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THE RISING NEPAL

ALL BE HAPPY, ALL BE WELL



PHOTO: RSS

A herd of yaks being taken to pasture land at Kugaun of Shey-Phoksundo Rural Municipality in Upper Dolpa.

Government forms high-level body to study aviation safety

Committee restructured to recommend TJ commission officials

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

The government has formed a high-level study and recommendation committee to examine the development of a safe, reliable, and trustworthy civil aviation system in Nepal.

The government has set up a five-member study committee chaired by former Supreme Court judge Anil Kumar Sinha.

The Cabinet meeting held on Friday, based on a proposal from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, decided to form the high level committee and approve its members.

Minister for Communication and Information Technology Prithvi Subba Gurung announced the decisions of the Cabinet meeting that was held on Friday by organising a press conference on Sunday.

The committee includes aviation management expert Rajendra Bahadur Singh, aviation security expert Bheshraj Subedi, and aviation service operation and quality management expert Captain Riwaj Prasad Pradhan as expert members. Additionally, an Under-Secretary from the Tourism Ministry will serve as the member secretary of the Committee.

The Committee is expected to study and recommend measures and actions that the government needs to undertake to make Nepal's civil aviation sector safe, reliable, and trustworthy.

Repeated air accidents and the European Union's blacklist pose significant challenges for the government in improving Nepal's airspace.

Similarly, the Cabinet meeting has decided to form a negotiation team led by the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance to discuss the acceptance of a loan assistance of approximately 135 million US dollars proposed by the World Bank for green recovery and inclusive development.

CABINET DECISIONS

Minister Gurung said that the government had decided to accept a concessional loan assistance of 150 million US dollars (equivalent to approximately Rs. 20.12 billion) available through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) under the World Bank for climate adaptation projects.

Minister Gurung said that the meeting has granted customs duty exemption on goods received as aid for relief and reconstruction purposes to address disaster-related incidents.

The government has reappointed public vehicle transportation management expert Ashish Gajurel as the Executive Director of the Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Committee.

Further, the Cabinet meeting approved the visit of Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Dipak Khadka, to New Delhi, India to take part in the 7th International Solar Alliance meeting to be held from November 3 to 10, 2024.

Meanwhile, the government has also decided to reconstitute the recommendation committee formed as per the decision of the Cabinet meeting on April 12, 2024, to recommend the appointment of the Chairperson and members of the Commission for Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The recommendation committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Om Prakash Mishra. Other members to the recommendation committee include the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission or a member designated by him. Members from among human rights activists, psychologists, legal experts, sociologists, women's rights activists, or individuals involved in peace processes include former Attorney General Khamma Bahadur Khati, Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki, and Stella Tamang as members.

The government has granted prior approval for the organisation and management survey of quarantine offices under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

Further, the Cabinet meeting has decided to release immediate financial assistance ranging from Rs. 10 million, Rs. 7.5 million and Rs. 5 million to the severely affected local levels among the 71 local units in 20 districts recently declared as disaster-affected areas by the government.

The Cabinet meeting has also endorsed the establishment and operation of an immigration office at the Korala border point in Mustang district.

The government has approved to maintain interoperability between the National Council Management Information System and the Citizen App.

The government has approved the visit of Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Devendra Dahal, to participate in a programme on infrastructure and trans

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Lamichhane's arrest is just a beginning: Minister Gurung

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

The government has said that the arrest of Rabi Lamichhane, the president of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, is just the beginning of the cooperative investigation report and action.

The government Spokesperson and Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Prithvi Subba Gurung, made this remark while making the Cabinet decisions public organised at the Ministry on Sunday.

"The all-party committee formed by the Parliament to investigate cooperative fraud has presented the report to the government," he said, "which the Cabinet has adopted and is now in the process of implementation. So, this is just the beginning of the process to take into custody those individuals identified in that report for investigation," claimed Minister Gurung.

He also said that actions would gradually proceed against other individuals mentioned in the report.

Prime Minister lauds Nepal-China ties



PHOTO: PM'S SECRETARIAT

Chen Jining, a member of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee and Secretary for the Shanghai Municipal Committee, calling on Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli at the PM's official residence in Baluwatar, Kathmandu on Sunday.

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

A visiting Chinese delegation led by Chen Jining, a member of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee and Secretary for the Shanghai Municipal Committee, called on Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Sunday.

During the courtesy call held at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar, discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations between Nepal and China. Prime Minister Oli highlighted the role of the CPC and General Secretary Xi Jinping's leadership in alleviating poverty and driving holistic development in China, expressing Nepal's interest in benefiting from such advancements.

The Prime Minister informed the delegation about the coalition government formed by Nepal's two largest parties, the CPN-UML and the Nepali Congress, aimed at ensuring political stability. He expressed hopes for continued Chinese support for Nepal's economic development and stressed the need to regularise the exchange of high-level visits to enhance government-to-government, people-to-people, trade, cultural and historical ties.

Reaffirming Nepal's commitment to the One-China policy, the Prime Minister said that no anti-China activities would be tolerated within Nepal's territory.

In response, Chen said that his visit was directed by General Secretary Xi and reaffirmed China's support for Nepal's happiness and prosperity, respecting the decisions made by Nepal's political parties.

The Prime Minister's Chief Advisor Bishnu Prasad Rimal, UML Secretary and Foreign Department Chief Raghubir Mahaseth, members Dr. Anjan Shakya and Gopal Khanal, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Krishna Prasad Dhakal and China's Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, in a separate programme, PM Oli said that the government is firm and active in fulfilling its duty to provide relief and reha

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Forty suspension bridges built

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) informed on Sunday that the government has constructed 40 suspension bridges at various locations across the country.

MILESTONE 100 DAYS

Deputy Prime Minister and Urban Development Minister, Prakash Man Singh, informed at a programme organised at the MoUD that his Ministry has been able to meet the set targets in the first 100 days since his assumption of the post.

According to him, the Ministry had a target to construct 50 suspension bridges in the first 100 days but out of them 33 were built while seven additional bridges were also constructed at the same time.

Likewise, the MoUD said that the construction of the administrative building of 25 local bodies has been completed during this period. The local bodies that have completed the new administrative building are Deumai Municipality, Itahari Sub-Metropolitian City, Rangeli Municipality, Sunkoshi Rural Municipality, Barahapokhari Rural Municipality, Gaurishankar Rural Municipality, Benighat Rorang Rural Municipality, Rubi Valley Rural Municipality, Gangajamuna Rural Municipality, Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality, Lisankhu Pakhar Rural Municipality, Baudikali Rural Municipality, Purbakhola Rural Municipality, Bagnashkali Rural Municipality, Madi Rural Municipality, Tanjakot Rural Municipality, Bunglan Rural Municipality, Bitthdachir Rural Municipality, Triveni Rural Municipality, Panchadebal Binayak

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Money laundering probe to be intensified

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

The meeting of the Steering Committee on prevention of money laundering has decided to intensify investigation and prosecution.

The meeting of the Committee held on Sunday has taken decision to intensify the matter of investigation and prosecution by the regulatory bodies related to money laundering, and to take initiatives for swift endorsement of the regulations on prevention of financial investment in money laundering and terrorist activities by the Cabinet.

The participants of the meeting maintained that Nepal will not fall into the 'gray zone' if the regulations are passed by speeding up investigation and prosecution.

According to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the 'grey list' means 'Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring'. When the FATF places a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, it means the country has committed to resolve swiftly the identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes and is subject to increased monitoring.

Likewise, countries with serious strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation fall in the FATF 'black list'. The FATF is the inter-government global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog that sets international standards aiming to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Bishnu Prasad Paudel, said the work of investigation and prosecution will be advanced as per the national needs and priorities, and instructed the relevant agencies and authorities to work in a way to prevent Nepal from falling in the gray-zone.

The issue has long been the national

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Rana Tharu 44th language under Gorkhapatra's inclusive Naya Nepal page

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

Minister for Communication and Information Technology Prithvi Subba Gurung has commended Gorkhapatra Corporation for achieving its targets.

Addressing the 44th language-page launching ceremony of the 'Naya Nepal', a multilingual page in the Gorkhapatra daily, at Gorkhapatra Corporation office on Sunday, Minister Gurung lauded the Corporation for its achievement of the set targets.

Minister Gurung formally launched the Rana Tharu language page in the Gorkhapatra daily as the 44th language to be included in the daily. As a step of inclusiveness, Gorkhapatra has been publishing news in various languages by allocating separate 'Naya Nepal' page for 17 years.

"It is a great moment that as per its commitment Gorkhapatra has



succeeded in adding Rana Tharu language as its 44th language for its step towards inclusiveness. Similarly, the commitment of digital archiving is about to be complete," Minister Gurung said.

The minister also suggested that the Gorkhapatra Corporation focus on quality news content and newspaper distribution at all local levels. He also expressed his commitment to amend old laws that had created barriers to running Gorkhapatra in the modern times.

Referring to the Gorkhapatra's achievement of targets coinciding with the government's 100 days, Minister Gurung informed that the Ministry had completed all its set targets.

On the occasion, Executive Chairman of the Corporation Bishnu Prasad Subedi expressed commitment to implementing the instructions given by Minister Gurung. He said that by comprising 44 languages as a step towards inclusiveness, Gorkhapatra had played a vital role in strengthening national unity.

Executive Chairman Subedi said, "Gorkhapatra connects all those who use local languages through its

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BULLION
(Rs. per tola)

Hallmark Gold : Rs. 165,000/-

Worked Gold : NA

Silver : Rs. 2,075/-

STOCK

NEPSE : 2,697.91

Total Amount : 8,180,262,572.12

No. of Share : 20,868,919

3.58 BILLION REVENUE COLLECTED

RSS
Bhadrapur (Jhapa), Oct. 20

The Mechi Customs Office has collected revenue worth Rs.3 billion 589 million in the first quarter of the financial year 2024/25, which is 20.69 percent of the annual target for the year.

The office has set a target of collecting revenue of Rs 17 billion 340 million in this year, says customs officer Ganapati Kandel.

The first quarter collection is more by Rs 190 million compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year. In the same period of the year 2080/81, three billion 390 million rupees had been collected.

In the year 2080/81, only 78.4 percent of the revenue collection target of 18.25 billion was met. As a result, the revenue target for this year has been reduced by Rs 910 million, the office said.



PHOTO: THAKUR PRASAD ACHARYA/TRN

Popular tourist destination Ghodepani. Huge number of tourist visits this place every year.

FINANCE MINISTRY TO FOCUS ON CREATING INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

The Ministry of Finance will now focus on creating a commercial and industrial environment.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel said the Ministry of Finance will focus on facilitating the commercial and industrial environment for more capital mobilisation and investment growth.

He made this remark during a meeting of the top management group held at the Ministry of Finance on Sunday. Deputy Prime Minister Paudel directed the officials to use more efforts for revenue collection and capital expenditure.

Revenue Secretary at the Ministry of Finance Dinesh Kumar Ghimire said that the creation of a more commercial and industrial environment in the country will also have a positive impact on revenue mobilisation.

In the meeting, chief of the Budget Division at the Ministry of Finance Shreekrishna Nepal said that there is no problem in resource management for the reconstruction of the damage caused by the floods and landslides.

The floods and landslides due to heavy rains on September 27-29 caused huge damage in infrastructure, irrigation and agriculture sector.

Gold price reaches Rs. 165,000 per tola



BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

After the price increase in the international market, the price of gold in Nepal is constantly making new records. The gold price rose to another record high on Sunday when a tola (11.66 grams) of gold was traded at Rs. 165,000 in the local market.

The price of gold increased by Rs. 600 per tola on Sunday as compared to the price of Friday last week. The price of gold has increased for the five consecutive days since Tuesday last week. The price of gold has increased by Rs. 4,500 per tola in the last five days since Tuesday from Rs. 160,500.

In the meantime, the price of silver has set a new record on Sunday when a tola of silver was traded at Rs. 2,075 in the local market. Earlier, the gold price had set a record of Rs. 1,980 per tola. The price of silver has increased by Rs. 95 per tola on Sunday as compared to the price of last Friday.

Gold trader Tej Ratna Shakya said that the price of gold has been setting new records almost every day in the local market due to the increase of its price in the international market. The price of gold has also set a new record in the international market, he said.

On Sunday, the price of gold reached 2,721 US dollars per ounce in the international market, he said. Gold price increased by USD 11 per ounce on Sunday as compared to Friday's price.

