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THE RISING NEPAL

ALL BE HAPPY, ALL BE WELL

PRESIDENT PAUDEL ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

President Ramchandra Paudel has been admitted to the Manamohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Centre at TU Teaching Hospital due to visible problems in his health.

Speaking to The Rising Nepal, Abagya Paudel, Personal Secretary to the President, said he was rushed to the hospital after continuous vomiting and dizziness.

A press release issued by Dr. Ratna Mani Gajurel, Director of the Hospital, stated that doctors are monitoring his condition, which is now stable.

President Paudel was previously scheduled to hold a dialogue with Gen Z representatives on Saturday.

However, the President was unable to hold discussions, which were conducted by Prime Minister Sushila Karki. They have been rescheduled for Monday, according to officials from the Presidential Office.

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PHOTO: RSS

Prime Minister Sushila Karki interacting with representatives of the Gen-Z Movement held at the President Office in Sheetal Niwas, Kathmandu on Saturday.

Gen-Zs urge political parties to contest 2026 HoR election

RSS
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Representatives of the Gen-Z protest have called on all political parties to participate in the House of Representatives (HoR) elections scheduled for March 5, 2026.

Speaking to the media following a meeting with the Prime Minister and members of the Council of Ministers at the Office of the President Saturday, they expressed strong belief that all political parties would take part in the elections and make the most of the opportunity.

Describing the election as a democratic process, Gen-Z representative Miraj Dhungana stated that elections are a means of electing the people's representatives. He expressed hope that the elections would be conducted in a free, fair, and impartial manner.

He urged all political parties to engage in the electoral process and take part in fair competition. "A new force may emerge from the election," he added. Dhungana also stressed that those who played a significant role in elevating the street movement should be included in the current Council of Ministers.

On Friday, President Ramchandra Paudel convened a meeting with leaders of political parties, including representatives from the dissolved parliament and the government, to discuss the upcoming elections.

During the meeting, political parties demanded guarantees of peace and security for the elections, while the government urged all parties to participate in the elections.

To graduate or not to graduate: Nepal faces dilemma over LDC upgrade

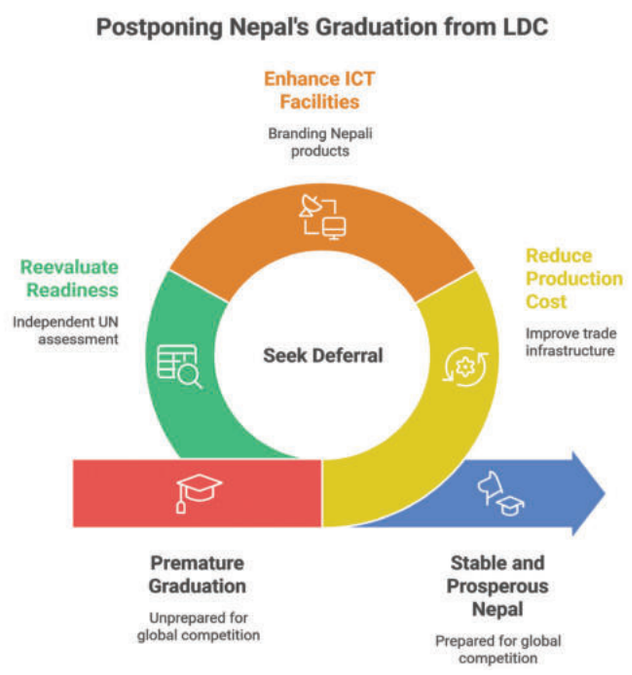
BY MODNATH DHAKAL
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Amidst the estimated 3-5 per cent loss to the economy due to arson and vandalism of the public and private property and businesses during the Gen-Z movement in September this year, and fear of poor economic performance, apprehensions have begun surfacing about Nepal's graduation to the 'Developing Country (DC)' from the current Least Developed Country (LDC) status.

Several business leaders, economists and trade experts suggested seeking a deferral to the graduation in order to buy time to put the country's economy back on track.

TRN SPECIAL

While 76 people were killed in the protests, properties worth hundreds of billions were vandalised and set afire during the youth-led movement. According to preliminary estimates of the concerned authorities, damage to the public infrastructure is more than Rs. 103 billion while the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) put the damage to the private properties above Rs. 83 billion



Attack on private properties and businesses – including 21 outlets of Bhatbhateni Super Market, international hotel chain Hilton, multinational telecommunication company Ncell, automobile showrooms, Chaudhary Group's electronics factory, base station of Chandragiri Cable Car, and house of Non-Resident Nepali Association's founding President Dr. Upendra Mahato – has sent negative message about 'doing business' environment in Nepal.

Foreign investors, some of whom are at the final stage in making decision to bring in investment here, are now in 'wait and see', according to the business community. President of Garment Association of Nepal (GAN), Pashupati Pandey, a foreign investor who was seeking a plot of about 22 bigahas to set-up a garment industry that would employ about 15,000 people has now put his plan on hold.

Industries like garment, handicraft, carpet, felt and tea are afraid that they would be unable to compete with the products from countries like India, China and Bangladesh due to low productivity and high production and transportation cost in Nepal as the waiver to customs duties would be removed following the graduation.

