

NEWSLINE

Union's 2nd anniversary

NARAYANGAD: All Nepal Communication, Printing and Publication Workers' Union marked its second anniversary on Friday by organising a programme at the Bharatpur-based regional office of Kantipur Publications.

Kulekhani hums again

MAKWANPUR: The Kulekhani Hydro Power Project resumed generating power on Friday. With the resumption of the 46-MW project, the current four hours of daily load shedding will be lifted, said project officials.



People from Gauribas VDC in Mahottari district enforce a strike on the East-West Highway on Friday to press for the installation of an electric transformer. The protest threw life out of gear.

Humla, Mugu denied food

POST REPORT SURKHET, JULY 3

Villages in Humla and Mugu districts are suffering from food deficit after the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) stopped supplies to the districts, citing inadequate food stocks and a fund crunch.

A large portion of the government-allotted food quota for these two districts is yet to be distributed, but the NFC branch office in Surkhet stopped the supply on Friday, as per the directive from the central office.

"The food supply has been stopped on the order from the central office," said Jamuna Prasad Goit, chief of the NFC's Surkhet office. According to him, the office has received more than Rs. 800,000 as an advance payment for food supply from various villages.

Dahal: Govt a national embarrassment

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, JULY 3

Unified CPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal said on Friday that Nepal has lost face before the international community because of the reactionary forces and status-quoists.

"The unfolding events in the country, including the formation of the government led by UML, have become a matter of national embarrassment", Dahal said while addressing a programme organised to welcome Hukum Bahadur Singh into the party.

Singh, who has been in the Rastriya Janamorcha Nepal since 1975, and who also served as a key member of CPN-Mashal earlier, joined UCPN (Maoist) today.

"The formation of a government led by someone who has been rejected by the people and a Cabinet comprising 19 out of 31 members who

were defeated in the elections has ridiculed democracy," Dahal said.

Dahal also ruled out any possibility of his party's participating in the UML-led government. "It's ludicrous and shameful that we have been invited to join a government that is led by those who couldn't even win in the polls and who don't want to correct the president's unconstitutional move," he said.

The Maoist chairman was also of the opinion that centralisation of all the communist parties of Nepal was necessary to form a 'united front' to defeat the reactionary and regressive elements to establish 'civilian supremacy' and maintain sovereignty.

"The revolutionary polarisation in the communist movement that we have been witnessing following the Constituent Assembly elections is a promising sign that Nepal's communists are slowly converging to form a united front," Dahal said.

2 ministers sworn in

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, JULY 3

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal expanded his Cabinet for the fifth time on Friday by swearing in two new ministers. The two new faces include Chairman of Sadbhavana Party (SP) Rajendra Mahato, who was sworn in as Minister for Commerce and Supply, and Prem Bahadur Singh of Samajbadi Prajatantrik Janata Party Nepal, who was sworn in as Minister for Justice and Law.

With Friday's expansion, the number of ministers and state ministers reached 32. However, some other ruling partners, including Madhesi Janadhikar Forum, haven't sent in the names of other candidates, as per the agreement on portfolio division.

Suspects confess, VDC in grief

POST REPORT GORKHA, JULY 3

Police said six people detained on Thursday night on the suspicion of killing Yarchagumba collectors at Naar VDC in Manang district have confessed to their crime.

According to police, the six -- Nangadawa Lama, Barsiya Nigmaritar Ghale, Sangidawa Lama, Ghyaksang Lama, Sonam Thamsung Ghale and Sonam Chittel Lama -- conceded to have killed five collectors on June 10 and buried them in a forest near Naar.

The suspects said two

people fell off a cliff while fleeing. Meanwhile, friends and families of the seven victims at Kerauja VDC in Gorkha district are in a state

herb collectors' murder

Over 60 people, who had left for Manang to collect the precious herb, are yet to return home

of shock. What's more worrisome for these people is that over 60 people, who had left for Manang to collect the precious herb, are yet to return home. Amrit Ghale, one of the herb collectors, who managed to return home, said some 150 people from Keraja had gone to Manang.

They had split into groups comprising 10 persons each and headed to different parts to look for the herb.

"Manang villagers did not mess up with our group. I learnt about the attack when I came home," Ghale says.

Bhandari shells Maoist plan

Rules out integration panel rejig

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, JULY 3

Defence Minister Bidhya Bhandari has ruled out the possibility of reconstitution of the special committee tasked with integrating the Maoist combatants.

In a media briefing on Friday, the defence minister said neither UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal would be allowed to continue as the committee chairman nor could half the panel members be picked from the Maoist party.

The defence minister's stance counters the Maoists, who have been demanding that either Maoist Chairman Dahal be allowed to continue as the committee chief or at least half the committee members be picked from their party.

The committee chairman's post has become a bone of contention for parties and this has stalled its



Bidhya Bhandari

revival. CPN-UML maintains that incumbent prime minister Madhav Kumar Nepal should head the committee because Dahal headed the committee when he was prime minister.

