

New deal between NCP and RJPN likely to polarize the national politics
RJPN fallen into the ruling party's trap: Socialist

Kathmandu: New form of political development is likely in the country with the election for the National Assembly (NA) and the deal signed between the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) and the RJP-Nepal.

With the agreement, which was reached at the official residence of Prime Minister in Baluwatar, the RJPN will win two seats and the ruling NCP will secure victory in the remaining 16 seats of the upper house. Since President Bidya Bhandari will also appoint one member in the upper house on the recommendation of the government, the ruling NCP will technically secure 17 seats among the 19 seats that will fall vacant in March 2020. Currently, the NCP has 42 seats, while Nepali Congress has 13 seats in the upper house. Similarly, RJPN and Sadbhawana Party have two seats each. Among them, eight from NCP, 7 from NC and two from RJPN and one from Samajwadi will fall vacant from March 3, 2020.

Of the total 59 National



Assembly members, 19 have tenure of two years, 20 have tenure of four years and the rest will serve for six years,

according to the National Assembly members' election law.

As per the constitutional

provision, the National Assembly will have the full term of six years and the vacant posts are elected on a regular basis.

As the election to the posts that fall vacant will be held on majority-basis this time, the candidates garnering majority votes from the electoral college will emerge victorious. With the upper house election slated for January 23, the ruling NCP is set to emerge even stronger in the upper house after winning seven more seats.

With the latest agreement, the strength of the NCP in the upper house will reach 50 from existing 42, and the

RJPN to claim for Deputy Speaker



Kathmandu: RJP-Nepal Presidium Coordinator Rajendra Mahato has staked the party's claim for the post of Deputy Speaker after alliance with the ruling NCP for National Assembly election. Mahato staked claim for the post of deputy speaker as CPN cannot keep both the posts of speaker and deputy speaker. The post of speaker is vacant after Krishna Bahadur Mahara resigned following rape allegation by a federal parliament secretariat staffer.

The ruling party will have to ask Deputy Speaker Shiva Maya Tumbahamphe, whose allegiance is now with CPN having won the last general election on a CPN-UML ticket, to resign to keep the post of speaker with the party as the Constitution prohibits appointment of speaker and deputy speaker from the same party.

RJP-Nepal has staked claim for the post of Deputy Speaker with NCP keeping that of the Speaker.

"We, however, have not talked with the ruling party on the issue of deputy speaker until now," Mahato conceded. "It is normal for political parties to claim for positions. We believe we should get the post."

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Kathmandu to connect with Indian Railway by 2030

Kathmandu: Indian Railways has announced that the survey work on the 136-km international railway from Raxaul on the Bihar border has been completed and is targeted for completion by 2030.

A direct rail ride to Nepal's capital Kathmandu from India may become possible in the not so distant future. According to New Indian Express, the project would cost Rs 16,550 crore excluding the cost of acquisition of land by Nepal. Rajesh Kumar, chief spokesperson of East Central Railway (ECR) said, "The



project is the outcome of an initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Kathmandu on August 31, 2018, when a MoU was signed with the Nepalese PM for the railway project."

The initial survey has been completed and the Ministry of External Affairs of India is to fund the project, he said. A total of 32 roads over bridges, 53 underpasses, 259 minor bridges, and 41 major bridges will be designed to facilitate the route, which would pass through 39 tunnels.



Editorial

Deal between NCP & RJPN

New form of political development is likely in the country with the election for the National Assembly (NA) and the deal signed between the ruling NCP and RJP-Nepal.

As per the deal, the NCP and RJPN will share to be elected 18 seats with another one nominated seat in the NA limiting the main opposition Nepal Congress (NC) into six seats, government of the province two will be formed by sharing the posts between the NCP and the JPPN by forcing the Samajbadi Party, an ally of the incumbent government, into the opposition bench.

The NCP and the RJPN signed an agreement to support each other during the upcoming election for the NA. As per the agreement, the ruling head NCP will secure victory in the remaining 17 seats

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including one nominated by the president and remaining two by the RJPN.

The move of the ruling head NCP to collaborate with the RJPN is taken importantly because collaboration with the RJPN is taken as a ploy to bypass the Socialist Party from the government. It is likely that the Socialist would backtrack from the government once the RJPN incorporated in the government.

The reduction of the size of the main opposition in the parliament and the division between the Madhes based parties over the issue of government would hamper to the prospect of political consensus to execute the remaining task of implementing the constitution.