The price of gold is rising in the international market as investment in gold is increasing due to the ongoing war in the Middle East and the uncertainty that may come after the outcome of the US election.

"Gold price, which has set a new record in the international market, has also set a new record in the Nepali market. Price of gold in Nepal is adjusted according to its price in the international market," said Shakya.

The international market is very sensitive, he said, adding that foreign investors are making investments in gold, leading to an increase in gold demand.

Flood-damaged Khimti transmission line to be brought into operation

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

The tower of Khimti-Lamosanghu 132 kV transmission line, which was swept away by the flood in the Tamakoshi River in the wake of incessant rains of September 28-29, will be brought into operation using the emergency restoration system (ESR) tower.

Tower No. 7 of the Khimti-Lamosanghu transmission line at Devitar in Manthali Municipality-13 of Ramechhap was swept away by the flood in the Tamakoshi River. After the tower collapsed, the wires (conductors) of four towers were also damaged.

After the tower was washed away, the electricity supply from the line has been stopped since September 29. Due to this, the transmission line link from Khimti to Kathmandu Valley is broken. About 200 megawatts of electricity can flow from the said line.

According to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the Khimti-Lamosanghu transmission line is an important transmission line for electricity supply to Kathmandu Valley.

Similarly, the electricity of the hydropower projects built in the Bhotekoshi River area of Sindhupalchowk is being exported to India via Lamosanghu-Khimti-Dhalkebar line.



PHOTO: TRN

Khimti-Lamosanghu 132 kV transmission line using emergency restoration system (ESR) tower as seen.

Managing Director of NEA Kul Man Ghising said, "The reliability of the electricity system has been affected due to the closure of the Khimti-Lamosanghu transmission line, and the electricity export to India has also been affected. Now, we are going to use the emergency restoration system (ERS) structure to bring the line into operation as soon as possible."

He said that another permanent tower will be built instead of the tower washed away by the flood. The Authority is going to bring the Khimti-Lamosanghu 132 kV transmission line into operation using the ERS structure it has, he said.

The ERS tower has been installed for this. When the ERS tower was about to be installed, the locals had blocked the work demanding compensation.

In the presence of Minister of State for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Purna Bahadur Tamang, Chief District Officer of Ramechhap and others, the operation of ESR was started from October 18 after reaching an agreement with the locals.

The extension of wire has started after the installation of the ERS tower, said Manohar Sah, chief of Khimti Grid Sector of NEA. He said that wire extension work at the installed ERS tower would take about four days.

Apples worth millions of rupees decaying in lack of roads in Gorkha

RSS
Bhaktapur, Oct. 20

Locally grown apples worth millions of rupees at Chumnubri rural municipality of Gorkha district are in a condition of getting decayed due to absence of road in the village.

The local farmers, traders and people's representatives have called for the positive intervention from the government to provide market to the local produces grown in over 30,000 trees.

Production Campaign Nepal's President Ramesh Pandit urged the government to make arrangements to transport the apples from remote rural municipality to cities.

"The rural municipality has tremendous potential for agriculture and tourism. Apples worth millions of rupees have been left to rot since there is no road and market for the produces. The government should ensure market for those fruits," Pandit demanded.



The apples grown in the Himalaya has been named 'Manaslu' apples. A total of 450 kg of Manaslu apples were transported to Kathmandu via air on October 11 which spiked the price of apple- per kg Rs 666, he shared, demanding facilitation from the government for the transportation.

He worried that those apples could rot if they were not immediately given an access to market. Chumnubri rural municipality Chairperson Nima Lama said there were 30,000 apple trees in the rural municipality which is in the highland and geographically distant. He emphasized better infrastructures to boost agricultural production and tourism there.

According to him, the highland produces such as apple, millet, corn-based alcohol, apple-made wine could be produced commercially with branding. Similarly, a local entrepreneur Lakpa Dhuddu Lama, who owns 12,500 apple trees, lamented the loss incurred from apple farming in lack of road.

He considered apple farming hoping that there would be a road connectivity to his village within three years thereby his production would get market but to no avail.

According to him, an apple tree bears some 45 apples on average. His apple farming yielded double this year compared to the previous year, but poor road access has left the produces bear no income for him.

Similarly, potatoes, kiwi and dragon fruits grown in the neighbouring Dharche rural municipality remain unsold due to lack of road and market, bemoaned Sunila Gurung, Vice-Chairperson of Dharche rural municipality.

NCC, SICCI agree to facilitate investment and trade

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

An agreement has been reached between Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC) and Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce (SICCI) to facilitate investment and trade between two countries.

The NCC and SICCI have reached an agreement for investment in Nepal's hydropower, tourism, minerals and other natural resources, according to a press statement of the NCC.

The agreement was reached between the two associations during the visit of NCC president Kamlesh Kumar Agrawal to Singapore.

During his visit to Singapore, President Agrawal briefed the officials of SICCI about Nepal's investment areas and opportunities.

He said, "I request Singaporean investors to invest in hydropower, tourism, mining and other natural resources in Nepal as there is a huge potential for investment and returns."

He expressed his commitment that NCC will facilitate to ensure the return of investment in Nepal. Stating that the investment climate has been improving in Nepal, Agrawal said that Nepal is experiencing a suitable environment for investment due to the improvement of political stability and legal framework.

He urged for investment, saying that Nepal is becoming the best destination in the world even from the point of view of tourism. He emphasised that both Nepal and Singapore should be able to get economic benefits through investment and business partnership.

The agreement was reached between the two associations during the visit of NCC president Kamlesh Kumar Agrawal to Singapore.

Home Minister Lekhak inaugurates 'Digital Challan' system for traffic violators

• Fines can be paid through Citizen App



PHOTO: TRN

Minister for Home Affairs Ramesh Lekhak addressing the inaugural of E-Challan in Kathmandu.

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

E-Challan, a digital chit, has been brought into operation for a traffic violation record system for the vehicle riders to pay fines through the Citizen App for traffic rule violations.

Minister for Home Affairs Ramesh Lekhak inaugurated the system amidst a function held at the Kathmandu Valley Traffic Police Division on Sunday.

According to Deputy Inspector General of Police Bharat Bahadur Bohara, Chief of the Traffic Division, the system has come into effect from Sunday to issue 'e-challan' (digital chit) to drivers who violate traffic rules and allow them to pay fines immediately through the Citizen App.

With the provision for 'digital payment' at the location of the violation when the traffic police issue a ticket, it is believed that the hassles associated with paying fines for traffic rule violations will come to an end.

After passing a 'trial' for driving permission, drivers will not need to carry a license card. This will resolve the issues that arose from the lack of printed vehicle licenses.

According to DIG Bohara, the digital ticket system has been implemented in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts in the first phase.

Traffic police have been provided with separate devices for issuing digital tickets. With this system in place, drivers will no longer need to carry their driving permits, as they will be able to show their permits to the traffic police through the Citizen App. The Citizen App will display a QR code linked to the driver's permit.

The traffic police will scan the QR code displayed on the driver's mobile phone through the 'e-challan digital' app to enter the details of the violation. Immediately afterward, the system will provide details of the 'digital ticket' along with the offense and fine amount in the traffic rule violation column of the Citizen App, showing the method for paying the fine.

This will allow vehicle drivers to pay the fine instantly through a 'digital wallet.'

TikTok launches in-app feature to response disaster in Nepal



BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

In response to the recent devastating flood and landslides in Nepal, TikTok has launched an in-app feature to ensure users access accurate and timely information.

Leveraging its wide-reaching platform, TikTok will now direct users searching for flood-related keywords both in Nepali and English to the official website of Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, according to a press statement of TikTok.

Furthermore, for more information and tips on personal and community safety, users can go through the tragic safety center. Such in-app initiatives ensure that users receive verified updates and guidance directly from reliable sources, enhancing safety during natural disasters.

TikTok is committed to prioritising the safety of its users, especially during emergencies, by minimising the spread of misinformation that could lead to confusion or potential danger.

By guiding searches about natural disasters, such as floods, to NDRRMA's authoritative information, TikTok ensured that users make informed decisions during and after times of crisis, particularly in flood-prone regions of Nepal.

TikTok emphasises partnering with local authorities as an effective method of navigating critical moments by sharing awareness and life-saving information.

TikTok's flood intervention serves as an opportunity to demonstrate its value as a tool for the public good while helping the government to effectively communicate disaster risks and preparedness strategies.

The platform is committed to strengthening disaster risk reduction efforts, particularly for marginalised communities in remote areas, which are often the most vulnerable during natural calamities, read the press statement.

Woman killed, 26 injured in road accident

RSS
Saptari, Oct. 20

A woman died on the spot while 26 others were injured in a road accident that took place at Barmajhiya of Kanchanrup municipality this morning.

The deceased has been identified as 21-year-old Maiya Rai of Udayapur. According to the local police office in Kanchanpur, among the injured eight were seriously injured and have been sent to Biratnagar for treatment.

Another 18 injured people are undergoing treatment at the local Dharmeshwar Hospital.

The accident occurred when the bus en route to Kakadbhitta in Jhapa from Gaighat, Udayapur tried to avoid a motorcycle coming from the opposite direction, police said.

Meanwhile, a tourist who arrived in Manang from Switzerland has died and altitude sickness is believed to have been the cause of his death. He has been identified as Marcus Ceslar, 63, bearing the Swiss passport S 088518, according to the District Police Office Manang's police inspector Rajendra Bahadur KC.

> The accident occurred when the bus en route to Kakadbhitta in Jhapa from Gaighat, Udayapur tried to avoid a motorcycle coming from the opposite direction, police said.

The Swiss tourist decided to spend a night in a tent at Yakkharka of Ngisyang-3 on Friday and was found dead in the morning the following day. Police said they came to know about the incident only late afternoon yesterday. He was en route to Chulu Forest.

A security guard in the morning reported that he died of altitude sickness. Until the filing of this report, preparations were underway to send the body to Kathmandu on a helicopter. It is said the police rescued 10 foreigners and 23 Nepalis from the area on Saturday.

Two leopards captured, but fear persists among locals

BY SIRAJ KHAN
Nepalgunj Oct. 20

Even though two leopards have been captured from the Jijara Community Forest in Khajura-6, Banke, the locals of the area continue to live in fear of the leopards.

Residents of Simlaghari in Khajura-6 have become fearful after leopards started venturing into the village and causing harm to people. The fear among the locals intensified as leopards from the nearby Jijara Community Forest attacked the village.

Ward Chairman Farukh Sheikh of Khajura-6 said that since there is a large forest on the other side of Mankhola in Bardiya district, leopards and other wild animals often venture into human settlements at night. Locals are afraid to walk alone, engage in household work, or even collect firewood and fodder owing to the persistent fear of leopards.

Although two leopards have been captured from the community forest, the fear among the locals has not diminished, according to Ward Chairman Sheikh. After a leopard claimed the life of a young girl from the area last month, the Division Forest Office in Banke began the search and control operations to capture the leopards on September 17.



PHOTO: SIRAJ KHAN/TRN

To control the leopards, since September 17, three iron cages and five CCTV cameras have been installed in five different locations within the forest to monitor their movements.

Local resident Binod Shahi said that the residents of Simlaghari were terrified after a leopard attacked and killed three-year-old Laxmi Pun, the daughter of Birendra Pun, near their home.

"The leopards used to drag away goats kept in the shade, but now they have started targeting people," he said. "The sense of insecurity has increased ever since a leopard killed a child who was playing in her yard."

Senior Forest Officer Rajbahadur Chaudhary from the Division Forest Office said that during the search operation, two leopards have been caught so far. He mentioned that, despite the capture, leopards are still being seen in the community forest and locals have been advised to remain cautious.

The two leopards, captured on October 5 and October 12, were later sent to Chitwan and Bardiya National Parks, according to Senior Forest Officer Chaudhary.

TANAHUN HYDROPOWER SEES ABOVE 50 % PROGRESS

RSS
Damauli (Tanahun), Oct. 20

The Tanahun hydropower project with a capacity of 140 MW has achieved a progress of 58.1 percent.

The work on the hydel is being carried out in three package, and 52.07 percent financial progress has been achieved, said project chief Shyamji Bhandari.

Likewise, 35 percent progress has been made in the construction of structures including dams under package-1. 59 percent progress in the construction of power plants under package-2 and 73.5 percent of the construction of transmission line under package-3.