"The Maoists cannot trample on the rule they have set," Bhandari said. When the committee was set up, Dahal was unanimously accepted as its chairman on Maoists' insistence that the committee leadership should go to the

prime minister, the defence minister said. "This rule should also apply when the UML is leading the government." Bhandari also demanded that actual number of Maoist combatants be determined before pushing forth the integration process.

"Besides the confusion over the actual strength of Maoist fighters, we have to clear another confusion over the placement of Maoist fighters." She said the combatants should be integrated into police and civil service and not only into the national army.

The minister maintained that the Maoists' demands for downsizing the national army and wholesale integration of their combatants into it were contradictory. "How could they seek integration of all their combatants and talk about downsizing the national army at the same time?" she asked.

Govt steps up swine flu surveillance

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, JULY 3

The Ministry of Health (MoH) stepped up surveillance for swine flu and established one more health screening desk in Tatopani along the Nepal-China border on Friday.

So far, the country has recorded five swine flu cases, while an Indian national, who flew to Kathmandu from New Delhi, was quarantined at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) on Thursday on the suspicion of carrying the deadly flu.

"We have taken his blood sample and kept him under surveillance," said Jitendra Shrestha, deputy director at the Avian Influenza Control Project under the MoH.

Apart from Tatopani, the government has established one desk each in Rani, Sunauli, Birgunj and Nepalgunj along the Nepal-India border.

The government established the screening

desk at the TIA on April 29 and put over 40 Rapid Response Teams on high alert after Mexico reported the first-ever swine flu case in recent history on April 25.

The first cases of swine flu in Nepal were detected in a 44-year-old husband, his 38-year-old

wife and their eight-year-old son, who arrived in Nepal from the United States via Doha on June 29. On July 2, two more children were found living with the flu.

Following its detection in Mexico, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared swine flu a pandemic on June 11. On May 16, the first

case of A(H1N1) virus infection was detected in India in a 23-year-old man, who arrived at Hyderabad Airport from the US. The virus has spread to over 113 countries so far.

According to the WHO, over 60,000 people have been infected with the deadly virus and 263 have died till date.

The administration has also deployed surveillance teams across the country and strengthened hospitals, mainly Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital and Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital to enable them to provide special treatment.

The government has stockpiled drugs, namely tamiflu and masks to take on the virus.

Though fear has gripped the nation with a possible outbreak of the pandemic, government officials have said there is no reason to panic.

The country has five swine flu cases, while a suspect is under surveillance

WEATHER

FORECAST: Generally cloudy with rain at some places.

Table with 4 columns: PLACES, MAX. TEMP. (°C), MIN. TEMP. (°C), RAINFAL (MM.). Lists various locations and their weather forecasts.

ASSISTANT MASTER WEAVER WITH TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Wanted : For award winning company based in Nepal. IMPORTANT : Diploma from reputed school or university preferable, here or abroad. Weaving : Hand, Power, Jacquard, upto six shuttle looms. Drawing, Graph making, and specification sheets for all related weaves. Minimum 10 years experience in required fields. Languages: English, working knowledge of Nepali, Hindi. Computer skills necessary: Word, Excel, e-mail to communicate with head office in Kathmandu. WOMEN are encouraged to apply. Send your CV to Fax: 4420850 or E-mail: masterweaver09@gmail.com

Plan sought to shield power projects

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, JULY 3

The Independent Power Producers' Association of Nepal (IPPAN) has urged the government to come up with a plan to stop disturbances that obstruct the operation of hydropower projects.

At a meeting with Minister for Energy Prakash Sharan Mahat on Friday, a delegation of IPPAN submitted to the minister a memorandum that condemned the obstructing of

hydropower projects by locals. Recently, locals living around the Chilime Hydropower Plant as well as employees of a services provider company at Khimti I plant have been creating disturbances in the operation of power plants by resorting to lockouts, threats, and demonstrations. In a statement, IPPAN said the government had recently formulated a policy to encourage private sector investment in

hydropower development. The government has issued survey and generation licenses for the construction of hydropower plants and provided fiscal incentives to encourage private investors to invest in hydropower development. Despite all the positive incentives by the government, the recent obstruction in the operation of the hydro projects will only dampen the enthusiasm of hydropower developers to invest in hydropower.

India decides to provide 30 MW, NEA unaware

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, JULY 3

India has decided to provide additional 30 MW to Nepal.

Issuing a press statement on Friday, the Indian Embassy stated that India has decided to provide 30 MW to Nepal as part of the pending request by Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). NEA officials said they were unaware of the Indian proposal to provide

additional power to Nepal. NEA had been requesting India to provide additional power to minimise the impacts of the power crisis due to the dry season.

"Nepal has been facing severe power shortage, which has affected business and industry and daily life. India faces similar power crunch and can share the plight of the people of Nepal," the Indian embassy stated.

According to an official at the Indian Embassy, NEA and Power Trading Corporation (PTC), a public power company of India will hold discussion and decide on the date and place to import additional power from India to Nepal.

Advertisement for 'राहदानी हरायो' (Lost passport) with contact details for a lawyer.

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