With the latest agreement, the strength of the NCP in the upper house will reach 50 from existing 42, and the RJPN will win one more to take its total number of seats to two. The main opposition NC is set to lose seven seats from among 13 seats it currently has. The move of the ruling NCP to collaborate with the RJPN, which has stayed in the opposition protesting the government's decision to arrest its lawmaker Resham Chaudhary in connection with the 2015 Tikapur massacre, instead of reaching similar agreement with its coalition partner Socialist Party -Nepal-led by Upendra Yadav, is seen as significant.

Similarly, the NCP's move could also be aimed at giving a message to the Socialist Party that the ruling party could still command two-thirds majority in parliament with support from the RJPN even if the Socialist Party chooses to sever ties with the government.

Delhi can't anger Nepal too

- Major General Ashok K Mehta

For Nepal, the Kalapani land dispute has become convulsive and episodic

The ruckus in Nepal over Kalapani which I witnessed in Kathmandu and west Nepal in November and December was unprecedented, though notches lower than the anti-India storm of nationalism during the nearly two-month long economic blockade of 2015. Articles in print media, TV debates, discussions among civil society groups, political meetings, election rallies and street protests, with slogans like 'go back India' all featured Kalapani (and Susta) as the central theme. Not everyone though is factually accurate or unemotional about the disputed but strategically high value real estate near the India-China-Nepal trijunction.

For Nepal, the Kalapani land dispute has become convulsive and episodic. This time around, the Nepalese want closure on Kalapani and an end to the alleged border 'encroachments' by India. They have convinced themselves that Kalapani is their land, 'usurped' by India. Kalapani is an old festering issue which was resurrected by New Delhi releasing on 2 November, a new map of India following the Reorganisation of J&K Act 2019, showing Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the Union Territory of J&K, and Gilgit, Baltistan and Aksai Chin in Ladakh. It also showed Kalapani in India, even as the foreign office spokesperson said: 'The new map has in no manner, revised our boundary with Nepal'.

The contestation is over three issues: the source of the Kali (also called Mahakali) river, the location of Lipulekh Pass, and the India-China-Nepal trijunction. The earliest the Nepalese go back on Kalapani is to 1816, the Treaty of Sugauli whose Article 5 reads: 'areas east of Kali river belong to

Nepal'. The origin/source of Kali river determines whether the Kalapani area, which is around 35 sq km, lies in India or Nepal.

Kathmandu claims the source of the Kali river is Lampiya Dhura and not Kalapani as avowed by India, which contends that beyond Kalapani, the boundary follows the watershed to the northern border encompassing the area bound by Lipu Gad (Kava Khola) and the watershed. If Lampiya Dhura is accepted as the source of river Kali, nearly 400 sq km of territory including Kalapani and Lipulekh Pass would go to Nepal.

But the Indian interpretation of the flow of Kali river puts the 35 sq km of Kalapani area on its side. The Indian Army says that the military posts at Kalapani – where there is a Kali temple – and Navidang patrol regularly till Tinker Post near Lipulekh Pass. Nepal's territorial claims emanate from the river Kali originating from Lampiya Dhura, making Kalapani and the Lipulekh Pass theirs.

A number of Nepali scholars, politicians, journalists, former diplomats and military officials have plunged into the Kalapani debate. Quoting statements by the British Survey of India (1 February 1827 and 24 April 1856), experts have claimed that the Kalapani area lies within Nepal and Kali river as the border with its source at Lampiya Dhura. Veteran Nepali journalist Shyam Shrestha told BBC, that around 50 researchers had worked for 18 months, gathering evidence and material to support Nepal's claims. In the same programme, a retired government official claimed that he had carried out the census at Kalapani in 1958, and the people there had voted in 1961.

Some very creative ideas on how Indian troops managed

to deploy at Kalapani are also being expressed, the most popular being that after the 1962 India-China war, retreating Indian troops, finding Kalapani strategically significant, occupied it. King Mahendra who had allowed China to build the Kodari Kathmandu (Araniko) highway around the same time, did not want to further annoy New Delhi, and let the post stay. This anecdotal evidence is attributed to Nepal's former Foreign Minister, Rishikesh Shah, who advised the King to keep quiet.

