for the doctors forever opt for the private clinics for the same."

In lack of adequate human resources, the patients are forced to visit the private clinics paying exorbitant fees, lamented Kumari Danuwar of Katari Risku-3 in the district.

Katari Hospital Chief Dr Gaurav admitted, "It has been increasingly difficult to run the Hospital in lack of the doctors. We had three doctors and since two of them were transferred elsewhere and one working on the contract basis left the job after he secured a position in the government service."

Although the Hospital authority has apprised the concerned Ministry about the human resources crunch, Dr Shah, bemoaned that nothing has been heard from them on this.



The Hospital has been attracting patients not just from the district but also from the neighbouring districts as Okhaldunga and Sindhuli, according to the Hospital.

Indian ambassador calls Chief of Army Staff

Kathmandu: Chief of Army Staff Purna Chandra Thapa was paid a courtesy call on by Indian ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri at the Army Headquarters.

Discussions were held on matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations during the meeting, the Nepalese Army Public Relations Directorate stated in a press release.

Likewise, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Yu Hong has called Nepal Army Chief Purna Chandra Thapa. According to Nepal Army Directorate of Public



Relations, they held discussions on the issues related to bilateral relations and mutual benefit. On the occasion, Chinese envoy congratulated Thapa on his recent assumption to the post.

Story of Province 2 ...

Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Overall, 28.6% of Nepal's population is multidimensionally poor.

According to the report: "Provinces 6 and 2 have the highest rate of multidimensional poverty - with every second person being multi-dimensionally poor (50%) - followed by Provinces 5 and 7 (approximately 30%)."

Province 2 is the second largest province in the country. Located in southeastern Nepal, this province includes Bara, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Parsa, Rautahat, Saptari, Sarlahi and Siraha.

Province 6 is the smallest province in Nepal and includes the districts of Dailekh, Dolpa, Humla, Jajarkot, Jumla, Kalikot Mugu, Rukum (western part) Salyan, Surkhet.

Saptari flood victims still in tents

Rajbiraj: Around three dozen families of flood victims have been sheltering in makeshift tents in Hanumannagar Kankalini Municipality, Saptari, for the past two weeks.

As many as 400 houses were inundated after flood in the Koshi River entered human settlements in Wards No 5, 6, 7, 10 and 12 of the municipality on August 28.

As many as 36 flood victim families, who have been taking shelter in tents erected on the dam of the river, have yet to return to their houses. "We are in continuous fear of flood," said a victim, Shvavati Khatun, of the municipality. She added that they had no option but to take shelter in tents due to high risk of flood. "We do not have courage to return to our houses as the rainy season is still not over," she said.

Another victim, Dhruva Raya, said that they were compelled to spend many sleepless nights fearing flood and inundation.

Most of the people taking shelter in makeshift tents erected on the dam site are landless squatters. They have been living on the land near the Koshi River.

Indrishi Ali, a local, said they should be shifted to safer places. He complained that the government and the municipality did not pay any attention to their problems. Ali said the flood victims had received nothing besides two to four kg rice and a tent. The flood victims have requested the authorities concerned to relocate them to a safer place.

Meanwhile, Mayor Sailesh Sah said the municipality had been taking initiative to shift the settlements to the eastern side from the western.

Talks to be held with all protesting political parties

Kathmandu: The political dialogue committee constituted by the government to hold talks with the political parties that have announced protests against the state has called on such parties to come to the talks table.

Speaking in a news conference organised, coordinator of the government talks team Som Prasad Pandeya, said that the government was committed to maintain peace, tolerance and mutual goodwill by eliminating all sorts of conflicts by means of dialogue.

"The government is actively working to establish sustainable peace in the country by means of consensus, collaboration and dialogue; and also to give a sense that there is no conflict situation in the country," he said.

Coordinator Pandeya also stated that the talks committee was preparing to send letters to these political parties inviting them to talks after implementing the agreements reached with them in the past. He added that the response of these parties to the official letter would be studied.

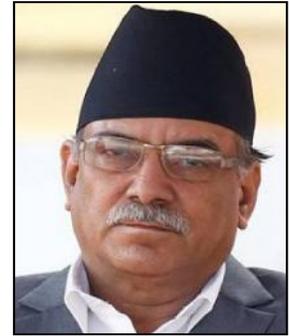
When asked regarding the arrest of spokesman of the Netra Bikram Chand-led Communist Party of Nepal, Khadka Bahadur Bishwokarma, the coordinator of the government talks team said that Bishwokarma was arrested as per the statutory process of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He reiterated that talks would also be held with the Chand-led CPN and that there would be no suppression on the leaders and cadres of this party in the course of the talks.

India wants stability and prosperity in Nepal, says Prachanda

Kathmandu: Nepal Communist Party Chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal has returned home after concluding his four day visit to New Delhi.

Upon his arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Dahal said Indian leaders communicated to him that they wanted a stable government and prosperity in Nepal.

He reiterated that the objective of his visit was to remind the Indian leadership of agreements the two countries made earlier so as to ensure their timely and effective implementation. Dahal also claimed that his visit helped to strengthen the bilateral relations and implementation of past agreements between the two countries. He was of the view that a positive progress has been achieved in relations with India after the neighbor took initiatives to resolve the inundation problems in bordering areas, closing the Biratnagar field office of the



Indian embassy and expediting road construction project in western Nepal as per its commitments.

Dahal is also expected to meet top Chinese leaders during his China visit starting from September 15, a week after his meeting with top Indian leaders. Former Prime Minister Dahal held meeting with Indian Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Modi's chief security advisor Ajit Doval among others during the visit.

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