The goal is to complete the project in the next two years, by Asar 2083 BS. The supply, installation and operation of hydromechanics and electromechanical equipment, as well as the construction of tunnels and powerhouses are underway.

Under package-3, the KEC International company of India is constructing a 220 kV double circuit transmission line from Damauli to Bharatpur in Chitwan.

Steamer service on the Kali Gandaki River resumes

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Tamghas, Oct. 20

The steamer service on the Kali Gandaki River, which had been suspended since May this year, has been resumed.

The service was halted from the Aadimuhan Mirmi area of Syangja to Setibeni due to increased water flow during the monsoon season.

Dolraj Bhattarai, the chairman of Shila Shaligram Kali Gandaki Water Transport Company, said that the steamer service on the river has been operational since mid-October.

Following the opening of the Kali Gandaki Corridor in the Gulmi section and the Kali Gandaki Local Highway in the Parbat section, the service is currently limited to festivals, internal tourists and visitors to Shila Shaligram.

Sometimes, visitors reserve the steamer to go to Setibeni to behold Shila Shaligram, but because of the lack of regular passengers, the service has not been able to operate consistently, Bhattarai said.

He said that the steamer, which used to be filled with passengers, now has to wait and see when passengers will arrive. In the past, businessmen from the Setibeni market, Baglung, Gulmi and Parbat used steamers for transporting goods as it was cost-effective, and steamer owners have recalled that business was also good. Bhattarai pointed out that the operation of the steamer is currently affected because motor roads have become accessible throughout the Gulmi, Syangja and Parbat areas.



PHOTO: TRN

Security persons and others riding on a steamer in Kali Gandaki River.

The steamer service, which was approved by the District Administration Office in Syangja in 2005 and became operational, was registered with the company registrar in 2013. Initially, there were 12 steamers, both small and large, but currently, only three are in operation, Bhattarai mentioned.

For a one-way ticket per person, the local government has set the fare at Rs. 200, while the rate for reservations is determined based on the steamer's capacity, starting from Rs. 2,000. Discounts are also available for groups.

The water journey from Mirmi to Setibeni on the Kali Gandaki River will take about 30 to 45 minutes.

MAN HELD FOR CARRYING 13 GRAMS OF BROWN SUGAR

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Birtamod, Oct. 20

A young man from Kavre has been arrested at the eastern border of Jhapa, Kakarbhitta, with 13 grams of brown sugar.

The man, identified as Hom Kumar Mainali, 26, from Bhimkhori 8, the then VDC of Kavrepalanchok, was caught while attempting to smuggle the substance by hiding it in his rectum.

At around 9:30 pm on Saturday, a police team from the Narcotics Control Bureau stationed at Kakarbhitta became suspicious of Mainali, who was travelling from Panitanki, India, to Nepal in a city safari vehicle near the old Mechi Bridge in Mechinagar-6.

Upon searching his body, the police found 14 grams and 850 milligrams of brown sugar, including the plastic wrapping and 13 grams without the wrapping hidden in his rectum.

He has been detained at the Area Police Office in Kakarbhitta for further legal action, according to the District Police Office.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.
- Mother Teresa

EDITORIAL

Climate-caused Calamities

If the recent mayhem, caused by the monsoon rain-triggered floods and landslides, gives any message, it is a quote of French novelist Jules Verne that succinctly puts up it: "In presence of Nature's grand convulsions, man is powerless." Despite big achievements in weather forecasting technology, people have still been the victims of natural calamities of various scales. Today's people are not like ancient Babylonians, who were compelled to forecast weather on the basis of cloud patterns and their movements. We have now sophisticated technology that facilitates the collection and observation of data that include satellite imagery, radar data and wind profiles, among others. The examination of a large quantity of data helps make accurate weather predictions. But challenges for the countries like ours lie in accessing these technology and conveying the weather warning to the people effectively.

Towards the end of the monsoon, the heavy rainfall lashed the country on September 27, 28 and 29. The meteorologists had issued a warning that there would be heavier-than-usual rainfall and its severe consequences for the people, especially those residing near the banks of rivers or in the foothills especially in the hilly parts of the country. Despite the early information about the heavy downpour, there were huge loss of lives and properties. The extreme rain and increase in intensity was unexpected and this has been attributed to climate change, caused by the global warming. Experts have warned that the coming years will see frequent abnormal climate events that can be tackled only with better disaster preparedness and awareness drive.

Unexpected calamities not only leave a trail of death and destruction behind them. They also remind us of our helplessness. But our misery largely arises from our failure to learn the lesson of disaster and ignore the law of nature. Most of the human casualties and damage of infrastructures took place in the places where the crusher industries are operating and river banks are encroached upon. According to news report of this daily, the already rain-soaked land suffered shallow landslides mainly in Nakhu, Nallu, Roshi and Panauti. The flooded rivers inundated the houses while changing their courses. Dozers have extracted the stones from the quarry to the extent of rendering the nearby hills and land weak. This is a reason why incessant rains caused landslides sweeping away houses, roads and lands, inflicting unimaginable damage.

In Roshi River, sediment-laden flood washed away the vital structures. Flood mixed with sediments destroy more than that of normal floods, according to experts. Sediments are generally carried in the areas where the crusher industries are running. This time record-breaking precipitation and high temperatures were observed in September 2024, the highest in four decades. Nepal received 170.1 per cent more rainfall than the average. In 2022 and 2023, the winter was dry and it is likely that there is a chance of drought in this winter, too. The monsoon roared at a time when it was supposed to gradually withdraw. It is shifting northward and these alterations have occurred due to the impact of climate change. Focus should be on reducing the greenhouse gas emissions through shift to clean energy, climate-friendly farming and eco-friendly infrastructures. It is wise for the people to live in agreement with nature for their sustainable future.

Modern-day Family

SUGAM GAUTAM

Family life today has become more complicated as we face a world full of fast changes, new technology, and changing social expectations. Unlike past generations where family roles were more straightforward, today's families are dealing with unique challenges. These challenges come from the increasing demands of work, school, and social commitments, all of which affect how family members connect and maintain relationships.

One of the biggest changes in family life is how the line between work and home has become less clear. With the rise of technology and the ability to work remotely, many parents find themselves constantly balancing work tasks with family responsibilities. This has created a situation where work often interferes with family time, making it hard for parents to focus on their children or partners. The convenience of working from home also comes with the expectation of always being available. As a result, families may struggle to find uninterrupted time together, leading to feelings of distance or disconnection.

Besides the pressure on parents, children are also feeling increased demands on their time and attention. Schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and social media are all adding stress to their lives. Children and teens today face pressure to do well in school, fit in with their peers, and keep up an online presence, which can be overwhelming. This leaves less time for meaningful family interactions, as children may turn to their devices or friends, creating a sense of isolation within the family. Parents may feel out of touch with their children's lives, further adding to the strain.

Another challenge is the changing role of extended family. In the past, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives were more involved in providing support and guidance. However, as families become more spread out and busier, this support system has weakened. Without this help, parents can feel overwhelmed by the demands of raising children, running a household, and taking care of their own well-being. Children also miss out on the chance to build strong relationships with older family members and learn from their experiences.

The changing roles of men and women within the family have also added new challenges. In many families, both parents work full-time, which requires a new balance of roles. While this has led to more equality in some areas, it can also create stress as families try to manage two careers along with child care and household duties. Sometimes, these changes can cause frustration as parents struggle to meet both work and home expectations.

Despite these difficulties, many families are finding ways to adapt. Open communication, setting limits on work and technology, and making quality time together a priority are key ways to keep strong family bonds. It's also important for parents to understand the pressures their children face and to offer support and care instead of adding to their stress. By creating a family environment where everyone feels valued and listened to, families can better handle the challenges of modern life.

In conclusion, while today's family life can be tough, it also provides opportunities for families to grow and become stronger. The key to success is staying connected through good communication, offering mutual support, and making time for one another. With these efforts, families can face the future with strength and togetherness.

Decoding Dhaka-Delhi Signals



P Kharel

TIDE OF TIMES

Well into the third month after taking charge as the head of Bangladesh's interim government in August, Muhammad Yunus is giving an imprint of his government's foreign policy. This comes at a time when relations between Bangladesh and India are audibly frosty. Forced to flee to India, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed issued statements that were critical of the change in Dhaka and hinted of returning to serve her country. This only reiterated what her son Sazeeb Wazed had said earlier.

Seen as pro-India leader by many Bangladeshis during her 15-year rule, Hasina's stay in India and spewing sharp criticisms against the new government as well as the main opposition, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), aggravate the situation. This has given grist to the rumour mills that Delhi might not be happy with Hasina's ouster. New Delhi noted with marked appreciation of the Hasina government's crackdown on anti-India insurgents who operated from Bangladesh. This expedited the settlement of the long festering border disputes between the two countries.

Opposition leaders are quoted in the media as expressing surprise that neither ministerial meetings have been held between the two countries nor have Indian officials called on BNP leaders. Indian High Commissioner called on BNP leaders more than a month and a half after the changeover. After Hasina claimed that the West wanted her to sign an accord that would allow a power government to operate a military base on a Bangladeshi island, New Delhi showed interest in instituting an investigation into the matter.

'Megaphone Diplomacy'

In an interview to the PTI news agency last month, Yunus warned his predecessor not to issue political statements during her India stay. This was interpreted by analysts that new government in Dhaka is prepared to postpone seeking extradition of the former prime minister if she became politically inactive. A carrot-and-stick approach seems to have been dangled at Delhi's VVIP refugee. The chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, Mohammad Tajul Islam, has said the process of seeking her extradition in connection with the killings during the July-August protests had started. India and Bangladesh have extradition treaty.

The Yunus team seems to mean business when invoking the treaty if the ousted leader became too active with the hope of lifting morale of her Awami League rank and file who are lying low after the street anger and protest rallies that made the army step in to give Hasina a short notice to leave the country or face the wrath of the youth protestors. Even as he stressed on the need for both countries to work for improved relationships, Yunus described the existing bilateral ties as being "at a low". This did not go down well with the Indian side, which, according to the PTI, saw public discussion on contentious issues as "megaphone diplomacy".

Officials in Dhaka dismissed the charges of "megaphone" talk, pointing out that Indian leaders, too, talk to the media; and Yunus does likewise. During the previous BNP-led coalition government from 2001 to 2006, the bilateral relationship deteriorated, with Delhi accusing Dhaka of harbouring insurgents from India's north-east. Yunus was hopeful of meeting Modi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September and said that reactivating the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SSARC) would resolve many regional problems. But Modi's short visit to New York did not fit in a meeting with Yunus.

> Delhi's policy is to wait and watch Dhaka's moves, which means both the capitals will take some time for cooperation and mutual understanding to reach the pre-August 5 level, if at all.

On bilateral cooperation, Yunus views as important the support of both India and China to manage his country's crisis, which indicated that equidistance, or equal treatment, might be the new policy. In the wake of a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017, more than one million Rohingya fled to neighbouring Bangladesh. Dhaka wants Myanmar to take them back but a stalemate has stalled progress.

The marking of August 15 as national day in observance of the assassination of Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation was not held this year. Indian commentators were worried about the event, suspecting foreign role behind the decision. Chakma rebels in the Chittagong area are reported to be getting active weeks after Hasina's ouster. The army is very much in place. About 100 houses and shops were burnt, and some sections are trying to blame the army for the riot, when it did nothing but standing like a bystander without intervening.

Brisk activity

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami wants the national anthem, based on a composition of Indian's Nobel Prize winning poet Rabindranath Tagore to be replaced by a new one composed by a Bangladeshi poet. Although Yunus rejected the proposal, the issue is likely to recur. Sinister elements always try to change national flag and other symbols that most sections see as factors of proud legacy, stability and reason. Pakistani High Commissioner Syed Ahamed Maroof is active having met with Dhaka University, much to chagrin of some analysts in India. Reports of Islamabad making offer of scholarships and free travel to the awardees are only expected to be closely monitored not only in Delhi but also other capitals in the region and beyond.

Pakistan's father of nation, Jinnah's 76th death anniversary was celebrated in Dhaka on September 14, in what analysts said symbolised the healing wounds in a spirit of reconciliation. This was the first time that Bangladesh marked the event. After a major revolution, national policy can often change. It is, however, rare that drastic changes are made, especially in regional issues. This is reiterated by the emphasis Yunus put on meeting Modi and also a desire to revive SAARC for all practical purpose.

