

# Madheshi activist dies in police custody, no post mortem since a week

Kathmandu: Ram Manohar Yadav, a Free Madhes activist arrested in Gulariya, Bardiya 12 days ago for showing black flags to Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Upendra Yadav, died in police custody.

The incident came to light following a controversy surrounding his death. Yadav, a supporter of the movement led by CK Raut who was brought to Kathmandu from Nepalgunj for treatment, was admitted to the emergency ward of the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, moments before he was pronounced dead.

Deepak Paasi, Yadav's neighbour who accompanied Yadav in the ambulance along with two policemen and a medical officer, said he died on the way to Kathmandu.

"When I touched him on the way, his body had turned cold already," said Paasi, a resident of Janaki Rural Municipality in Banke district.



## Parliamentarians demand probe

Kathmandu : Lawmakers of different political parties have demanded that the government form judicial and parliamentary investigation committees to investigate the custodial death of Ram Manohar Yadav, a resident of Janaki Rural Municipality in Banke district. Lawmakers from the Nepali Congress and Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal expressed concern about Yadav's death in the House of Representatives today. Police had charged Yadav under sedition laws.

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"I had asked the medical officer to see if Yadav was alive but the officer said he did not have [necessary] equipment. When we reached the

hospital, they took him to the emergency ward. He was declared dead soon afterwards," Paasi told the Post.

Yadav was detained on August 23, along with three other CK Raut supporters—Harpal Singh, Irfan Sheikh and Ranjit Ram Verma. After detaining them, the Bardiya District Police filed treason charges against all four in the Bardiya District Court.

On the morning of August 30, Yadav had collapsed inside the cell. Police then admitted him to the Bardiya District Hospital in Gulariya, less than 200 metres away from the police station.

According to Dr Supriya Paudyal, who was involved in his treatment, Yadav was referred to Bheri Zonal Hospital in Nepalgunj after he showed signs of paralysis.

"He couldn't speak clearly when he was brought here. Considering that he could be paralysed any time and we lacked equipment, we referred the case to Nepalgunj hospital," said Dr Paudyal.

Yadav was admitted to Nepalgunj Nursing Home as the zonal hospital had no facilities for

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# Nepal backs out of BIMSTEC 'Joint Military Drill' in India

Kathmandu: Following strong opposition from various quarters, including leaders from his own party and main opposition Nepali Congress (NC), Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli has instructed the Nepal Army not to participate in a joint military exercise of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries. Set up in 1997, BIMSTEC members comprise Bangladesh, Bhutan, India Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The six-day joint military exercise focusing on counter-terrorism is set to commence in Pune, India on September 10.

Nepal's chief of army staff Purna Chandra Thapa was scheduled to attend the closing ceremony of the drill. But after Oli's instruction, the Nepal Army has cancelled its



participation.

"Nepal will not participate in the joint military drill of BIMSTEC," Nepal Prime Minister's press advisor Kundan Aryal told. He added that no decision on a BIMSTEC military drill had been taken at the summit in

Kathmandu last month.

A senior army official, requesting anonymity, also confirmed, "Following PM's instruction, we will not participate in the military drill." Officials worry about the implications of such a move on

bilateral relations as India has already completed preparations for the drill. The Nepal Army, however, has not officially spoken either about its position on the issue or the prime minister's instruction.

The controversy on the military drill comes at a time when the leadership of the Nepal Army is in transition. The decision to participate was taken when Rajendra Thapa was chief of army staff, but he retired last month. He has been succeeded by Purna Chandra Thapa.

Not only experts and opposition parties, senior leaders of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) have objected to the drill saying it is beyond the agenda of BIMSTEC. Among those objecting from within the ruling CPN are former prime

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# Editorial

## Half year of Province 2 government

Recently appointed Physical Infrastructure and Development State Minister of Province 2 Dr, Dimpal Jha commented that the recent work of the provincial has not been satisfactory. The expression given by Jha, who has been appointed recently in the state minister, is serious and interested itself. The government, in which she is representing, is certainly not good to comment on the government, but her comment has exposed the image of the state government. Actually 6 months have passed since

The state government has a leadership role in resolving the problems faced by the state government.