A small group of development experts have expressed their worries over the possible end of obtaining grant for development projects.

Should Nepal seek deferral?

The recent untoward situation has paved the ground for the postponement of the graduation from the LDC, said Pandey. "There is a lot to do in terms of reducing production cost, improving trade infrastructure, enhancing the quality of ICT facilities and branding Nepali products at the international markets. We need some time for that," he said.

Nepal exports garments worth about Rs. 10 billion a year, of which goods worth Rs. 4 billion enter the US market while European market is also equally important.

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Minister Ghising inspects flood-affected areas in Ilam

Pledges long-term alternative to Mechi Highway

BY PREM ADHIKARI
Ilam, Oct. 11

Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Kulman Ghising, has conducted an on-site inspection of areas in Ilam affected by floods and landslides.

Minister Ghising visited several affected locations including Maikhola Tapu in Ilam Municipality-10, the Rajduwali section of the Mechi Highway and the Mil Golai area of the Nepaltar road on Saturday, where he assessed the damage caused by the disaster.

He was accompanied by Home Secretary Rameshwar Dangal, Secretary at the Physical Infrastructure Ministry Secretary Keshav Sharma, Chief Executive Officer at National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority Dinesh Bhatt and Nepal Police Chief Chandra Kuber Khapung.

During the visit, Minister Ghising met with flood victims in Maikhola Tapu and listened to their concerns. The victims urged the government to focus on immediate relief and long-term resettlement.

Minister Ghising assured that the blocked section of the Mechi Highway would be temporarily reopened by Sunday and that the government would work on a long-term alternative route.

He said, "The Mechi Highway will be made operational temporarily, and a study will be carried out immediately to find a long-term alternative."

He added that the government would not hold back on rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts in Ilam, and that the district would be prioritised now that it has been declared a crisis zone.

He said, "We declared Ilam a crisis-affected district after seeing the extent of the damage. Reconstruction will be a government priority."

Minister Ghising added that rebuilding and restoring infrastructure will be the first phase of the government's focus. He also instructed relevant authorities to prioritise rescue, relief, and rehabilitation for those affected.

Kedar Thapa, Mayor of Ilam Municipality, briefed the minister on the damages caused by the floods.

Meanwhile, a meeting at the District Administration Office was held to discuss flood and landslide damages, resettlement of victims, reconstruction of infrastructure and relief distribution. He also reiterated that Ilam would remain a government priority.

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Traffic resumes along BP Highway

BY KEDAR TIMALSINA
Banepa, Oct. 11

Traffic has resumed on the BP Highway after a week-long disruption caused by landslides and floods. The highway, which had remained completely blocked since last Friday, was reopened from Saturday morning following the construction of temporary diversion tracks.

According to the Bhaktapur Road Division, temporary road tracks were completed by Friday, enabling the resumption of vehicular movement from early Saturday.

Senior Divisional Engineer Suman Yogesh, head of the Bhaktapur Road Division, confirmed that both public and private vehicles are now operating on the highway.

"Temporary tracks were opened at the damaged road sections, allowing traffic to resume from early Saturday. Repairs were immediately carried out near the Dapcha Bridge after some issues emerged during the initial vehicle movement. Additional repair work is ongoing in Charshaya Besi and Kaladhunga due to landslides," said Yogesh.

He also stated that machinery and equipment have been stationed at multiple points along the highway for quick response and repair if needed.

Inspector Ishwar Karki, Chief of the Area Police Office in Mangaltar, reported traffic congestion from early Saturday as vehicles began using the newly opened diversion routes.

He mentioned that due to severe flooding in the Roshi River, parts of the road in Mamti, Narke, Charshayabesi and Kaladhunga suffered heavy erosion, restricting traffic to one lane in those areas. Movement along the temporary diversions remains challenging, he added.

By 3:00 pm on Saturday, 350 passenger vehicles had entered the area via the BP Highway, while 250 had exited. Similarly, 150 private vehicles entered, with 50 departing. Around 250 motorcycles were recorded entering and 100 leaving during the same timeframe. Vehicular movement is permitted until 6:00 pm.

The BP Highway is a critical route connecting the federal capital, Kathmandu, with the eastern Tarai and hill districts. Continuous rainfall last Friday and Saturday triggered landslides and flooding, damaging 16 sections of the road between Dapcha Bridge and Barkhekhola.

A four-kilometre-long temporary diversion was also washed away in several places due to the extreme weather.

Cultivation of medicinal finger millet declines

BY BABURAM KARKI
Barahakshetra, Oct. 11

The demand for finger millet (kodo), a local grain, is rising because of the increasing popularity of millet-based liquor in both rural and urban areas.

Even though finger millet is considered a nutritious and medicinal food for human health, the cultivation of this crop is actually declining while demand keeps going up.

Because of the high demand for homemade finger millet liquor (alcohol), the price of the grain itself is rising. Keshav Thulung Rai, District Joint Secretary of the Kirat Rai Yayokkha organisation, said that millet liquor has its own special importance as it's connected to religious and cultural traditions passed down for generations.