Another former Foreign Minister, Shailendra Upadhyaya, has rejected this reasoning, admitting that Nepal has inadequate evidence to support this claim. He referred to former Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral who had said that if technicians can prove Kalapani belongs to Nepal, it will be given to it. The fact is, no Indian troops operated in the western India-Nepal-China trijunction area in 1962, and therefore, this theory is unsustainable.

Another widely-cited anecdotal account claims that India had established 18 posts on the Nepal-China border in the mid-60's. While King Mahendra later ordered all posts to be withdrawn, the one at Kalapani stayed put. The factual version is different: King Tribhuvan requested India to set up the Indian Military Mission in 1952. In 1960, 21 Joint Border Check Posts, along with the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA), were established for the surveillance of the Nepal-China border at Nepal's request. In 1965, King Mahendra requested India to equip and arm the RNA, then consisting of four brigades. But on 15 August 1970, under immense pressure from the Communist lobby, King Mahendra ordered the reduced and renamed Indian Military Mission to leave Nepal, together with all the 21 Joint Border Check Posts.

Countinue in next issue ...

2-point agreement between NCP-RJPN justified

Individual agendas that have been raised for the benefit of the nation and the people and it will be a happy moment for all to focus on fulfilling that agenda through cooperation.

➤ **What does the two-point agreement between the RJPN and the NCP indicate?**

• It is very good that all parties stand in favor of the country and the people. Increasing the scope of unity and decreasing political breakthroughs is a good thing for the consensus of the whole country and the people at the center.

➤ **But this agreement looks like an opportunist. How do you think the agreement for electoral purposes is for the nation?**

• It is time to evaluate everything. By taking this opportunity again and again if that

this co-operation is to take the members of the National Assembly and then proceed from its edge, then this cooperation will not be justified.

➤ **The NCP seems to have tried to take out another Madhes-based party (Socialist Party) in trust with another Madhes-based party (RJP-Nepal), who has been dissatisfied with the government till now. Could the issue of constitution amendment being raised by two parties possibility or there is the possibility of some new equations?**

We are working in this party as the Communist Party that delivers such communities and helps to bring prosperity. There are many people of Madhesi ideology in the NCP. Our main goal is to move the entire country towards prosperity and that includes Madhes. NCP goes ahead including all the Madhes, mountains and mountains.

➤ **RJP has been raising the issue of amending the constitution. With the cooperation of RJP, the NCP has become a little more flexible in addressing this issue?**

- There are also contradictions between the Madhesi two parties. Under these contradictions, NCP to move forward with what appears to be a little closer.

- NCP is not ant-Madhesh. Our main goal is to move the entire country towards prosperity and that includes Madhes.

agreement could not do any good for the country and the people, it would be a curse for another time.

➤ **The agreement is just for an electoral support in the National Assembly or does it have the support of NCP in the issues raised by RJP?**

• It depends on the credibility of the top level leaders. Individual agendas that have been raised for the benefit of the nation and the people and it will be a happy moment for all to focus on fulfilling that agenda through cooperation. If

• There are also contradictions between the Madhesi two parties. Under these contradictions, NCP to move forward with what appears to be a little closer. If the goal of a party that is aligned with its goal is also to be met, then there are likely to be some agreement.

It does not mean that NCP is against anti-Madhes. We have chosen the Communist Party because of the poverty, illiteracy, poverty, backward situation, Madhes, Dalit, Janajati and marginalized classes.

• The government may also be flexible about amending the constitution or the demand for amendment of the constitution kept by Rajpa Nepal not justified? It may also be that RJP has withdrawn from that demand. Nepal's democratic constitution may be amended at any time based on need and justification. It is not a Quran or a Gita, the constitution can be amended.

➤ **Why the NCP has not yet felt the need to amend the constitution?**



**Hari Prasad Upreti
Leader, NCP**

• All of the points they raise may not be in need of modification, but may partly be due to need. They may also have felt that the fact that the constitution had not been addressed before was drafted.

➤ **Madhes-centric parties initially demanded that there should have one province in Madhes, Later in Madhes, an agenda of two states arose. Now do you see the possibility of dividing 22 districts in Province 2?**

• The people here have equal right over the resources and resources of this country. So my opinion is that separating the state should cover the mountains from the Himalayas to the Terai. It is my opinion that in the seven provinces all seven provinces should be covered from the Himalayas to the Terai. Natural resources, resources of the mountains, mountains and Terai should be available to the people

of Sabe area as their income partners. Therefore, it is not practical to say that only the districts of Madhes should be separated into provinces. Our country is filled with language, culture, natural environment and we should enjoy the diversity. Now, I do not think that any leader or party should be allowed to be a separate province in the immediate future, unless future generations accept it. If we are divided, peace cannot be established in the country so we must move forward together.