the provincial government has started working. However, in this regard, there is no meaningful work except exposing complains of the people. The readymade answers are found from the ministers - there is no place to sit, no laws to work, no staffs, lack of resources. How to work? The others six provinces have also same. Because this is the starting year for provincial governments also zero year and starting from zero is not a challenge. The main responsibility for managing those challenges is also Chief Minister and the ministers. As a burden to the beginning of the fatal crisis, the Chief Ministers of the province has forgotten their constitutional responsibility and duty. The state government has a leadership role in resolving the problems faced by the state government. Because there are 21 single rights given to the state government in Schedule-6 of the constitution and those who are not giving the list of problems to the Chief Minister and the Ministers of the State, do not give a freedom to come to Kathmandu, but they strive to sit down in the capital of the state. Similarly, the necessary laws for the state and local level are to be made by the state government and the state parliament. This is evident, the work and right of the state government is not less as the federal government is the same. However, although there is a lot of work and authority to do so, the work of the provincial government is very dull. This cannot change the mind of public.

Even though the state government does not have a 6-month early tenure, the engagement of Chief Minister and Ministers is dramatic. The daily schedule of Chief Ministers, Ministers and State Ministers spent in the program inauguration, speech and meetings. The Chief Minister and ministers are not sitting in the office to lay the foundation of the government and to stand in it.

## BIMSTEC calls for holding accountable states that encourage terrorism

Shirish B Pradhan

Describing terrorism as a "great threat" to international peace and security, India and six other BIMSTEC nations today called for identifying and holding accountable States and non-State entities that encourage, support or finance terrorism, provide sanctuaries to terrorists and falsely extol their virtues.

The Kathmandu Declaration issued at the end of the two-day fourth BIMSTEC summit, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others, deplored terror attacks in all parts of the world including in BIMSTEC countries and stressed that there can be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism. "Today's proceedings at the BIMSTEC Summit were extremely productive. We built on the ground covered yesterday and reiterated our commitment to further strengthen multilateral cooperation in diverse areas," Modi said.

"Terrorism and transnational organised crimes continue to pose a great threat to international peace and security including in the BIMSTEC countries," the Kathmandu Declaration said as it strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomsoever committed.

The declaration, which was unanimously adopted by all the member states, said the "fight against terrorism should target not only terrorists, terror organisations and networks but also identify and hold accountable States and non-State entities that encourage, support or finance terrorism, provide sanctuaries to terrorists and terror groups and falsely extol their virtues."

The declaration did not name any specific country, but Pakistan is often accused by its neighbours, including India, of providing safe havens to terrorists. It asked all nations to devise a comprehensive approach which should include preventing financing of terrorists and terrorist actions from territories under their control, blocking recruitment and cross-border movement of terrorists, countering radicalisation, countering misuse of internet for purposes of terrorism and

dismantling terrorist safe havens.

It said that combating terrorism and transnational organised crimes require sustained efforts and cooperation and comprehensive approach involving active participation and collaboration of the Member States.

The declaration called for strengthening cooperation and coordination among the law enforcement, intelligence and security agencies of the member states, holding meetings at the level of BIMSTEC Home Ministers and the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs.

The BIMSTEC is a regional grouping comprising India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka,

They have also resolved to achieve, leveraging on BIMSTEC's position as a bridge linking South and Southeast Asia, an enhanced level of economic and social development in the region, and remain fully committed to consolidate and deepen cooperation among Member States towards transforming the organisation into an effective platform to promote peace, prosperity and sustainability.

The member states have also stressed on the need to accelerate progress in the core areas of cooperation and to review, restructure and rationalise the existing areas of BIMSTEC cooperation and streamline the operational modalities for activities, implementation of programmes and projects under BIMSTEC for bringing out tangible results.

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Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal. The grouping accounts for 22 per cent of the global population, and has a combined gross domestic product of USD 2.8 trillion.

The declaration also underlined the importance of multi-dimensional connectivity, which promotes synergy among connectivity frameworks in the region, as a key enabler to economic integration for shared prosperity.

It stressed the need for a fair, just, rule-based, equitable and transparent international order and reaffirming faith in the multilateralism with the United Nations at the centre and the rule-based international trading system. In the declaration, the member states reiterated their pledged to work collectively towards making BIMSTEC a stronger, more effective and result-oriented organisation for achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal Region.

The declaration also recognised that eradication of poverty is the greatest regional challenge in realising development objectives and expressed firm commitment to work together for implementing the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

At the end of the summit, Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli handed over the chairmanship of the grouping to Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena. Oli congratulated Sri Lanka for assuming the role as new host for BIMSTEC and extended thanks to the heads of states/governments of member states for their support in materialising the summit with success.