Dhaka had announced a ban on export of Hilsa fish. Since this came on eve of Durga Puja, it was quickly withdrawn with a decision to export 3,000 tonnes of Hilsa fish. Pragmatism has a place in politics. After the August change in Dhaka, events have moved at a brisk pace. So far, the interim government in Dhaka seems to be pursuing an assertively independent policy. Delhi has not made any drastic statement to express umbrage at the events in Dhaka.

Maturity in understanding the ground reality in both capitals should set things on an even keel. But the Modi government is unlikely to take any substantive initiative on its own any time soon to improve the bilateral ties that Yunus rates as a "low". Delhi's policy is to wait and watch Dhaka's moves, which means both the capitals will take some time for cooperation and mutual understanding to reach the pre-August 5 level, if at all.

(Professor Kharel specialises in political communication.)

Bring Cooperative Culprits To Justice



Ballav Dahal

With the arrest of former deputy prime minister and home minister Rabi Lamichhane on charge of embezzling millions of rupees from different cooperatives, a glimmer of hope has been created among the agitating victims of cooperatives that they could get their deposits back sooner or later. Lamichhane's arrest shows that the government is serious about cracking down on the cooperative frauds. Lamichhane, the president of Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and member of the House of Representatives, is one of the 'high-profile' politicians suspected to have been involved in misusing ordinary depositors' money. Lamichhane is also being investigated on charges of organised crime.

Investigation

Lamichhane has been detained as per a report of the parliamentary special probe committee and police investigations. The parliamentary probe panel has suggested that the government should initiate legal investigation into his involvement in the abuse of cooperative funds. The seven-member investigation committee had been formed more than four and a half months back following the disruption of the parliamentary proceedings for more than two months by the Nepali Congress. The panel was headed by CPN-UML lawmaker Surya Thapa. The committee has also indicted many individuals for their alleged connection with cooperative scams.

When a team of the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) got to the RSP's head office based in Banasthali of Kathmandu to arrest Lamichhane on Friday evening after having received a warrant from the Kaski district court, the party's cadres and supporters chanted slogans against the government. However, the police team rounded him up and afterwards took him to Pokhara for the trial because the case against him was registered at the Kaski District Police Office. In Pokhara as well, the RSP supporters have staged protests against Rabi's arrest, citing that it is politically motivated while the victims of cooperatives have taken out rallies, demanding that their deposits be returned.

Though Lamichhane has denied charges labelled against him, different other investigations, conducted by police and the Pokhara Metropolitan City, have also shown his involvement in misusing funds from several cooperatives. Instead, he has accused the government of misusing state power to protect its leaders and being unable to hold corrupt figures accountable.

Lamichhane had to be arrested as soon as the parliamentary probe committee submitted its report to the government. Some RSP leaders had shortcut their trip to China after receiving a signal that the government was preparing to arrest Lamichhane. They suspected that he would be detained when former deputy inspector general Chhabi Lal Joshi was arrested some four weeks ago. Joshi was rounded up on the charge of misusing funds of Suryadarshan Cooperative based in Pokhara. Lamichhane, Joshi, Gitendra Babu (GB) Rai, among others, were working with Gorkha Media Network. They have been charged with misappropriating millions of rupees channelled to their media organisation through different cooperatives based in Kaski, Chitwan and Rupandehi. Lamichhane was the managing director of the organisation.

> The government must focus on returning the depositors' hard-earned money to them as soon as possible.

It is alleged that Lamichhane wanted to stop the process of investigation against him by all possible means when he held the Home Ministry portfolio in the previous government. Seven months back, Inspector General of Nepal Police Basanta Kunwar had said that no policy probe had found any evidence regarding Lamichhane's connection with cooperative frauds.

Lamichhane rose to prominence fast as the host of a television show. As he started gaining popularity, he took a plunge into politics in 2022. He was elected as the member of House of Representatives from Chitwan-2 in November 2022 with 49,264 votes. But he lost his position as a lawmaker in January 2023 over his fake citizenship issue. However, he was reelected as the lawmaker in April 2023 from the same constituency with 54,175 votes.

Worsening situation

The cooperative sector in Nepal has been reeling from crisis over the past few years. Termed as one of the three pillars of the national economy, this sector has suffered problems due to the misappropriation of the depositors' money. A lack of effective supervision and monitoring is the key factor behind the worsening situation of cooperatives. Ill-intentions of cooperative operators, legal gaps and political protection for those involved in this crime are other reasons for the growing crisis in cooperatives. Hundreds of cooperatives across the country are believed to have faced problems.

The parliamentary probe committee's report shows that more than Rs. 63 billion was misappropriated by cooperative operators from numerous crisis-ridden cooperatives across the nation. Many cooperatives have misused funds by investing in the real estate business. The government must not delay in bringing other 'high-profile' accused to justice. It needs to take prompt measures to protect the cooperative sector and keep cooperatives operating. The government must focus on returning the depositors' hard-earned money to them as soon as possible. It must ensure that the cooperative sector runs according to its norms and values.

(The author is a former deputy executive editor of this daily.)

50 YEARS AGO

THE RISING NEPAL

October 21, 2024

Importance Of Cottage Industry Highlighted

Janakpurdham, Oct.20: Assistant Industry and Commerce Minister Bhola Nath Jha has called upon the rural population to establish cottage industries in their villages to solve the unemployment problem, reports RSS.

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READER'S MAIL

Repair Upper Tamakoshi Project Soon



This is in reference to the news story headlined *"Upper Tamakoshi hydro project to be repaired soon"* this daily published on October 20. The story quotes Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Deepak Khadka as saying that maintenance of the Upper Tamakoshi hydropower, which remains partially damaged due to recent floods and landslides, will be carried out any delay.

The minister should live up to his commitment and do everything in his power to get the project running again without any further delay. This is crucial because this is the biggest hydropower project of the country powering thousands of houses. One can image the extent of damage when it goes offline, with daily losses likely amounting to millions of rupees, if not more.

Should the repair work remain stalled for any longer, the county will have to import electricity to make up the shortfall. This can be costly for the nation as well as the people.

Nancy Poudel
Tanahun

TAILPIECE

After much urging by his wife, Uncle Joe applied for work on a farm. The foreman decided to give him a try and told him to milk a cow, equipping him with a stool and a bucket.

An hour later Uncle Joe returned dirty and sweaty, the bucket in one hand and the broken stool in the other.

"Extracting the milk was easy," he explained. "The worst part was getting the cow to sit on the stool!"

+++++

A little kid's in school, taking a true-false test and he's flipping a coin. At the end of the test he's flipping the coin again. The teacher says, "What are you doing?" He says, "Checking my answers."

Israeli strikes on northern Gaza leave at least 87 dead

Netanyahu calls drone attack on residence 'assassination attempt'

AP
Gaza Strip, Oct. 20

Israeli strikes on multiple homes in the northern Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday left at least 87 people dead or missing, the territory's Health Ministry said.

It said another 40 people were wounded in the strikes on the town of Beit Lahiya, which was among the first targets of Israel's ground invasion nearly a year ago.

Israel has been carrying out a large-scale operation in northern Gaza for the last two weeks, saying Hamas has regrouped there. Palestinian officials say hundreds of people have been killed and that the health sector in the north is on the verge of collapse.

The United States is meanwhile investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, according to three U.S. officials. A fourth U.S. official said the documents appear to be legitimate.

The documents, attributed to the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency and marked top secret, indicate that Israel was moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1.

The U.S. officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The U.S. is urging Israel to press for a cease-fire in Gaza following the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week. But neither Israel nor Hamas has shown any renewed interest in such a deal, after months of negotiations sputtered to a halt in August.

US urges Israel to scale back Lebanon strikes

Iran supports Hamas and the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, where a year of escalating tensions boiled over into all-out war last month. Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon at the start of October.

On Saturday, a drone targeted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's house, causing no casualties, as part of a barrage of incoming projectiles across the country's northern border. It wasn't clear if the house was hit.



PHOTO: AP

Workers clean a street under a giant portrait of the late Hezbollah military commander Imad Mughniyeh, as smoke rises from a destroyed building that was hit by an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024.

Israel has meanwhile ramped up strikes on southern neighbourhoods of Beirut known as the Dahiyeh, a crowded residential area. Hezbollah has a strong presence there, but it is also home to large numbers of civilians and people unaffiliated with the militant group.

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, has called civilian casualties in Lebanon "far too high" in the Israel-Hezbollah war and urged Israel to scale back some strikes, especially in and around Beirut. Medics warn of a catastrophic situation in Gaza

There was no immediate comment on the strikes in Beit Lahiya from the Israeli military, which said it was "continuing to operate across Gaza in both aerial strikes and ground operations."

Among the dead were two parents and their four children, and a woman, her son and her daughter-law and their four children, according to Raheem Kheder, a medic. He said the strike flattened a multi-story building and at least four neighbouring houses.

Mounir al-Bursh, director general of the Health Ministry, said the flood of wounded from the strikes compounded "an already catastrophic situation for the health care system" in northern Gaza, in a post on X.

Doctors Without Borders, the international charity known by its French acronym MSF, called on Israeli forces "to immediately stop their attacks on hospitals in North Gaza" after the Health Ministry said Israeli troops had fired on two hospitals over the weekend.

The military said it was operating near one of the hospitals but had not fired directly at it, and that it was looking into the other incident.

"The ever-worsening escalation of violence and non-stop Israeli military operations that we have been witnessing over the past two weeks in northern Gaza have horrifying consequences," said Anna Halford, an emergency coordinator for MSF.

"When hospitals are attacked, their infrastructure destroyed, and the electricity cut off, the lives of patients and medical staff are under threat."

Internet connectivity went down in northern Gaza late Saturday and had not yet been restored by midday Sunday, making it difficult to gather information about the strikes and complicating rescue efforts.

Large Israeli operation in northern Gaza enters third week

Israel has been carrying out a major operation in Jabaliya, also in northern Gaza, for the last two weeks. The military says it launched the operation against Hamas militants who had regrouped there.

Meanwhile, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday accused Iran-backed Hezbollah of trying to assassinate him, with the Middle East already on edge after Israel had vowed retaliation for an Iranian missile barrage.

Netanyahu's office said a drone was launched toward his residence in the central town of Caesarea on Saturday but he and his wife were not home at the time and there were no injuries.

"The attempt by Iran's proxy Hezbollah to assassinate me and my wife today was a grave mistake," Netanyahu said in a statement.

"Anyone who tries to harm Israel's citizens will pay a heavy price," he said in comments to Tehran and "its proxies", which include Lebanon's Hezbollah, a group Israel has been at war with since late September.

Military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said a drone "hit a building in Caesarea, while trying to hit the prime minister".

While fighting a two-front war, in Lebanon and in Gaza, Israel has also vowed to respond to Iran's October 1 missile barrage with a "deadly, precise and surprising," attack, according to Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

US PROBES UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE OF ISRAEL'S ATTACK PLANS

AP
Washington, Oct. 20

The United States is investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, three U.S. officials told The Associated Press. A fourth U.S. official said the documents appear to be legitimate.

The documents are attributed to the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, and note that Israel was still moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1. They were sharable within the "Five Eyes," which are the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The documents, which are marked top secret, were posted to the Telegram messaging app and first reported by CNN and Axios. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The investigation is also examining how the documents were obtained — including whether it was an intentional leak by a member of the U.S. intelligence community or obtained by another method, like a hack — and whether any other intelligence information was compromised, one of the officials said. As part of that investigation, officials are working to determine who had access to the documents before they were posted, the official said.

The U.S. has urged Israel to take advantage of its elimination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and press for a cease-fire in Gaza, and has likewise urgently cautioned Israel not to further expand military operations in the north in Lebanon and risk a wider regional war. However, Israel's leadership has repeatedly stressed it will not let Iran's missile attack go unanswered.

Seven dead after ferry dock gangway collapses on Georgia's Island

AP
Savannah, Ga., Oct. 20

Authorities said at least seven people were killed Saturday when part of a ferry dock collapsed on Georgia's Sapelo Island, where crowds had gathered for a fall celebration by the island's tiny Gullah-Geechee community of Black slave descendants.

Eight people were taken to hospitals, at least six of them with critical injuries, and crews from the U.S. Coast Guard, the McIntosh County Fire Department, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and others were searching the water, according to Natural Resources spokesperson Tyler Jones. The agency operates the dock and ferry boats that transport people between the island and the mainland.