➤ **The expression of the leaders of the Madhes-centric party is coming from time to time, should not an inch of the Madhes land be mixed in another state?**

• I am also surprised to hear that they are saying such words wisely or are just an election slogan or an election announcement. There is still a lack of education in Madhes.

CIAA officials' training in India



Kathmandu: The first batch of 21 officers of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority started their six-day training on 'Prevention of Fraud, Bribery and Corruption' at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, India.

This latest training for Nepali officers reaffirms India's continuing commitment for capacity building of Nepali officers.

The second batch of 21 CIAA officers of Nepal is scheduled to participate in the training from 11 January to 16 January 2020, read a statement issued by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu. This is a tailor-made course specially designed at the request of Government of Nepal for a total of 42 CIAA officers.

This course will strengthen institutional capacity of CIAA to curb corrupt practices and enhance good governance in Nepal. The course mainly focuses on identifying factors responsible for corruption, its impact on the economy and methodology for its detection and prevention.

The course will enhance the skills of CIAA officers for IT-based investigations, sharpen their analytical capabilities and help them learn new methodologies which will empower them to detect, prevent and prosecute corrupt and fraudulent individuals, according to the embassy statement. The officers are being trained at Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat which trains forensic experts in the area of forensic science, crime investigation, security, behavioural science and criminology.

The course is fully supported by the Government of India under the Ministry of External Affairs' Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, according to the statement.

Youths protest irregularities in Saptari



Rajbiraj: Local youths in Saptari's Dakneshwori Municipality staged a demonstration here today accusing the municipal authorities of failing to maintain financial transparency in its undertakings.

Earlier, the local youths had submitted an application to the municipality asking the local body make public its accounts and bills and receipts.

As their demands went unheeded for more than a week, angry youths resorted to padlocking the municipal office on Sunday. "As the municipality chose to sit on our demands for so long even after the lock-out, we had to turn the screw,"

said Arabin Kumar Mandal, a demonstrator, while another youth Pradip Yadav suspected rampant financial irregularities at the municipality.

"Why would they have to withhold information of public interest even after we had invoked our right to information?" he said, lamenting the hassles that the service seekers are putting up with amidst financial irregularities and negligence of the employees towards reporting to duty on time. The agitating youths have also sought an investigation into the irregularities through a high-level probe panel.

"The municipality hasn't done even 700,000 rupees worth of work and showed 2 million rupees as expenditure.

Meanwhile, regular services at the municipality has been affected with the office remaining closed for the past four days.

New deal between...

RJPN will win one more to take its total number of seats to two. The main opposition NC is set to lose seven seats from among 13 seats it currently has.

As per the deal, the NCP and RJPN will share to be elected 18 seats with another one nominated seat in the NA limiting the main opposition Nepal Congress (NC) into six seats, government of the province two will be formed by sharing the posts between the NCP and the JPPN by forcing the Socialist Party, an ally of the incumbent government, into the opposition bench.

NCP will support RJPN candidates from 'open' and 'people with physical disabilities' categories. Similarly, RJPN will lend its support to the NCP candidates from 'Women' and 'Dalit' categories.

The NCP and the RJPN signed an agreement to support each other during the upcoming election for the NA. As per the agreement, the ruling head NCP will secure victory in the remaining 17 seats including one nominated by the president and remaining two by the RJPN.

The move of the ruling head NCP to collaborate with the RJPN is taken importantly because collaboration with the RJPN is taken as a ploy to bypass the Socialist Party from the government. It is likely that the Socialist would backtrack from the government once the RJPN incorporated in the government.

The reduction of the size of the main opposition in the parliament and the division between the Madhes based parties over the issue of government would hamper to the prospect of political consensus to execute the remaining task of implementing the constitution.

Instead, according to Minister for Communication Gokul Baskota, who is a close aide to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, it is the Janata Party that could join the government.

"There isn't any limitation to the imagination when it comes to politics," Baskota said during his weekly press briefing on Thursday. "The Janata Party had once supported the government. There were some issues in the past but now that's over."