"The MoU provides for optimisation of using energy resources in the region & promotion of efficient & secure operation of power system, among other things," ministry of external affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

## Central government has still unitary mindset

*The errors in the constitution should be corrected immediately. In this constitution, all rights are not included. We fight our rights until the last time. It is our determination.*

**Why does governmental office have not accepted the decision of province government of Province 2?**

Some governmental officials have not allowed the decision of state government. For example, we declared holiday on the occasion of Bakar Idd, a festival of Muslim, Raksha Bandham, Krishnastami. But the staffs under the central government have not followed. Against that, Provincial Minister locked the Nepal Rastriya Bank. This shows that now the center has not left the mindset of unitary system. The

**instead of opposing?**

It is duty of all governmental offices to follow the decisions made by the provincial government. The offices should be conducted according to provincial decisions. There are separate national and provincial holidays.

**What initiatives should be made for following the decisions?**

After the federalism was established in the country, the provincial government will decide what matters under it. There should be a coordinated environment between the state and central

the state.

**How the provincial government to coordinate with offices of central government?**

We are ready for coordination. If the central Government does not understand the government of province, we also need to think about it. We have not made the government under the favoritism. The people have brought us here with their mandate. The central government leaves its arrogance. Now it is not possible to keep all powers in Singhdarwar. The central government



**Nawal Kishor Shah**  
Social Development Minister,  
Province 2

but some sections are indifferent.

The provincial government was formed under this constitution and we become minister. But, if we become ministers, we do not believe in the constitution that we have completely adopted.

We can also take our last power to correct the differences in the constitution. Now when we come to the government, we will not do what the center says.

We are very serious to the problems of Madhesh. We have promised the people that we also give development and also provide rights. Therefore, we have postponed the movement. We would also launch the agitation even we are in the provincial government.

**On Ashoj 3, the Constitution Day should be celebrated. Your party had burnt this constitution. You should celebrate Black Day or Constitution Day?**

It is our party's perception that this constitution should be moved in a coordinated manner. The errors in the constitution should be corrected immediately. In this constitution, all rights are

not included. We fight our rights until the last time. It is our determination.

**But, the provincial government should celebrate the Constitution Day or not?**

In Province 2, we have made the government with Federal Socialist Forum. So the decision will be taken with the coordination with Forum too. We supported the Oli leadership of the current majority government with a belief that the government should revise the constitution but we have not participated. Hence, RJP has followed the policy of watch and waiting.

In order to celebrate Constitutional Day or black day, the central leaders of the party will decide and we do according to what they decide.

**What is the plan to send the money that was announced by India Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Janakpurham?**

We are making plan. The government is discussing on various plans. But we have not decided yet. But the state government utilizes such money with cooperation with all sides.

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central government has interfered in the state government's decision.

**How much is it rational as the Minister of provincial government himself to go and lock it?**

Locking the government offices under the central government was our compulsion. We opposed the unitary mindset of the center.

**Why do not you coordinate or discuss with government offices**

government. If the government offices do not follows the decision of provincial government that they should stay in center, not in province.

**The offices under the central government are compelled to follow the decision of provincial government?**

Regardless of the federal government, it should respect the feelings of which and for whom. The government offices should not ignore the celebrations, festivals in

should not show a fear of Singhdarwar.

We have fought so much for federalism. We are still struggling for allocation of rights of Singhdarwar equally. Due to the deduction of our demands in the new constitution, we have considered this constitution only partly. We have also burned the constitution by expressing dissatisfaction to this constitution. We have not asked all the sections of the constitution have errors

## Chairman Prachanda meets Indian PM Modi



Kathmandu: Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has called on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The recent bilateral visits of the prime ministers from both the countries, the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit, issues

of mutual interest and development potentials were discussed between the two leaders, Prachanda's Secretariat said.

Furthermore, matters related to hydropower development in Nepal, postal highway, development of railway, waterways, agriculture-based industries and development of tourism were discussed.

Likewise, the two leaders also discussed the ideas of forming a broader 'circuit' by incorporating the major religious sites of Nepal and India for promotion of religious tourism as well as the cooperation for exporting water of Mt Everest as the mineral water across the globe.

According to Prachanda's secretariat, the two leaders also consulted about resolution of border disputes emerging between Nepal and India in different times and the upgradation of customs points along the Nepal-India borders.

Similarly, serious consultations were held for effectively implementing the positive understandings and agreements signed between the two countries during Modi's visit to Nepal and Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's visit to India in the recent times. On the occasion, Prachanda and Modi talked to materialize the commitments made by India during Prachanda's visit to Nepal during his premiership. During Prachanda's visit to India in the capacity of the Prime Minister, India had committed to establishing a Polytechnic Institute in Kaski district.