A gangway at the dock collapsed, sending people plunging into the water, Jones said. A team of engineers and construction specialists planned to be on site early Sunday to begin investigating why the walkway failed, he said.

"There was no collision" with a boat or anything else, Jones said. "The thing just collapsed. We don't know why."

Helicopters and boats with side-scanning sonar were used in the search, according to a Department of Natural Resources statement.

Among the dead was a chaplain for the state agency, Jones said.

There were at least 20 people on the gangway when it collapsed, he said. The gangway connected an outer dock where people board the ferry to another dock onshore.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said he and his family were "heartbroken by today's tragedy on Sapelo Island."

"As state and local first responders continue to work this active scene, we ask that all Georgians join us in praying for those lost, for those still in harm's way, and for their families," Kemp said on the social platform X.

President Joe Biden said federal officials were ready to provide any assistance needed.

"What should have been a joyous celebration of Gullah-Geechee culture and history instead turned into tragedy and devastation," Biden said in a statement. "Jill and I mourn those who lost their lives, and we pray for the injured and anyone still missing. We are also grateful to the first responders at the scene."

Sapelo Island is about 60 miles (97 kilometers) south of Savannah, reachable from the mainland by boat.

The deadly collapse happened as island residents, family members and tourists gathered for Cultural Day, an annual fall event spotlighting the island's tiny community of Hogg Hummock, home to a few dozen Black residents. The community of dirt roads and modest homes was founded after the Civil War by former slaves from the cotton plantation of Thomas Spalding.

Hogg Hummock's slave descendants are extremely close, having been "bonded by family, bonded by history and bonded by struggle," said Roger Lotson, the only Black member of the McIntosh County Board of Commissioners. His district includes Sapelo Island.

"Everyone is family, and everyone knows each other," Lotson said. "In any tragedy, especially like this, they are all one. They're all united. They all feel the same pain and the same hurt."

Indonesia swears in ex-general Prabowo Subianto as president

AP
Indonesia, Oct. 20

Prabowo Subianto was inaugurated Sunday as the eighth president of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, completing his journey from an ex-general accused of rights abuses during the dark days of Indonesia's military dictatorship to the presidential palace.

The former defence minister, who turned 73 on Thursday, was cheered through the streets by thousands of waving supporters after taking his oath on the Quran in front of lawmakers and foreign dignitaries. Banners and billboards filled the streets of the capital, Jakarta, where tens of thousands gathered for festivities.

Wearing a blue Betawi traditional cloth and a dark baseball cap, Subianto stood up in the sunroof of a white van and waved, occasionally shaking people's hands, as his motorcade struggled to pass through the thousands of supporters calling his name and chanting "Good luck Prabowo-Gibran," filling the road leading from the parliament building to the presidential palace.

"I see a firm and patriotic figure in him," said Atalaric Eka Prayoga, 25. "That's a figure we need to lead Indonesia."

Another resident, Silky Putri, said he hopes Subianto "can build Indonesia to be more advanced and improve the current gloomy economic situation."

Subianto was a long time rival of the immensely popular President Joko Widodo, who ran against him for the presidency twice and refused to accept his defeat on both occasions, in 2014 and 2019.

But Widodo appointed Subianto as defence chief after his re-election, paving the way for an alliance despite their rival political parties. During the campaign, Subianto ran as the popular outgoing president's heir, vowing to continue signature policies like the construction of a multibillion-dollar new capital city and limits on exporting raw materials intended to boost domestic industry.

Backed by Widodo, Subianto swept to a landslide victory in February's direct presidential election on promises of policy continuity.

Subianto was sworn in with his new vice president, 37-year-old Surakarta ex-Mayor Gibran Rakabuming Raka. He chose Raka, who is Widodo's son, as his running mate, with Widodo favoring Subianto over the candidate of his own former party. The former rivals became tacit allies, even though Indonesian presidents don't typically endorse candidates.

But how he'll govern the biggest economy in Southeast Asia — where nearly 90% of Indonesia's 282 million people are Muslims — remains uncertain after a campaign in which he made few concrete promises besides continuity with the popular former president.

After decades of dictatorship under President Suharto, Indonesia was convulsed by political, ethnic and religious unrest in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Since then, it has consolidated its democratic transition as the world's third-largest democracy, and is home to a rapidly expanding middle class.

Subianto, who comes from one of the country's wealthiest families, is a sharp contrast to Widodo, the first Indonesian president to emerge from outside the political and military elite.



PHOTO: AP

Indonesia's newly-inaugurated Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto delivers a speech during the presidential inauguration ceremony at the Parliament building in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024.

Subianto was a special forces commander until he was expelled by the army in 1998 over accusations that he played a role in the kidnappings and torture of activists and other abuses. He never faced trial and went into self-imposed exile in Jordan in 1998, although several of his underlings were tried and convicted.

Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein was expected to attend Sunday's ceremony, but canceled at the last minute because of escalating Middle East tensions, instead deciding to send Foreign Affairs Minister Nancy Namrouqa as his special envoy. Subianto and Abdullah met in person in June for talks in Amman on humanitarian assistance to people affected by the war in Gaza.

COP16: key issues at UN biodiversity conference

AFP
France, Oct. 20

The world's pledges to halt humankind's destruction of nature will be put to the test when the 16th UN conference on biodiversity opens Monday in Colombia.

The COP16, held in the city of Cali through November 1, is the first meeting of the international community since the adoption two years ago of an unprecedented roadmap to achieve that goal.

But putting that agreement into practice risks not moving fast enough to stop the destruction of land, oceans and species by a 2030 target date.

How will COP16 ensure countries achieve the 23 targets of the "Global Biodiversity Framework"? Can it unlock the billions of dollars needed? Can it guarantee the rights of Indigenous peoples?

Creating protected areas, restoring depleted land, cutting the use of pesticides, increasing funding for nature -- few of the targets humanity had previously set for 2020 have been reached.



PHOTO: AFP

Chestnut-fronted macaw fly previous to the COP16 Summit in Cali, Valle del Cauca Department, Colombia, on October 17, 2024.

To avoid repeating that failure, countries agreed at COP15 to create a monitoring mechanism, with common indicators to measure progress, and a possible review procedure. But the details of this mechanism, crucial for holding countries to account, remain to be adopted.

Carrying out this negotiation will be the top agenda item of COP16 and its host Colombia, which wants to establish itself as a leader in the global fight to safeguard nature.

But parallel negotiations, notably financial, will also come into play.

As of mid-October, only 29 countries out of 196 had submitted national biodiversity strategies to reflect their share of global efforts.

And 91 have submitted "national targets", or commitments on all or part of the targets, according to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Several countries could publish their plan in Cali, and those of Colombia and Brazil are keenly awaited.

Some 12,000 delegates, including seven heads of state, are expected to attend COP16.

Under the spotlight, notably, will be the flagship target of the global framework: to place 30 percent of land and sea areas under minimum protection by 2030.

As of September, 8.35 percent of the seas and 17.5 percent of land were considered protected, according to the WWF environmental group, which uses preliminary data from the UN -- in other words, barely more than in 2022.

The efforts of rich countries to finance those of the developing world will be central to debates in Cali.

Developed countries have committed to providing $20 billion per year for biodiversity by 2025 and $30 billion by 2030.

By 2022, $15.4 billion had been raised, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Developing countries will also revive their calls for creating an autonomous fund, which is a major point of contention for rich countries, which are categorically opposed to setting up multiple funds.

To unlock private finance, biodiversity credits will be another major issue.

PRISM

Man walks 38 dogs at once

Canada: A canine-loving Canadian broke a Guinness World Record by taking 38 dogs on a single walk for over half a mile. Mitchell Rudy led a pack of 38 leashed pooches on a .6-mile walk to break the Guinness World Record for the most dogs walked simultaneously by an individual.

The previous record of 36 dogs was set in Goesan, South Korea. The dogs participating in Rudy's attempt were provided by the Korean K9 Rescue shelter.

"All of these dogs, some of them are from the puppy mill industry, some of them are from former meat harvesting areas," Rudy told GWR. "These are dogs that have been rescued by KK9R but also other agencies inside of Korea. There's a lot of stigma around rescues. They're great animals, they deserve a good home, they just need a little bit of love."

'Broken' lottery machine gives $9.2M ticket

An Illinois man said he only ended up winning a $9,200,000 lottery jackpot because he was having trouble with a vending machine. The player told Illinois Lottery officials his winning story began with a grocery-buying trip to the Jewel store in Addison. "It was a normal day, just like any other. I was picking up groceries at Jewel and on my way out the door, I decided to buy a lottery ticket," the man said.

The player said he ran into some trouble while using the lottery vending machine.

"I actually wanted to buy a ticket for a different game and the machine got stuck on Lotto. I was a bit frustrated. I said, 'What is going on? The machine won't give me the right game!' So I decided I may as well buy the Lotto ticket," he said.

The ticket ended up scoring the man a $9,200,000 prize in the Aug. 24 lotto drawing.

(Agencies)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1512 – Martin Luther joins the theological faculty of the University of Wittenberg.
1774 – The flag of Taunton, Massachusetts is the first to include the word "Liberty".
1824 – Portland cement is patented.
1854 – Florence Nightingale and a staff of 38 nurses are sent to the Crimean War.
1861 – American Civil War: Union forces under Colonel Edward Baker are defeated by Confederate troops in the second major battle of the war.
1879 – Thomas Edison applies for a patent for his design for an incandescent light bulb.
1888 – The Swiss Social Democratic Party is founded.



PHOTO: RSS

Minister for Communication and Information Technology Prithvi Subba Gurung launching Rana-Tharu page of the 'Naya Nepal', a multilingual page in the Gorkhapatra daily at Gorkhapatra Corporation office in Kathmandu on Sunday.

Minister Lekhak directs police to work with restraint

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

Minister for Home Affairs Ramesh Lekhak has instructed the Nepal Police to work with restraint.

The Home Minister has said that the police should serve the general public with restraint, east, simplicity, and honesty. He cautioned that those who commit crimes should not attempt to attack the police.

He clarified that no one should advance by making mistakes, getting into conflicts with the police, or insisting that they are right.

While inaugurating the Digital Challan, a system designed for traffic violation records at the Kathmandu Valley Traffic Office on Sunday, the Home Minister instructed that those who make mistakes should be reminded and corrected.

Emphasising the need to focus more on awareness programmes at the school level for effective implementation of traffic rules, Home Minister Lekhak stated that the relevant authorities should pay attention to this work.

He said, "The police must serve and provide service to citizens and individuals with restraint, ease, simplicity, and honesty."

"The police must discharge proper service by reminding and correcting such individuals. Therefore, what I want to urge is that there is a need for awareness regarding rules and regulations about traffic police," Home Minister Lekhak said.

Saying that police is the first link connecting the government to the citizens, the Home Minister urged the police administration to be more restrained and honest in providing services to the public.

He highlighted that road accidents have emerged as a significant challenge and that all concerned parties must take their responsibilities seriously and implement necessary measures to reduce them. He stressed the need to conduct more awareness programmes regarding accident reduction and adherence to traffic rules.

On the occasion, Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport Devendra Dahal and Minister for Labour, Employment, and Transport for Bagmati Province Prem Bhakt Maharjan welcomed the launch of the e-challan and shared their thoughts on its importance.

During the event, Inspector General of Police Basanta Bahadur Kunwar said that the launch of this technology aims to promote the provision of smooth, simple, transparent, and complaint-free services to the general public through the latest technology in road safety and traffic management. He said that Nepal Police is always committed to the flawless implementation of this technology.

Inspector General Kunwar emphasised that road safety and traffic management are specialised tasks under the responsibility of Nepal Police and that the police continuously strive to modernise and improve these areas to the best of their resources.

He expressed hope that the use of the newly launched e-challan technology would help make traffic rule enforcement more technology-friendly, ensuring a service that is less troublesome and complaint-free.

Ukraine's 'victory plan' receives mixed reactions from Western allies

AP
Kyiv, Ukraine, Oct. 20

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plan to end Ukraine's nearly three-year war with Russia has received mixed reactions from Western allies so far.

The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy outlined at home and abroad includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — two steps Kyiv's allies have been reluctant to support before.

U.S. backing is crucial if Zelenskyy is to get support from other allies for proposals he believes are necessary to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield and ahead of any peace negotiations. But analysts say the Biden administration is unlikely to make a decision before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5, as it may not appeal to voters.