Baskota went on to say that ruling party leaders would happily create space for the Janata Party in government. According to Janata Party Vice-chairman Brikhesh Chandra Lal, the party has not ruled out the possibility of joining the Oli administration, as long as the ruling party is positive about their demands, including constitution amendment.

Janata Party leaders, however, have said that the alliance is only a tactical move meant to save their National Assembly seats, political commentators say this could have long-term ramifications for national politics. The Janata Party has traded its moral high ground for just two National Assembly seats, he said.

Leaders from the Socialist Party too said the Janata Party's decision could be fatal for the party. "It would be a big political mistake if we forget our long-term fight for short-term gain," said Prashant Singh, secretary of the Socialist Party. "We have taken this incident as a tactical move but if the party had fallen into the ruling party's trap, that would be detrimental to our common long-term goal."

Indian Ambassador Puri completes his term

Kathmandu: Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri on Tuesday completed his term in Nepal.

Ambassador Puri was appointed the Indian ambassador to Nepal in March 2017. Ambassador Puri had on Sunday paid a farewell call on Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Gyawali.

Puri, however, is likely to stay in Kathmandu till the last week of December. India is also yet to decide Puri's successor.



EC unveils schedule for National Assembly election

Kathmandu: The Election Commission (EC) has unveiled the schedule for the upcoming election of the National Assembly (NA) members.

The election, scheduled for January 23, will elect 18 members in the 59-member NA as the two-year tenure of 19 lawmakers is due to expire on March 3, 2020. One member will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the cabinet.

The two-year tenure of lawmakers Khem Raj Nepal, Surendra Raj Pandey,



Haricharan Shiwakoti, Ramprit Paswan, Brishesh Chandra Lal, Badri Prasad Pandey, Balaram Baskota, Mina Budha, Binda

Devi Ale, Mukta Kumari Yadav, Youtol Tamang, Ramesh Prasad Yadav, Durga Prasad Upadhyay, Dhan Kumari Khatiwada, Kamala

Kumari Ale, Kali Bahadur Malla, Sarita Prasain and Minister for Finance Yubaraj Khatiwada are expiring in three months.

Article 86 (3) of the Constitution of Nepal states that term of office of the one-third of the NA shall expire in two years, another one-third in four years and the tenure of the final one-third will be six years. The arrangement of their retirement was made by drawing lots. Minister Khatiwada can continue to his position if he is reelected to the upper house. The nomination filing date for the candidates has been set for January 5.

Former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf sentenced to death for high treason

Islamabad: Former Pakistan President and military ruler Pervez Musharraf has been sentenced to death in absentia for high treason following a six-year legal case.

A three-member special court in Islamabad on Tuesday convicted Musharraf of violating the constitution by unlawfully declaring emergency rule while he was in power, in a case that had been pending since 2013.

The 76-year-old former leader, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for more than three years, has the option to appeal the verdict.

Musharraf seized power in a military coup in 1999 and ruled Pakistan as President



until 2008.

He was indicted in 2014 on a total of five charges, including three counts of subverting,

suspending and changing the country's constitution, firing Pakistan's chief justice, and imposing emergency rule.

It's the first time in Pakistan's history that an army chief has been tried and found guilty of treason. Under Pakistan's constitution, high treason is a crime that carries the death penalty or life imprisonment.

The special court ruled on the death sentence by a two to one majority, with one of the three judges not backing the death sentence but agreeing on a conviction.

Musharraf has been living in Dubai since 2016 after Pakistan's Supreme Court lifted a travel ban allowing him to leave the country to seek medical treatment. From his hospital bed in Dubai earlier this month, the former leader said in a video statement that he was innocent and the treason case was "baseless."

Diplomatic, political efforts a must to resolve border dispute'

Kathmandu: Experts of international relations and international law have suggested the government that it resolved border disputes through diplomatic channel. At an interaction on border disputes organized by Nepal Bar Association (NBA) in Kathmandu, political leaders and experts stressed on adopting diplomatic channels to resolve the disputes surfaced on Nepal-India border.

Speaking in the programme, former lawmaker Ramesh



Lekhak stressed the need of diplomatic channel and political

forums to resolve the issues. Similarly, former attorney general and expert on international law Dr Yubaraj Sangraula viewed all sides could stand together to bring back Nepali territory. Political analyst Shyam Shrestha urged the political leaderships for proper diplomatic efforts to solve border disputes. He shared that Deputy Prime Minister Ishwor Pokhrel was reminded on Nepal's map that missed Limpiyadhura from its territory.