During the meeting that lasted nearly for an hour, the two leaders have also committed to taking Nepal-India relations to a new height.

## Parliamentarians demand...

NC lawmakers Amresh Kumar Singh, Bharat Kumar Shah and Tejal Chaudhary and Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal lawmaker Laxman Lal Karna demanded that a high-level parliamentary investigation committee be formed to investigate Yadav's death.

Singh said 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," he said. He added that a judicial body, and not a relevant department, should investigate the death. He also demanded compensation for the victim's family. Shah said it was blatant violation of democratic principles to detain

somebody just for waving black flag at a minister. He added, "A probe should be launched to find out the truth."

RJP-Nepal lawmaker Karna demanded that the home minister apprise the House about the incident. He said police were part of the government and the government was thus responsible for Yadav's death. "The government has killed somebody who showed black flag to a minister," Karna added. He said lawmakers had been asking questions about Yadav's death but the home minister was not responding.

MC lawmaker Chaudhary wondered 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?" He said the incident should be probed thoroughly to ascertain the cause of Yadav's death.

## Nepal backs out ...

minister Jhala Nath Khanal and former deputy prime ministers Narayan Kaji Shrestha and Bhim Rawal.

Oli's instruction comes at a time when former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who is the co-chairman of the ruling CPN, is on an India visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The issue of the drill is likely to figure during the meeting of the two leaders, and in case Modi insists on having Nepal participate in the drill, there would be pressure on Oli to go back on his decision. Prachanda is expected to replace Oli after the latter completes two-and-a-half years in the government, if the agreement rotational on power sharing is honoured.

The Nepal Army was making preparations for the drill even before the BIMSTEC summit, as the decision for the drill had been taken before the summit itself. The issue came into the limelight when Modi mentioned it in his address during the inaugural session of the summit in Kathmandu at the end of August.

"I welcome the upcoming BIMSTEC multi-national military field training exercise and the army chief's conclave that will be held in India next month," Modi said. The perception in Kathmandu was that drill decision was taken in the summit following pressure from Modi.

Though the Nepal Army decided to participate in the drill, senior leaders of the ruling party say no decision or consultation had been made prior to the announcement. Similarly, senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said they had no idea about the drill. "It is customary that all external communication should go through the foreign ministry, but we have not been informed about the military drill," said a senior foreign ministry official requesting anonymity. Officials from the Ministry of Defence too said they were unaware of the drill.

The Nepal PM's instruction to the Nepal Army not to participate in the drill has once again brought the uneasy civil-military relationship in the country to the fore. After half-a-decade of military prominence following the Maoist insurgency, political parties pushed for democratising the Nepal Army and bringing it under civilian control after the 2006 political changes. The Nepal Army, however, was not very happy with the agenda and resisted any such move to maintain civilian control.

Successive governments after 2006 formed committees to formulate a plan for democratising the functioning of the army but the reports of such committees are gathering dust.

The relation between the Nepal Army and the civilian government was at its lowest when the then prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal removed Rukmangad Katuwal, the then chief of army staff in 2009. President Ram Baran Yadav overturned Prachanda's decision, and Prachanda in turn resigned as prime minister. While this raised the morale of the army, it soured relations between the army and the civilian government. Prachanda's Maoist party then took to the streets demanding democratisation of the army and bringing it under civilian control, but soon moved on to other issues and more or less abandoned that programme.

Although there is no major friction between the civilian government and the Nepal Army, observers say the issue of civilian control over the army is a question that needs to be addressed. Prime Minister Oli has maintained a cordial relationship

with the army, and the army has always taken Oli as a politician worthy of its trust since the 1990s.

The present imbroglio, however, shows there was no proper communication between the political leadership and the Nepal Army. The army may not find it so easy to question the instructions of the Oli government, which has a two-thirds majority in parliament, making it the strongest elected government in Nepal's recent history.

To iron things out, Oli, during his address to parliament last Tuesday, said what was planned was not a joint military drill but an opportunity to enhance the capacity of the Nepal Army. Minister of foreign affairs Pradeep Gyawali has publicly said no such decisions have been made by government. In the face of such contradictory statements from top government sources, it is not clear whether the drill is not taking place altogether or it has been given some other name.

"It is a matter of serious concern that there is no information at the political and diplomatic level about the joint military drill of BIMSTEC member countries which is taking place in Pune, India," former editor-in-chief of Kantipur daily Sudheer Sharma wrote in Annapurna Post, a Nepali daily.