"They seem to be just doing very little now and waiting for the election," said Phillips O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. "So much of the strategy will live or die in Washington."

Analysts said the plan is a step in the right direction for Ukraine's military efforts. They also described it as ambitious, given allies' fears of escalation with nuclear-armed Russia. Ukraine has previously secured Western support for requests once deemed unrealistic, such as Patriot air defense systems and F-16 jets.

Presenting the plan now puts on the radar for the next U.S. administration, analysts said, though it's unknown how the next president will receive it.

After returning from making his case to the European Council, Zelenskyy said he expects the White House to provide feedback. "They will be here soon with some form of response," he said.

Zelenskyy laid out the five-point plan as Ukraine's troops struggle to hold back Russian slow but steady advances in eastern Ukraine. The plan includes three "secret annexes" that were presented only to some leaders. It also addresses partners' concerns about Ukraine's strategy after the failed summer 2023 counteroffensive.

Zelenskyy described the main goal as "to strengthen us and force Russia to come to the negotiating table with all partners."

The plan won't immediately alter the battlefield situation, but it will help Ukraine wear down Russia and give more means to keep going in the attrition war.

"I think people were potentially expecting some sort of more operational plan on winning the war," said Justin Crump, a former British tank commander who heads Sibylline, a strategic advisory firm. "That's a naive opinion to have expected a plan to have provided operational details that would obviously be of use to the enemy."

Some Ukrainian analysts blame the name of the plan, adding that it was likely chosen for marketing purposes. Ukrainian analyst Yurii Bohdan said the goal is get resources.

"To win such war (of attrition), Ukraine needs to increase its resilience and exhaust its opponent," said Glib Voloskyi, an analyst from a Ukrainian think tank, Come Back Alive Initiatives Center. "The side that falls last wins."

U.S. reaction was muted and noncommittal, though it did issue a new $425 million package of security assistance for Ukraine the day that Zelenskyy presented the plan to lawmakers.

"It's not my position to publicly evaluate his plan," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said. "We have been supporting him by providing security assistance in a major way for 2 1/2 years. We are going to continue to do that."

In Europe, reactions ranged from categorical opposition to strong support.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot stated in Kyiv on Saturday that he will work with Ukrainian officials to rally other nations to get behind the proposal.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz stood by his refusal to supply Taurus long-range cruise missiles to Kyiv.

Lamichhane remanded in custody for six days

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

The Kaski District Court on Sunday remanded Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) chair and former Home Minister Rabi Lamichhane into custody for six days for further investigation on charges of cooperative fund embezzlement and organised crime.

Lamichhane was arrested by a team of the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) from his party office in Kathmandu on Friday. He was subsequently taken to Pokhara, where he was presented before the court on Sunday.

The court, led by Judge Nabaraj Dahal, granted permission for the six-day remand following a request from the police.

Lamichhane, along with several other individuals, is accused of being involved in misappropriating funds from the Pokhara-based Suryadarshan Savings and Credit Cooperative. The arrest followed a parliamentary probe which linked him and others to the embezzlement of millions of rupees from the cooperative.

The court had previously issued arrest warrants against 14 individuals, with investigations being conducted into their involvement. So far, over 60 people have been implicated in the cooperative's financial irregularities, with seven, including Gorkha Media Network's director Chhabilal Joshi, held in custody pending trial.

Forty suspension bridges...

Municipality, Purbi Chauki Rural Municipality, Shikhar Municipality, KI Sign Rural Municipality, Api Himal Rural Municipality, Naugad Rural Municipality and one in Morang.

The MoUD said that the longest suspension bridge in the country was completed in Susta Rural Municipality in Nawalparasi (West). President Ramchandra Paudal inaugurated the infrastructure facility before the Dashain festival.

Similarly, emergency shelters were constructed in Jaleshwor Municipality of Mahottari and Tilathi Koiladi of Saptari. The target was to complete four such facilities in four locations while the remaining two in Tilagupha in Kalikot and Chandannath in Jumla are at the finishing stage, informed DPM Singh.

Meanwhile, building construction for health facilities including district public health offices, Ayurveda clinics, health posts and sub-regional hospitals was also completed.

DPM Singh maintained that the Ministry was working on multiple projects and it would take a while to get the results. "We are working to make the cities safe. We have also made rules and procedures to operate large structures like commercial complex, city hall and Dharahara," he said.

Govt forms high-level...

portation issues in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from November 3 to 5, 2024.

The government has also decided to gift a pair of elephants from Chitwan National Park to the government of Qatar as a token of love and transfer of the management responsibility of the Central Zoo to the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC).

Further, the Cabinet meeting decided to make arrangements for free treatment, excluding cosmetic procedures, for citizens unable to bear the treatment costs through various health institutions including BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Narayani Hospital, Kirtipur Hospital, Pokhara Institute of Health Sciences, and other provincial hospitals.

Money laundering...

concern and the government has been trying to prevent the country from untoward results.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Ajay Kumar Chaurasia, said that the Ministry is active in making necessary laws and improving the existing laws so that Nepal does not fall into the gray zone.

Attorney General, Deputy Governor of Nepal Rashtra Bank, Secretaries of Ministries, representatives of regulatory agencies and others participated in the meeting.

Rana Tharu 44th...

multi-lingual Naya Nepal page and in the real sense Gorkhapatra has reflected the picture and nature of Inclusive Nepal. It's a matter of pride for us."

Similarly, Corporation's General Manager Lal Bahadur Airi highlighted the significance of the Naya Nepal page of Gorkhapatra. "Gorkhapatra, which has come to include 44 languages in just 17 years, may be the first paper of its kind in the whole of South Asia," he said. "We not only add languages but are also committed to quality content for which a comprehensive guideline is being prepared."

On the occasion, the Coordinator of the Naya Nepal and Sanibariya page Bibekananda Mishra briefed about the initiation and development of the process of the multi-lingual Naya Nepal page.

Moldovans cast votes to choose president and decide on EU path

AP
Chisinau, Moldova, Oct. 20

Moldovans are casting ballots in two key votes Sunday that could determine whether the European Union candidate country, which neighbors Ukraine, remains on a pro-western path amid ongoing allegations that Russia has tried to undermine the electoral process.

Incumbent President Maia Sandu is the favorite to secure another term in office in a presidential race in which 11 candidates are running. Voters will also choose "yes" or "no" in a referendum on whether to enshrine in the country's constitution its path toward the 27-nation EU. Polls by WatchDog, a Chisinau-based think-tank show a clear majority of more than 50% support the EU path. The referendum needs a one-third turnout to be valid.

Polling stations opened at 7 a.m. (0400GMT) and are expected to close at 9 p.m. (1800GMT). By 4 p.m., more than 1.1 million voters in total — about 39% of eligible voters — had cast ballots, according to the Central Electoral Commission. By 3 p.m., 32% had voted in the EU referendum, nearly passing the validation threshold.

If Sandu fails to win an outright majority on Sunday, a runoff will be held on Nov. 3 which could pit her against Alexandr Stoianoglo, a Russia-friendly former prosecutor general who is polling at around 10%.

The two pivotal ballots are held amid ongoing claims by Moldovan authorities that Moscow has intensified an alleged "hybrid war" campaign to destabilize the country and derail its EU path. The allegations include funding pro-Moscow opposition groups, spreading disinformation, meddling in local elections, and backing a major vote-buying scheme.

U.S. national security spokesman John Kirby echoed those concerns this week, saying in a statement that "Russia is working actively to undermine Moldova's election and its European integration". Moscow has repeatedly denied it is interfering in Moldova.

"In the last several months, Moscow has dedicated millions of dollars to influencing Moldova's presidential election," Kirby said. "We assess that this money has gone toward financing its preferred parties and spreading disinformation on social media in favor of their campaigns."

In early October, Moldovan law enforcement said it had uncovered a massive vote-buying scheme orchestrated by Ilan Shor, an exiled pro-Russia oligarch who currently resides in Russia, which paid 15 million euros ($16.2 million) to 130,000 individuals to undermine the two ballots.

Prime Minister...

bilitation to those affected by floods, landslides, and inundation.

While thanking the heads and representatives of various organisations who came to the Prime Minister's Office in Singha Durbar to hand over relief amount and assistance to the Disaster Relief Fund on Sunday, Prime Minister Oli mentioned that the second instalment has been given to those affected by last year's earthquake, which occurred in Jajarkot, albeit late, and that relief will be distributed quickly to those affected by monsoon disasters.

Prime Minister Oli also expressed gratitude to all the agencies, including security forces, for their effective work immediately after the disaster.

On the occasion, contributions to the fund included Rs. 30 million from Nepal Oil Corporation, Rs. 3 million from Unilever (which had previously contributed Rs. 2 million), Rs. 2.5 million from Machhapuchhre Bank, and Rs. 100,000 from the former civil service employees' organisation.

Japan, UK and Italy to speed up joint next-generation fighter jet project

AP
Tokyo, Oct. 20

The defense ministers of Japan, the U.K. and Italy agreed to accelerate the joint development of a next-generation fighter jet, and announced that a trilateral government organization would be established by the end of this year to work with the parties producing the aircraft, Japanese officials said Sunday.

The three countries agreed in 2022 to jointly produce a new combat aircraft that will be ready for deployment in 2035, under the Global Combat Air Program, or GCAP, to strengthen cooperation in the face of growing threats from China, Russia and North Korea.

The next generation fighter jet would replace Japan's retiring F-2s that it jointly developed with the U.S. and Britain's Tempest.

On Sunday, Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani, after meeting with his U.K. and Italian counterparts, John Healey and Guido Crosetto, said a joint body called the GCAP International Government Organization, or GIGO, will be set up by the end of this year to oversee the aircraft's development.

Krishi Samagri Company Limited,
Head Office, Kathmandu Nepal

Approval of Technical Bids and Opening of Price Bids

(Publication Date : October 21, 2024)

This is to inform all concerned that Krishi Samagri Company Limited has decided to open the Price bids of the following bidder for the execution of the Supply and Delivery of Chemical Fertilizer DAP (18-46-0) -25,000±2% MT, IFB No: KSCL/D/ICB-171/081/082 published on September 3, 2024 in "The Rising Nepal" and **www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp** as their bids are found substantially responsive in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. Successful bidders are invited for their or authorized representative's presence in the following date, time and place:

Name of the bidder	Address
Commodity First DMCC	Dubai, UAE
Aditya Birla Global Trading (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	Singapore
Sun International FZE	Dubai, UAE

Price bids opening date, time and place:
Date: November 6, 2024
Time: 14:00 hours (Nepal Standard Time)
Place: Krishi Samagri Company Limited, Head Office, Kathmandu Nepal

Singer Zayn postpones US tour after death of former bandmate Liam Payne



AP
Los Angeles, Oct. 20

English singer Zayn Malik on Saturday postponed a planned tour to the U.S. following the death of his former One Direction bandmate Liam Payne.

Zayn, as the singer often goes by, said on the social platform X that he made the decision "Given the heartbreaking loss experienced this week."

He said the dates for the U.S. leg of his "Stairway to the Sky" tour would be rescheduled for January and he would post the new dates within the coming days.

Zayn had gigs scheduled next week in San Francisco and Las Vegas, and the following week in Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and New York.

"Your tickets will remain valid for the new dates," Zayn wrote. "Love you all and thank you for your understanding."

Payne, 31, was found dead Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires. His death prompted an outpouring of shock and sadness from friends, collaborators and fellow musicians.

Payne's sister Ruth Gibbins was the latest to share her thoughts in an Instagram tribute.

"I don't believe this is happening. Many times have I poured my heart out publicly with pride about Liam but never much about life as his sister," she wrote. She said her brother was "born with music in his veins" and that what she loved most about him was his ability to make her laugh.

"I don't feel this world was good enough or kind enough to you," she wrote. One Direction was the internet's first boy band with a level of fame comparable to Beatlemania. Band members in their teens had to cope with their sudden fame and then navigate a breakup while trying to build solo careers.

The exact circumstances of Payne's death remain unclear although Argentine authorities said there were suspicious elements and drugs were possibly involved. The results of toxicology tests are expected in the coming weeks. Payne had acknowledged struggling with alcoholism, saying in a YouTube video posted in July 2023 that he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment.