RJP-N not ready to join govt: Rajendra Mahato

Kathmandu: RJP-Nepal Coordinator Rajendra Mahato has ruled out the possibility of joining the government. RJPN and the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) on Wednesday reached a significant deal to support each other in a bid to sweep the upcoming National Assembly election.

The deal will reward the regional party at least two seats (from Province 2) in the upper house while the ruling party will get the remaining 16 seats. As per the deal, the NCP will support the candidates of RJPN in the open and people with physical disabilities quota while the latter, in exchange, will support the ruling party in women and Dalit quota.

“After the two-point deal, there have been speculations that RJPN is joining the government, which is not true,” said Mahato while speaking at a face-to-face interaction program organized by the Reporters’ Club Nepal on Saturday.



However, Mahato hinted at possibilities of dialogues with the ruling party, eight months after it withdrew its support given to the government citing the ruling party failed to keep its promises of constitution amendment.

“There was a situation of discussion after we withdrew our support in March. But the two-point agreement has ended the deadlock,” he said.

“The deal will restart the negotiation between the NCP and

the RJPN,” he added.

He also revealed that his party had held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Law Minister Upendra Yadav, who leads the Samajbadi Party, to form forge coalition among RJPN, Samajbadi and the main opposition party Nepali Congress (NC).

“But after Yadav refused to form a coalition with NC, we turned to the ruling side,” he added.

“But, this coalition does not hint at RJPN participating in the

federal government,” he reiterated.

“Neither will it affect the Province 2 government.”

“If the government takes our demands positively, which include constitution amendment, withdrawal of cases against our cadres, the release of former lawmaker Resham Chaudhary, we will be positive toward the government,” he furthered.

“Our support to the government depends on their response to our demands.”

He also took the occasion to clarify that RJPN is open to merger with Samajbadi Party.

The unification talks between the two parties have stalled for almost a year now after Yadav refused to pull out of the government as demanded by the RJPN.

The parties continue their strong disapproval toward the Constitution of Nepal which was promulgated in 2015. They have said that the constitution has failed to include the grievances of Madhesis and marginalized communities.

Cold wave conditions to continue in Madhesh

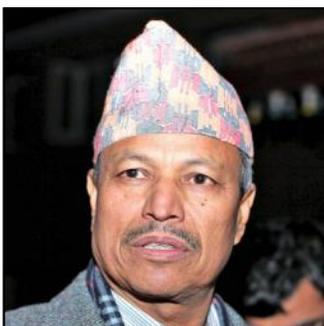
Kathmandu: There will be generally cloudy in the western region along with eastern and central hilly regions and partly cloudy in the rest of the country. Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places of the hilly regions. According to Meteorological Forecasting Division, there are chances of light to moderate snowfall at some places of the high mountainous region. Northwesterly cool winds



are prevailing over almost entire terai. Some districts have also observed Cold Wave conditions. Chilly effect can be observed in almost all the areas even during the day.

As a result, a drop in minimum temperatures has been observed over most parts of both the regions. During the past two days, the minimums have fallen by 4 to 6 degrees over many districts. A further drop by another two to three degrees is possible over western region. Northwesterly winds are likely to continue during the next two to three days. Dense fog is also possible at some pockets.

Bhim Rawal against NCP-RJPN electoral alliance



Kathmandu: NCP leader Bhim Rawal has expressed dissatisfaction with the party’s alliance with RJPN for National Assembly election. Bhim Rawal recited a poem in the standing committee meeting to slam the decision to forge electoral alliance with RJP.

Reciting the poem titled ‘Smoke covering the lamp, Rawal commented that there is no nationalism in the agreement. Pointing that RJP had supported the Indian blockade in 2015, the

poem slams the party leadership, especially Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, for embracing the Madhes-based party.

The poem urges the party leadership to give up the pretense of pursuing ideology and talking about class and processes if any decision can be justified for power and wealth. The parties on Wednesday forged electoral alliance for the upcoming National Assembly election.

PM to SC-government doesn't need court's direction to protect territory

Kathmandu: Stating that the government is making diplomatic efforts to resolve the border issues with neighboring India, Prime Minister KP Oli told the Supreme Court that the government does not require any directive from the apex court in this regard.

Prime Minister Oli also told the apex court that the government has left no stone unturned to protect Nepali territories. The prime minister, in his written reply submitted to the Supreme Court, said that the government is making efforts to protect Nepali territories including Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura by demanding rectification of the political map recently issued by India.