Sharma, who has extensively written on civil-military relations and geopolitical affairs, further wrote, "The Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers have no knowledge about the joint military drill. It clearly shows how our army or defence diplomacy is operating." Experts are also objecting to the drill saying it only serves the geopolitical interests of India and confers no advantage to Nepal. Moreover, they see the drill as another move to undermine SAARC and push for BIMSTEC. Experts say that unlike SAARC, there has been too much focus on security issues in BIMSTEC whereas connectivity projects, economic integration and other technical cooperation are neglected.

"The fundamental question lies on how the proposal was initiated. Was it the BIMSTEC Secretariat, bilaterally, multilaterally, MoFA or MOD? said security analyst Binoj Basnyat, a retired Nepal Army major general. "Neither the BIMSTEC charter nor its vision envisages joint military exercises. BIMSTEC security cooperation should have started with the army chief's conference, military, civil police, armed police and intelligence to address the common challenges like the ones with the Indo-Pacific command," said Basnyat.

In a clear indication of projecting BIMSTEC as an alternative to SAARC, Modi proposed nine new activities in the fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu on August 30-31.

India, which has already hosted some key programs under the BIMSTEC framework mainly after the cancellation of the 19th SAARC summit which was supposed to take place in November 2016 in Islamabad, has proposed a string of programs under BIMSTEC for the next couple of years.

Of the 14 priority agendas, counter-terrorism and transnational crime is one, and it is being led by India. India plans to develop a legal and institutional framework in the BIMSTEC region for countering terrorism and transnational crimes. India proposed the military exercise under the same agenda. The first meeting of BIMSTEC national security chiefs was held in New Delhi on March 21, 2017, and the second meeting took place in Dhaka in March this year.

## Prachanda meets Singh and Swaraj

Kathmandu: Chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) and former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' met with former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi, India. During the meeting, Prachanda thanked the Indian leader for his support to advance Nepal's peace process during his premiership. Likewise, Singh expressed his pleasure towards Nepal's concentration on development at present after completing the peace process and promulgating new constitution. The Indian former PM assured their supports to Nepal's development efforts though the Indian



Congress-I was not in the government. Likewise, a meeting held between Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Chairman and former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi. According to chair Dahal's secretariat, the both discussed the issues relating to bilateral relations, especially after the

formation of a new government led by CPN chairman KP Sharma Oli. Similarly, Dahal also met Indian Home Minister Raj Nath Singh in New Delhi. During the meet, the leaders discussed how the two countries could work together for Nepal's development and prosperity, according to Dahal's secretariat. Stressing effective implementation of agreements between the two countries, Dahal drew Singh's attention towards Nepali migrants facing thefts along the Nepal-India border. In his reply, Singh said the Indian government would do its bit to curb such incidents along the border, according to Dahal's secretariat.

## Janakpur-Patna bus from September 16

Janakpur: The long-awaited cross-border passenger bus service from Janakpur to Patna in India is scheduled to begin from September 16.

According to Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, president of Janakpur Bus Entrepreneurs Association, they have set up separate offices to manage the services. The distance between Patna and



Janakpur by road is around 210 km, entailing a travel time of around six hours. As per the schedule, Chief Minister of Province 2 Lal Bahadur Raut is scheduled to

flag off the bus from Nepal's side on September 16, while Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar will be flagging the bus from the Indian side on September 13. Chaudhary said

that Swayambhu-Manjushree Transport Pvt Ltd will serve on the route with four buses and the numbers would be increased gradually based on the demand.

Separately, Bihar State Road Transport Corporation will run four luxury buses from Patna. "The fare for the route has not been fixed," he said, adding that the ticket rate will be unveiled in a few days.

## Madheshi activist ...

intensive care.

According to Dr Raman Kidavi, assistant director at the nursing home, Yadav was unconscious and had high fever when he was brought there.

"We suggested taking him to Kathmandu for further treatment because his body temperature was 108F and he was lying unconscious," Dr Kidavi told the Post.

Bardiya Police chief SP Surendra Mainali said Yadav was sent to Kathmandu shortly afterwards on an ambulance with supplementary oxygen.

According to SP Mainali, Yadav died in Maharajgunj on Saturday morning.