Director Vasan Bala deactivates X account after backlash over Alia Bhatt film



AGENCIES
Mumbai, Oct. 20

Director Vasan Bala, who made his biggest film to date with Alia Bhatt's Jigra, was at the receiving end of a barrage of negativity following its release. Jigra received mixed response both critically and commercially, and the pre-release hype didn't translate to post-release numbers. This became a topic of discussion around the film, which was co-produced by Alia and Karan Johar. Vasan, who previously made films like Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota and Monica O My Darling, was in the eye of a social media storm after saying in a pre-release interview that Karan sent the script for Jigra to Alia without telling him. More recently, in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, he admitted that he felt that he had let both Karan and Alia down with the film.

Now, it has come to light that Vasan Bala has deactivated his X account. However, his Instagram account is still alive and kicking, and he's been sharing the appreciation coming his way from the audiences. But the responses on X were distinctly different, which might have pushed Vasan to deactivate the account.

In a media interview, Vasan opened up about various aspects of Jigra, including making a mainstream film for the first time. He said, "There will be much more scrutiny now." The filmmaker also spoke about the importance of accepting criticism coming his way. "It's never graceful to defend a film after a point," said a rather candid Vasan Bala, who admitted that it is indeed a tough phase for him as a filmmaker. Comparing his previous releases to Jigra, Vasan said, "It has always been a struggle to put my film out. But this time (Jigra), it was a given that the film was going to be out and in a big way. So this is a first for me, and I don't even know how to process this." Even though he, time and again, assured that he felt nothing but support from Alia and Karan, many netizens blamed the team for leaving Vasan Bala to face all the criticisms.

Ekta Kapoor booked under POCSO act for objectionable scenes in series Gandi Baat

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Oct. 20

Producer Ekta Kapoor and her mother Shobha Kapoor have landed in legal trouble. A case has been filed against them under the POCSO Act for allegedly showing inappropriate scenes involving minor girls in an episode of the ALT Balaji's web series 'Gandi Baat'.



The case is related to season 6 of the web series 'Gandi Baat' on the OTT platform Alt Balaji. According to Mumbai Police, a case has been registered against Balaji Telefilm Limited, Ekta Kapoor and her mother Shobha Kapoor at MHB police station in Mumbai under section 295-A of IPC, IT Act and sections 13 and 15 of POCSO Act.

It is written in the complaint that this series, which streamed on Alt Balaji between February 2021 and April 2021, showed obscene scenes of minor girls.

However, this controversial episode is not currently streaming on this app.

Meanwhile, Ektaa's drama film Love, Sex aur Dhokha 2 was released in theatres on April 19.Titled LSD 2 the film is helmed by Dibakar Banerjee.

With a thought-provoking poster, the team confronts the audience with the stark reality of our digitally obsessed society, capturing a couple engaged in both intimate connection and technological detachment simultaneously.

Alec Baldwin returns to 'Saturday Night Live'

AP
New York, Oct. 20

Alec Baldwin has returned to "Saturday Night Live."

But the actor who won an Emmy for playing former President Donald Trump didn't reprise that role — he returned Saturday night to play Fox News' Bret Baier in an opening skit that spoofed this week's interview with Kamala Harris. Baldwin received loud cheers from the audience before revealing he was playing Baier, who he joked, "Yes, I do look like someone made a businessman in Minecraft."

Rudolph's Harris nervously laughed after shaking hands with Baldwin's Baier, saying, "The pleasure is neither of ours." The skit poked fun at Baier's real-life interruptions of Harris, with Baldwin repeatedly interrupting Rudolph in rapid-fire fashion.

Rudolph, after several interruptions to the first question: "May I please finish?"

Baldwin: "I'm asking you to."

Rudolph: "Well, then you have to listen." Baldwin: "Well I can't because I'm talking."

Rudolph: "Well, When will you stop?"

"Maybe when I go to bed," Baldwin responded, with the audience laughing loudly.

The skit also mocked a moment Baier acknowledged was a mistake by playing the wrong clip of a Trump response.



The clips allowed "SNL" to bring in mini-skits including one with Dana Carvey as President Joe Biden, who has played the role since the beginning of the comedy sketch show's 50th season.

The skit closed — many interruptions later — with Harris asking: "Before I go, can I just say the thing I've been trying to say this whole time? Live from New York, it's Saturday night!", with Baldwin joining her.

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" star Michael Keaton is hosting Saturday's show, with Billie Eilish the musical host.

Baldwin has hosted "SNL" a record 17 times but hasn't appeared on it recently. His involuntary manslaughter trial over the fatal shooting of a cinematographer on the set of the film "Rust" ended in July in a mistrial.

HOROSCOPE

tarot.com

ARIES: Say what is true to you. Today, you might be presented with an opportunity to express yourself in a way that you weren't able to before. However, there may be an element of risk in your words as you put yourself out there.

TAURUS: You could be taking a risk to create security. It may sound paradoxical, but sometimes you have to let go of something before you receive what you've been seeking.

GEMINI : It's all about what you feel. Felicity comes from within right now, which can be daunting -- you'll probably need to make certain decisions on your own.

CANCER: Magic can come from unexpected places. You're more likely to experience blessings when the universe gives them to you, because right now, life is more of a surprise party than it is an event you're planning.

LEO: Friendship currently offers adventure! You might not have expected to find new friends or run into old ones, but you're likely about to be provided with an avenue to go have fun with them.

VIRGO: Luck (and determination) are like spotlights on you! You could reach a wider audience or climb a rung of the corporate ladder, even as peers don't understand your success.

LIBRA: Accessing your fortune may require stepping outside your comfort zone. You might be tempted to continue doing your average routine, especially when presented with an opportunity to venture beyond your norm.

SCORPIO: Be wary of recent risky behavior. There may be bad habits that you're trying to break, but temptations arising could cause you to fall back into your old ways.

SAGITTARIUS: The past might be blocking your future. You may have had a negative experience that left you shying away from certain activities. Avoidance likely felt like the safest option.

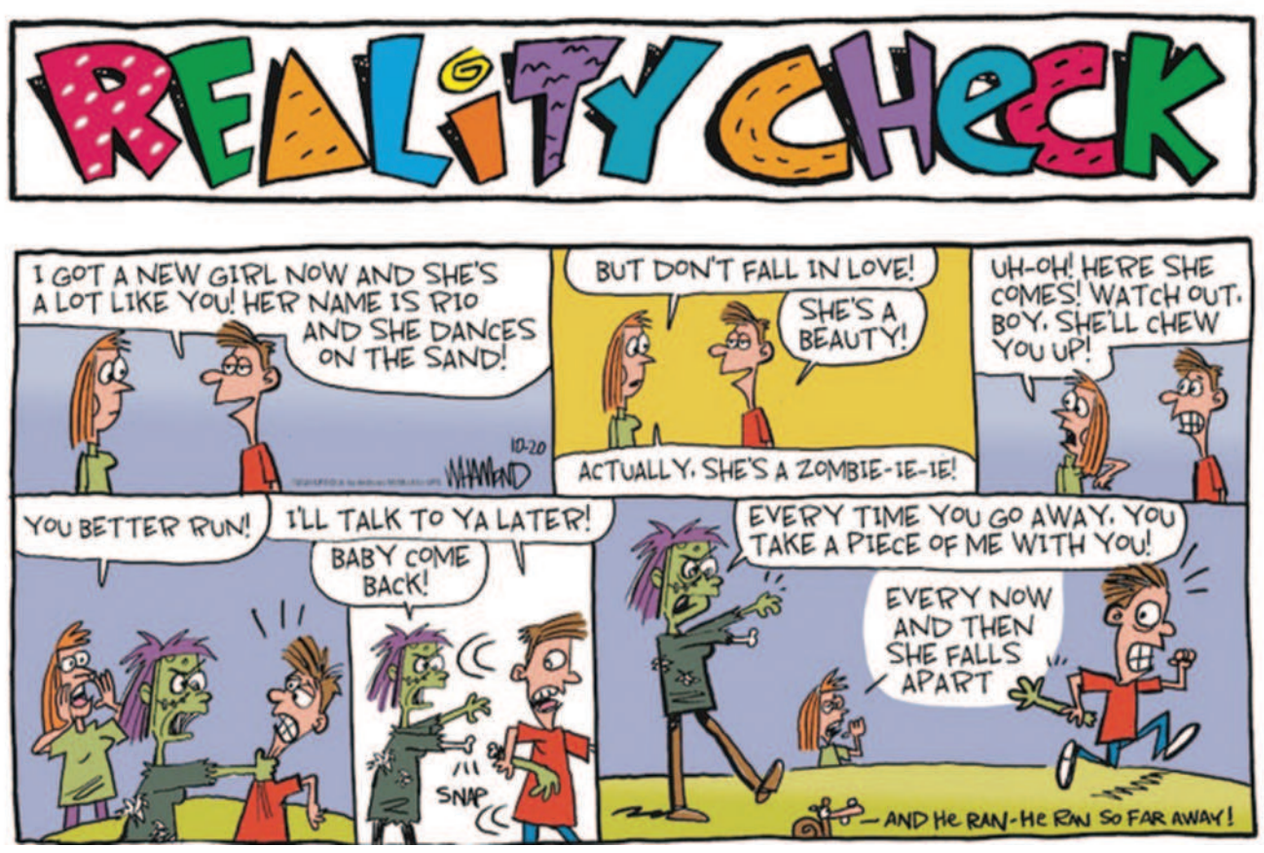
CAPRICORN: Trust in what you worked so hard on. Your continued efforts have likely provided you with knowledge, experience, and a love of what you do, but someone may cause you to doubt yourself sooner rather than later.

AQUARIUS: You may be taking a calculated risk. This could be something you've been thinking about for a while -- after all, you wouldn't step out onto a tightrope unless the ground you're on is no longer safe for you.

PISCES: Following your heart isn't just for fairytales. When your soul is clearly pulling you in a certain direction, there's no need to worry that it's not "you" enough.

CARTOON

gocomics.com



Nepal wins T20I series against USA with one match in hand

BY NAYAK PAUDEL
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

It was all drama at Grand Prairie Stadium in Texas, USA, as Nepal defeated the hosts in a game that went to super over to clinch the three-match T20I series with one match remaining.

The USA was the only Associate to progress to the Super Eight of the T20 World Cup in June; moreover, they defeated Pakistan, in a super over, in the group stage to qualify for the next stage with India. However, the super-over did not end in favour of the hosts on Sunday morning (Saturday night in Texas) with Nepal defeating the USA twice in two matches. Nepal can whitewash the T20I tri-series by winning the final game on October 21 and set a tone for the upcoming CWC League 2 tri-series with the USA and Scotland across a 50-over format.

Nepal had a far more comfortable victory in the inaugural match on October 18, defeating the USA by 17 runs. After winning the toss, Monank Patel asked Nepal to bat first, believing that Nepal's batting order, with a streak of struggles in Canada, would crumble in contemporary conditions. But the plan backfired.

And when Nepal's skipper Rohit Kumar Paudel won the toss on October 20, he followed the rhythm they set in the first match. Batting first, Nepal posted 170/6 on the board, a bigger total than the previous game, mostly with the not-out inning of 92 off 54 for in-at-three Kushal Bhurtel, for which he was awarded as the player of the match.



PHOTO: CAN
Sompal Kami celebrates a wicket during the super over against the USA in the 2nd T20I in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday.

Bhurtel had been out of form for almost a year but was making a comeback after a rest for a few matches and returning down the order from the opener. While he could only reach the double figure (10 off 13) in the first match, he fell short of only eight runs for his century as the 20 overs ended. Bhurtel, scoring runs at a strike rate of 170, destroyed the USA bowling line-up with seven fours and six sixes.

Anil Kumar Sah (25 off 31), Gulshan Kumar Jha (19 off 12) and Paudel (18 off 14) were the only other batsmen to score in double figures for Nepal while the Sheikh brothers departed for a run each and Dipendra Singh Airee added 2 off 3. Karan KC entered with one ball in hand after Aarif Sheikh got run out in 19.5 overs and ended the first inning with a six to Ali Khan.

Jasdeep Singh and Nosthush Kenjige with two each and Saurabh Netravalkar with one were the wicket-takers for the USA. While Bhurtel opened his hands well, the USA bowlers were great with restricting Nepal to 170 runs as their batting order could chase it.

Patel, skipper and opener of the USA, got bowled out by Karan KC as the first wicket in 1.4 overs giving a great start for Nepal, but the other opener, Saiteja Mukkamalla, and in-at-three Andries Gous, who was the highest score in the first game, gave a hard time and took the game towards their pocket with every passing over.