According to advocate Kanchan Krishna Neupane, who had filed the petition, the government has submitted its written reply to the apex court so its final hearing may take place soon to decide whether or not to issue an order in the name of the government to work for safeguarding Nepali territories.

Stating that the government is doing its best to take back the Indian-encroached territories, Prime Minister Oli stated in his written reply

that the apex court does not need to issue any order against the government because the government is making diplomatic efforts for the same.

The prime minister also stated that Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh are Nepali territories situated in the eastern part of the Kali (Mahakali) river and the government has already urged India to rectify the political map by issuing a press statement on November 2.

Oli, in his written reply to the apex court in relation to the PIL filed by advocate Neupane, also claimed that the government is actively making diplomatic efforts to resolve all border issues with both India and China.

While reiterating that the government is committed to resolving the territorial disputes between both the countries through diplomatic channel, the prime minister clarified that the press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 6 makes things clear in this regard. The prime minister has also stated that the government recently formed a committee to inspect the status of border and deployed Armed Police Force personnel along the border.

No one should be shocked by electoral alliance with RJP: Minister Baskota



Kathmandu: Minister for Communications and Information Technology Gokul Baskota has said that no one should be shocked by an electoral alliance. Nepal Communist Party

(NCP) and Rastriya Janata Party had announced the alliance on Wednesday for the National Assembly (NA) polls. When asked by the journalist if RJP is joining the government, Minister Baskota said that no one should be shocked by the agreement as the party had lent its support to the government in the past. "There were some misunderstandings. All of them have been sorted out," Minister Baskota, who also the government spokesperson said.



शुमारम्म...शिवम्सँग

शिवम्
सिमेन्ट

जसरी आ-आफ्नो क्षेत्रमा
तपाईं सधैं मज्जुहुन्छ
NO COMPROMISE



Nepal team visits Bihar School Examination Board office

Kathmandu: An eight-member team of National Examinations Board (NEB), Nepal visited the office of Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) here on Friday to study the method adopted by the by the state board to ensure early declaration of results.

The team, headed by K P Ghimire, deputy examination controller of NEB, met BSEB chairman Anand Kishor. The BSEB had completed the evaluation process and examination cycle by May this year. It stood first among all state boards and national boards (CBSE and CISCE) in declaring annual results of matriculation,

intermediate and compartment exams.

Kishor also talked about the changes adopted in question pattern, including reduction in higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) questions and 50% objective questions in all papers. He informed the Nepal team about the new techniques the Bihar board has planned to implement from the 2020-21 session.

The other members of NEB who accompanied Ghimire were officiating provincial head P R Kafle, Dobaka Khanal, R P Nopane, Ram Kumar Thappa Chhetri, Amit Nevpane, D M Nevpane and Mangla Brajcharyya.

Province 2 CM Raut visits explosion victims' family

Janakpurdham : Province 2 Chief Minister Lalbabu Raut has visited a family in Mahendranagar, Kshireswarnath municipality of Dhanusha district, which lost two of its members in an explosion.

Two days after the death of Rajesh Sah and his 15-year-old son Ananda died in the tragic incident, CM Raut met Rajesh's wife and other family members this morning and assured that the provincial government would bear the cost of the injured people's treatment. Two children of Rajesh, his 70-year-old father, and a police constable are undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Raut also said his government's next meeting would also decide about providing some compensation to the family.

Provincial Assembly Speaker Saroj Kumar Yadav and Chief Attorney Dipendra Jha had accompanied Raut.

'Certain elements trying to use borders with Nepal, Bhutan to enter India'



New Delhi: India's Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that certain elements who don't want to see peace in India have been trying to use its borders with Nepal and Bhutan to enter the country.

Addressing the 56th raising day of the SSB, Shah said India enjoys very cordial relations with Nepal and Bhutan.

"However, certain elements, who don't want to see peace in India, have been trying to use these two borders to enter the country," he said. The SSB guards the Indo-

Nepal and the Indo-Bhutan borders.

The home minister said the country's 130 crore people are sleeping peacefully because the border guarding forces are protecting the country and serving in hostile environment from minus 37 degrees Celsius to 46 degrees Celsius. Shah said the Narendra Modi government will make sure within one to one-and-half years that jawans of all border guarding forces get to spend at least 100 days with their children and families.

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