Alliance for Independent

Madhes Spokesperson Abdul Khan claimed that Yadav died en route to the Capital, blaming police negligence for the death. "He had high blood pressure, which got worse in custody due to mental harassment. Before collapsing at the police station, he had asked for medicine for headache but no one gave it to him. He was taken to hospital more than an hour after he had collapsed," Khan told the Post, adding that the police had not allowed anyone to meet them. SP Mainali dismissed allegations that visitors were barred from meeting the detainees. Yadav's death has stirred up a controversy. Human rights activists and civil society

members have slammed the government over the death in detention, calling it an act of extrajudicial killing. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has launched an investigation into the death and the condition of other detainees.

A group of activists also submitted a memorandum to NHRC Chairperson Anup Raj Sharma seeking independent investigation into the matter, punishment for the guilty and compensation for the victim's family. The NHRC asked the government to guarantee the right to life by ensuring immediate medical examination of detainees and arranging for effective medical treatment if they fall sick in custody.

Meanwhile, the body of Ram Manohar Yadav has been lying in the

morgue of TU teaching hospital since a week.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Bhesh Raj Rijal of Metropolitan Police Circle, Maharajgunj, said authorities concerned were in the process of conducting a post-mortem on the body.

A press release issued by THRD Alliance stated that the police had refused to register FIR in the case and the family sought help from rights activists to lodge FIR and conduct autopsy.

A police source in Kathmandu, however, said doctors could conduct autopsy only after the deceased's kin filed an FIR. The source added that police were talking to family's representatives in Kathmandu to get an autopsy conducted.

## Chief Ministers' seeking strong provinces with rights

Pokhara: The Province Chief Ministers have called for strong provinces for prosperity and development in the country with the full implementation of federal constitution.

The Chief Ministers came up with this conclusion in the two day assembly hosted by the Office of the Gandaki Province Chief Minister and Council of Ministers.

They have collectively opined that there was confusion surrounding the rights to education, health, natural resources, law and order and human resources management because these were brought under in the ambit of province governments.

However, the constitution has clearly stated these responsibilities to be performed by the provincial



governments, they complained. The two-day assembly begun from Thursday ended today, issuing 8-point declaration focusing these issues. The assembly was called to prepare a working schedule for the upcoming inter-province

coordination council meeting. Following the assembly meeting Gandaki Province CM Prithvi Subba Gurung shared that the assembly held serious discussions on resolving the problems surfaced in the operation of provincial

governments.

The assembly has concluded that the formation of provincial public service commission act and province civil service act were yet to be come into effect due to lack of federal act on these issues.

The assembly has also furnished various suggestions to the federal government to delegate rights on passport recommendation, citizenship certificates and the management of the chief district officers to the provincial governments.

Allocation of 60 percent revenue generated in the provincial level to the local and provincial levels and the rest to the centre is another suggestion. The Karmali Province Chief Minister Mahendra Shahi however failed to attend the meeting.

## Nepal-India agree for cooperation and partnership in health sector

Nepal and India have agreed to bilateral co-operation and partnership in health sector.

This would be on a par with other bilateral agreements on trade, commerce, agriculture and energy between Nepal and India Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Upendra Yadav and India's Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prasad Nadda reached the understanding on the sidelines of the meeting of World Health Organisation (WHO) member countries of South-East Asia Region in New Delhi.

"All possible co-operation and partnerships in health sector will move ahead based on the proposed agreement and its mechanisms," said Minister Yadav.

The system would resolve any problem and misunderstanding arise that may arise. He told the Post there is an understanding to form a panel to prepare the draft agreement.

The two countries agreed to establish secretary-level bilateral system for health sector based on the agreement, according to sources with knowledge on

the topic. The system will form a separate joint-secretary level panel. It will identify areas for co-operation and partnership in health and discuss to take it forward.

India has been supporting Nepal to control epidemics, training, scholarship and physical infrastructure development for many decades; however, there was no agreement for health sector.

The ministers also held discussions on the long overdue issue of stipends for Nepal students studying MS and MD.

Minister Yadav said India has shown positive intent to give stipends to Nepali students. It is international practice to give stipends to students of MD and MS.

Though Indian students studying in Nepal get stipends, Nepali students studying in India do not enjoy such facility. Nepali students have long been demanding stipends equivalent to Indian students. They had petitioned the Delhi High Court seeking stipend. Though the High Court issued the verdict in favour of Nepali students, Indian institutes have not implemented the order.

## Monitoring starts in Rautahat



Rautahat: District Administration Office, Rautahat, has started monitoring boats used in the Lalbakaiya and Bagmati rivers. Five persons lost their lives when a boat capsized in the Lalbakaiya River at Tikuliya on August 25. A five-member monitoring team led by assistant chief district officer Dharmananda Joshi has been formed and the panel comprises representatives of Nepal Red Cross, Federation of Nepali Journalists, Nepal Police and the Office of Road Division, as per CDO Govinda Prasad Rijal.