When Mukkamalla departed for 47 off 41 at the end of the 12th over, he and Gous had taken the USA to 96 runs. On the other hand, Gous, a foreign player to keep an eye on in the upcoming Nepal Premier League, went on to hit four sixes and three fours.

At 62 runs, Gous, with the USA requiring 3 of 3, tried winning it for the team with a six up front and got caught by Bhurtel in the boundary line. Running out Jasdeep Singh in the final ball, Nepal and the USA tied at 170 runs and the game went on to super over.

The experience of Sompal Kami and Karan KC was the biggest asset for Nepal in the match as the duo won it with their bowling. KC and Kami bagged three and two wickets respectively in the 20-over game, and it was Kami who took two consecutive wickets in the super over to restrict the USA to 2 runs in four balls. Chasing 3 runs in the super over, Paudel and Bhurtel ran three singles in four balls to win the three-match T20I series by 2-0.

Defensive Pakistan stalls defending champion Bangladesh in a draw

BY NAYAK PAUDEL
Kathmandu, Oct. 20

Bangladesh, the defending champion, could prevent a complete upset by Pakistan thanks to a late equaliser that allowed the former champions to earn a point at the group stage of the 7th SAFF Women's Championship at Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu on Sunday.

Pakistan, with a goal in the 32nd minute, was leading 1-0 until the 90 minutes of regulation time, despite Bangladesh controlling most of the possession and dominating the game. Pakistan was able to convert a counter-attack into a goal after Zahmena Samin Malik found a beautiful long pass from Rameen Fareed to score past the goalkeeper, who came forth to prevent a shoot.

Staying on the defence throughout the 90 minutes, Pakistan could restrict Bangladesh from capitalising on the numerous chances they created.

However, Pakistan, which was on a defensive seat, could not prevent the leveller in the 90+1 minutes of the six-minute added time thanks to a header by Shamsunnahar J.

Pakistan's head coach Adeell Mirza Rizki was one of the happiest faces after the match ended as he was able to give a proper reply to the previous defeat. Two years ago, on September 10, 2022, Pakistan was defeated 6-0 by Bangladesh at the same stadium; Bangladesh then went on to defeat Nepal in the final and lift their maiden SAFF Women's Championship.



PHOTO: BIKASH DWARE/TRN
Anmol Hira (white) of Pakistan performing her man-marking role against Bangladesh at the SAFF Women's Championship in Kathmandu on Sunday.

Anmol Hira's man-marking

While Pakistan played mostly defensively, the major setback for Bangladesh was the plan of Pakistan's head coach Rizki to deploy Anmol Hira to man-mark Bangladeshi skipper Sabina Khatun from the beginning to the end.

Khatun was relieved for a few minutes when Hira, with a minor injury in her gum, was outside to stop bleeding in the 65th minute; except that, Khatun´s movement was almost completely restricted. Without any choice left, Khatun was subbed off in the 70th minute. Hira then started marking Srimoti Krishnarani Sarkar, who was handed the captain´s armband.

"I waited two years for this. I had seen Khatun score a hat trick against us in the last edition. Hira did her job so well that Khatun had to be subbed off," said Rizki in the post-match conference.Bangladesh's head coach, Peter James Butler, also expressed that he had to replace Khatun in the 70th minute for tactical changes to the gameplay.

According to Rizki, Pakistan will be eagerly waiting for the results of the India-Bangladesh fixture on October 23 as they want to be a part of the tournament till the end.

Bangladesh looks forward

Bangladesh had a lot of chances despite their skipper Khatun being marked persistently. The missed chances were a result of a lack of players on the receiving end to shoot, shots outside the frame (including one prevented by the crossbar) and Pakistan's goalie making some exceptional saves.

Moreover, Bangladesh's goalie and defenders also made some good saves and tackles to prevent Pakistan from extending the lead, a situation that Bangladesh would not have liked.

"I have played and coached in over 1,000 matches throughout the globe but I had never been in a state where a team dominates so much in possession but cannot score. Yet, I am happy with the players as they gave their best. They played quality football," said Butler, who once played for West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League.

While Pakistan's group-stage campaign concluded with the match against Bangladesh, India and Bangladesh have a final encounter remaining in their group. "And we are looking forward to the match against India. We will be making plans for the game because we want to move forward," said Butler.

SNIPPETS

Inter Miami into 2025 FIFA Club World Cup

Fort Lauderdale (AP): Lionel Messi is heading to the Club World Cup next year. FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced Saturday night that Inter Miami will play in the tournament, which was long expected given Messi's enormous popularity worldwide and how the tournament already planned some matches in South Florida. Twelve teams from Europe – Atletico Madrid, Bayern Munich, Benfica, Borussia Dortmund, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Juventus, Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, Porto, Real Madrid and Salzburg – will be included in the Club World Cup. Other teams include the likes of Boca Juniors, Fluminense, Leon, Monterrey, Al Ahly, Esperance, Al-Hilal, Al Ain and Auckland City among others. Inter Miami becomes the 31st team in the field. The last will be determined on Nov. 30 at the CONMEBOL Libertadores final in Buenos Aires.

Modric becomes Real Madrid's oldest player

Barcelona (AP): Luka Modric became the oldest player in Real Madrid's history while also delivering the game-winning assist in a 2-1 victory at Celta Vigo in La Liga on Saturday. At 39 years and 40 days old, the former Ballon d'Or winner surpassed the milestone held by Ferenc Puskas since 1966 by four days. Modric went on as a second-half substitute after Celta pulled level. The Croatian midfielder immediately made an impact when he threaded a through-ball forward for Vinícius Júnior to score the 66th-minute winner at Balaidos Stadium. "It was a hard-fought game," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "But we knew how to hang in there and got three important points thanks to a great pass by Modric. Luka always gives us something." When asked about Modric's legacy with the club, Ancelotti said: "There is nothing else to say about a fantastic game; he is a great professional and with a character. Real Madrid has been, and is, lucky to have him." Modric has the most titles in the history of Real Madrid with 27, including six Champions League titles and four Spanish leagues.

Young, Ravindra guide New Zealand to first Test win in India in 36 years

AFP
Bengaluru, Oct. 20

Will Young and Rachin Ravindra put on an unbroken 75 to guide New Zealand to a first Test win in India for 36 years on day five of the rain-hit match in Bengaluru.

Chasing a tricky 107 on a rain-delayed day, New Zealand lost captain Tom Latham without scoring and Devon Conway for 17.

But Young and Ravindra guided the visitors to 110-2 in the first session and a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

First-innings centurion Ravindra, a wristy left-hander, looked comfortable as he hit six fours in his 46-ball stay and was named player of the match after the eight-wicket victory.

Young struck the winning boundary, one of his seven fours, as his New Zealand teammates exchanged hugs in the pavilion. He also hit one six, while facing 76 balls.

It was New Zealand's third Test victory in India after their wins in 1969 at Nagpur and at Mumbai in 1988.

"It was extremely difficult. There have been a lot of teams that have come here over that long period of time, so obviously it's a special feeling," Latham told reporters.

"To be in this position, I think the work we did in that first and second innings with the ball and with the bat set up the game for us. A proud moment for this group."

Latham, who took over from Tim Southee after New Zealand were swept 2-0 in Sri Lanka, marked his first Test as full-time captain with a resounding victory.

Fast bowlers Matt Henry and Will O'Rourke set up the win with 15 wickets in the match as India, having chosen to bat after the first day was lost to the weather, were skittled for 46 in their first innings, their lowest home Test score.



PHOTO: IDREES MOHAMMED/AFP
New Zealand's Will Young and Rachin Ravindra celebrate their team's win against India.

"We didn't think we'll be 46 all out but due credit to New Zealand. It set us back and games like this will happen," said India captain Rohit Sharma.

"Got to take the good things forward. We've been here before, conceding home losses, these things happen. We know what it takes and will give it all in the next two Tests."

'Nice having dad here'

On Sunday, India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah gave the home side a glimmer of hope when he removed Latham lbw with the second ball of the day and New Zealand yet to score.

Bumrah and new ball partner Mohammed Siraj then subjected the New Zealand batsmen to a testing start, with deliveries consistently going past the bat on a lively wicket that had been under covers earlier because of rain.

Bumrah struck a second time when he trapped the left-handed Conway lbw after a successful review to leave New Zealand 35-2.

But that was India's last breakthrough as Young and Ravindra took their team to a famous win.

New Zealand had replied to India's first innings' 46 with 402 and then dismissed India for 462 in their second innings.

Sarfaraz Khan scored 150 and Rishabh Pant 99 as their 177 stand led India's second-innings fightback, but from 408-3 Henry and O'Rourke sparked a collapse as the hosts lost their last seven wickets for 54.

Ravindra, a Wellington-born batting all-rounder with roots in Bengaluru and his father watching from the stands, hammered 134 in New Zealand's first innings.

"Whenever I play in Bangalore it's quite nice to have the support," said Ravindra.

"My phone starts blowing up. The fans are great too. I love the support. It's nice having dad and close family here, it always makes it special."

New Zealand came into the match without leading batsman Kane Williamson, who is recovering from a groin injury.

The second Test begins on Thursday in Pune. The third is on November 1 in Mumbai.

WEATHER

Monday

Sunrise at 6:02 am, Sunset at 5:40 pm

Forecast for Nepal (Monday)

Partly to generally cloudy in the hilly areas of the country along with Lumbini Province and partly cloudy to mainly fair in rest of the country. Light to moderate rain with thunder and lightning is likely to occur at one or two places of Lumbini Province and hilly region of the country. Chances of light snowfall at one or two places of the high hilly and mountainous region of the country.

Expected Temp.: 12 -14°C
Rain Probability: 40%

Sunday's Weather Record

Stations	Max. temp. (C)	Min. temp. (C)	Rain (mm)
Dipayal	31.0	18.8	0.0
Dadeldhura	22.0	12.5	0.0
Dhangadi	34.0	21.8	0.0
Birendranagar	30.5	17.6	0.0
Nepalgunj	32.6	23.2	0.0
Jumla	20.7	7.5	4.5
Ghorahi	29.6	19.0	0.0
Pokhara	27.3	17.2	34.9
Bhairahawa	31.7	23.0	0.0
Simara	29.3	20.6	38.4
Kathmandu	26.3	15.4	Traces
Okhaldhunga	23.3	13.5	3.0
Taplejung	21.5	14.3	8.4
Dhankuta	26.2	16.0	0.0
Biratnagar	29.5	22.4	3.9
Jomsom	17.5	12.5	3.4*
Dharan	29.4	21.0	25.9*
Lumle	21.0	13.5	1.8*
Janakpur	31.1	21.0	1.4*
Jiri	21.1	9.0	0.0*

NEPAL RASTRA BANK

FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

EXCHANGE RATES

October 21, 2024

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
Indian Rupee	100	Rs. 160.00	Rs. 160.15

Open Market Exchange Rates
For the purpose of Nepal Rastra Bank

CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
U.S. Dollar	1	Rs. 134.21	Rs. 134.81
Euro	1	Rs. 145.84	Rs. 146.49
Pound Sterling	1	Rs. 175.16	Rs. 175.95
Swiss Franc	1	Rs. 155.15	Rs. 155.84
Australian Dollar	1	Rs. 90.01	Rs. 90.42
Canadian Dollar	1	Rs. 97.25	Rs. 97.68
Singapore Dollar	1	Rs. 102.42	Rs. 102.88
Japanese Yen	10	Rs. 8.98	Rs. 9.02
Chinese Yuan	1	Rs. 18.90	Rs. 18.98
Saudi Arab Riyal	1	Rs. 35.74	Rs. 35.89
Qatari Riyal	1	Rs. 36.81	Rs. 36.97
Thai Bhat	1	Rs. 4.05	Rs. 4.07
UAE Dirham	1	Rs. 36.54	Rs. 36.70
Malaysian Ringgit	1	Rs. 31.18	Rs. 31.32
South Korean Won	100	Rs. 9.80	Rs. 9.84
Swedish Kronar	1	Rs. 12.76	Rs. 12.81
Danish Kronar	1	Rs. 19.55	Rs. 19.64
Hong Kong Dollar	1	Rs. 17.27	Rs. 17.35
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	Rs. 437.92	Rs. 439.88
Bahrain Dinar	1	Rs. 355.98	Rs. 357.57

Note: Under the present system the open market exchange rates quoted by different banks may differ.

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