CDO Rijal said the team was entrusted with the monitoring task at Tikuliya and Bairiyaghat of Lalbakaiya River, Bramhapuri, Basatpur, Badaharwa, Pipara, Dharampur, Laxmipur and Samanpurghat of Bagmati River

from yesterday.

People, who have to cross the Lalbakaiya and Bagmati rivers, have no option but to use boats. "How is the condition of boats being used in the rivers, how many people are accommodated at a time, whether or not the boatmen are mature enough, etc will be monitored and a report will be prepared," said CDO Rijal.

"People of two municipalities in Rautahat have no option but to use boats while crossing the Bagmati River.

Likewise, boating is the only option while going to Sarlahi. Hence, they have been facing a hard time while crossing the rivers," said CDO Rijal, who vowed to minimise boat accidents by managing life jackets for boatmen/women and holding interaction with people's representatives after the report is brought out.

## Govt to hold talks with CK Raut

Kathmandu: A high-level political dialogue team formed by the government is doing groundwork to hold talks with agitating and disgruntled groups, including those led by Netra Bikram Chand and CK Raut, to prevent them from fomenting trouble. The team held consultations with former peace ministers Ram Kumar Shrestha and Rakam Chemjong, as well as former secretaries of the erstwhile peace and reconstruction ministry, today. It had collected necessary information from chiefs of Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, National Investigation Department and Criminal Investigation Bureau.

"We are talking to people who have experience in holding

dialogue with disgruntled groups, and are seeking their advice. We are also going through agreements that the previous governments forged with these groups," Suresh Ale Magar, a talks team member told.

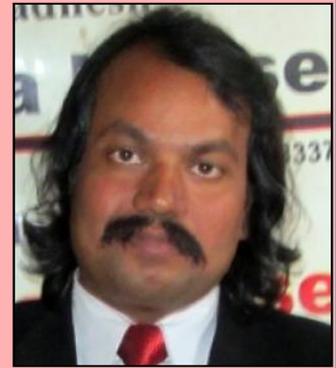
After these tasks are over, the team will formally invite agitating and disgruntled groups for talks, according to Magar. Disgruntled group is led by Raut, who, according to Brig Gen (ret'd) Umesh Bhattarai, is planning to declare Province 2 an independent state on September 18, the eve of the third anniversary of promulgation of the constitution.

Meanwhile, the government, on August 25, formed a team to

hold talks with these groups, as they had the potential to sully the country's peaceful situation. The team has the mandate to hold negotiations and enter into agreements with the groups, and exert pressure on the government to implement those agreements.

The team is led by ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) lawmaker Som Prasad Pandey and comprises former lawmakers Magar and Lila Bhandari, both from NCP, as members and Kumar Bahadur Khadka, joint secretary, the Ministry of Home Affairs, as member secretary. The team has already set up an office in Singha Durbar. It will hold talks with media editors tomorrow to get their perspective.

The government had to form the



**Dr. Ck Raut**

dialogue team as it had dissolved the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, which was established following 10 years of Maoist conflict from 1996 to 2006 to deal with post-conflict issues.

## BIMSTEC Summit fruitful: PM



Kathmandu: Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has claimed that the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit concluded on August 31 in Kathmandu remained fruitful.

Addressing the final meeting of the BIMSTEC Summit Preparations and Management Main Committee at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, PM Oli shared the BIMSTEC Summit turned fruitful in terms of both management and decisions.

Saying that the power generated in Nepal needs grid interconnection for its export to other countries, the Prime Minister shared that exchange of cooperation in hydro electricity was agreed in the BIMSTEC Summit.

Especially, focused discussions were held with India and Bangladesh over the issue of hydropower and the electricity could be exported as far as to Thailand in the distance future besides India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, the PM shared.

The PM said, "Kathmandu Declaration has been issued by holding discussions in BIMSTEC, according to top priority to the interests of Nepal and Nepalis. We will work by keeping national interests at the centre in BIMSTEC or other regional and international forums."

## Indian State Transport Minister observes India-funded railway, road projects

Janakpur: India's Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Chemical & Fertilisers Mansukh Laxman Mandaviya has observed the under-construction Jayanagar-Janakpur railway section.

The Indian Minister, who flew to Janakpur from Kathmandu on Monday, took stock of the cross-border railway project funded by India. After offering his worship at historic Janaki Temple in Janakpur, Minister Mandaviya reached up to Kurtha section of



Jayanagar-Janakpur railway project. He also visited the road construction project in Yadukoha of Dhanusha.

Dhanusha Chief District Officer Prem Lal Lamichhane received letters from the Home Ministry and Birgunj-based Indian embassy contact office to make arrangement for State Minister Mandaviya's visit.

The Indian minister also held a meeting with Province 2 Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Planning Jitendra Sonal and Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan Mayor Lal Kishor Saha. During the meeting held at Sita Sharan hotel in Janakpur, Minister Mandaviya held discussion on development among other issues with the minister and the mayor.

Minister Mandaviya, who reached Kurtha enquired when the railway line will come into operation.

## Nepal is willing to collaborate with India for power generation: Prachanda



Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Kathmandu: Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has said that a secured environment for investment and profit has obtained in Nepal along with the political stability. The former Prime Minister, who is currently on a visit to India, said this while addressing the Indo-Nepal Centre Inauguration and an Interaction on Roadmap for Accelerating Inclusive Development in Nepal programme in New Delhi. He said an investment-

friendly climate has been created in the country by reforming the outdated policies. "We have moved forward towards achieving economic prosperity. Nepal is a country which is rich in natural resources. There is high potential for development of hydroelectricity and we are also willing to collaborate in this sector," he added.

Stating that hydropower was not only related to electricity generation but it has also to do with the management of water resources, he reiterated that collaboration could be had on producing mineral water in the Everest region. We can reap benefits by exporting the mineral water produced in the Everest in the world market, the CPN Chair suggested. He also talked on the immense possibilities of tourism development in Nepal and profit can be made by investing in the agro-based industries and religious tourism business, Chairman Dahal's Secretariat has stated.

## Need to create conducive environment for farmers'

Siraha: Province 2 State Minister for Land Management and Agriculture Yogendra Yadav said that projects allocated by the government to farmers had failed to reach genuine farmers.

Inaugurating the Second Agriculture Group Federation at Gol Bazaar, Siraha, State Minister Yadav stressed the need to create conducive environment so that projects allocated to farmers reach the real peasants. "Lack of right utilisation of argo projects has hindered the development of

agriculture", he added.

Yadav said that the province government had accorded priority to the construction of cold store, agriculture electrification and farming in all eight districts in the province. Minister Yadav urged the local levels not to collect tax arbitrarily until the tax provisions were clearly laid out. "The collection of tax by the local, provincial and federal governments on the same product will hit farmers very hard," Yadav said.

## Thapa appointed as Nepal Army Chief



Kathmandu: Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Purna Chandra Thapa has been appointed as the new Nepal Army Chief. President Bidya Devi Bhandari conferred insignia on Thapa in a program organised at Sheetal Niwas. On July 26, the government

had appointed Thapa as the acting chief of army. Thapa succeeds Chief of Army Staff Rajendra Chhetri.

## Finance Minister makes govt commitment to development in Tarai

Rajbiraj: Finance Minister Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada has said the government was committed to the socio-economic development of Tarai-Madhesh, adding that the budget allocated for the infrastructure development in Tarai-Madhesh should be properly utilized. At a programme organized by Saptari Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr Khatiwada said that development of railway line from Kakabhitta to Bardibas would begin soon since talks with the Indian government are ongoing.

Dr Khatiwada also said that preparations are on to develop the East-West Railway and the postal highway is under construction in the Tarai-Madhesh for the infrastructure development.

Also speaking in the same programme, Revenue Secretary Shishir Kumar Dhungana said that the government was working to upgrade the customs office in Tarai-Madhesh including the Kunoli Customs Office and Chhoti Customs Office.

## Madhesh movement injured receives Rs 300,000 in relief

Rajbiraj: The province government of Province 2 has provided Rs 300,000 in relief to an injured of the third Madhes movement. The provincial Minister for Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives Shailendra Prasad Sah handed over the amount to Shrawan Kumar Jha, who lost his right leg in the movement.

Jha of Hanumannagar Kankalini Municipality-3 was shot in his right leg during the protest on November

21, 2015, leading to his leg amputation.

Shyam Sundar Yadav, Vice President of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, Saptari, Federal Socialist Forum Nepal leader Binod Majhi and local journalists Ganga Sah and Ram Sewak Yadav were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Minister Sah said the province government was committed to providing assistances for the injured and martyrs' families to make their livings.

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