He said that, traditionally, finger millet beer (Jaad) is offered to ancestors. "It is a tradition to offer the beer made specifically in the name of the ancestors. The offered beer is then distributed as a sacred offering (Prasad)."

He added that both the liquor and the beer made from finger millet are now selling for a high price. "The demand for pure, organic finger millet liquor is growing not just in villages but equally in cities."



Why finger millet is valuable

Finger millet is highly sought after in the market because it's rich in essential nutrients like carbohydrates, protein, fibre, vitamins, calcium, magnesium and iron, which are vital for food security, nutrition and a healthy life.

Although there are enthusiasts who enjoy finger millet dishes everywhere -- from small huts to famous hotels - the local varieties of the crops are reportedly disappearing due to the introduction of improved seeds for other crops. Finger millet currently costs between Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per kilogram, and a bottle of good quality finger millet liquor can get between Rs. 300 to Rs. 400.

Farmers in the northern parts of the district, including Barahakshetra, Suryakunda and Bishnupaduka of Dharan, are gradually moving away from finger millet cultivation as they are becoming more attracted to other crops.

According to local resident Umesh Rai, farmers are losing interest in finger millet farming each year because it is more troublesome and yields less compared to other crops.

According to the Agriculture Knowledge Centre, Sunsari, finger millet is now cultivated on only 465 hectares of land in the district. Agricultural technicians said that the total area of finger millet cultivation has been declining across the Koshi Province.

The Directorate of Agricultural Development, Koshi Province, also reported a decrease in the cultivation area. In the fiscal year 2023/24, finger millet was grown on 57,357.03 hectares, while in the fiscal year 2024/25, it covered only 57,274.03 hectares.

Along with the shrinkage in area, production has also dropped. In the fiscal year 2023/24, total production was 87,343.60 metric tonnes with an average yield of 1.52 metric tonnes per hectare. However, in the following fiscal year, production fell to 85,972.48 metric tonnes, and the yield dropped to 1.5 metric tonnes per hectare.

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BULLION
(Rs. per tola)

Hallmark Gold	: Rs. 235,000/-
Worked Gold	: NA
Silver	: 3,085/-

STOCK

NEPSE	: 2,582.18
Total Amount	: 5,273,221,479.76
No. of Share	: 11,830,077

GBIA: Thai AirAsia International Flights set to resume

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Bhairahawa, Oct. 11

Regular international flights are set to resume from Gautam Buddha International Airport (GBIA) in Bhairahawa, after a hiatus of around six months without international services.

Thai AirAsia is preparing to start international flights between Bhairahawa and Thailand from October 12.

According to Pratap Babu Tiwari, airport's General Manager, Thai AirAsia has been granted permission for two flights per week. "Thai AirAsia has been authorised to operate two flights a week starting from 12 October. Other companies, including Jazeera Airways, are also in the preparatory stage. Jazeera plans to start flights after Tihar festival," Tiwari said.

Last April, four foreign airlines temporarily operated flights from Bhairahawa while Tribhuvan International Airport was undergoing maintenance. During that time, up to 20 flights were operating weekly for a month. However, since then, regular flights have ceased, and only a few charter flights have taken place.

Gautam Buddha International Airport, formally inaugurated on May 16, 2022, coinciding with the 2566th Buddha Jayanti, saw initial commercial flights operated by Nepal Airlines, Fly Dubai, Jazeera Airways, Thai AirAsia and Himalaya Airlines.



FILE PHOTO: TRN

Gautam Buddha International Airport (GBIA) in Bhairahawa

However, the lack of continuous regular flights has negatively affected hotel and tourism businesses in and around Bhairahawa.

According to Netra Acharya, President of the Siddhartha Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the private sector invested around Rs. 100 billion in the hope of the airport becoming operational.

However, with flights halted, many businesses are struggling to pay loan instalments and interest, putting them in crisis. Acharya said, "Some businesspeople have already sold their star-rated hotels, and several hotels under construction have been stopped midway."

In the five years since the airport became operational, a total of 1,057 international flights and landings have occurred. During this period, 29,621 passengers arrived in Bhairahawa, and 31,641 departed. A total of 61,254 passengers have used the airport so far.

In the last fiscal year (2024/25), there were 278 flights, with 12,830 passengers arriving and 11,128 departing from Bhairahawa. In the current year, only 10 charter flights have taken place.

To attract foreign airlines, the government has introduced various concessions for Bhairahawa and Pokhara airports. These include a waiver of the international passenger service charge, full exemption from parking, landing, and navigation fees, a 75 per cent discount on ground handling charges and a discount on fuel.

However, business operators claim that the lack of necessary government offices at the airport, a Kathmandu-centric monopoly on air ticket sales, and management weaknesses are causing difficulties in maintaining regular flight operations.

SWASTIMA KHADKA NAMED BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR INDRIVE NEPAL

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

Global mobility and urban services platform inDrive has announced popular Nepali actress Swastima Khadka as its new Brand Ambassador for Nepal.

Alongside this announcement, inDrive has launched its new 360-degree campaign, titled 'Your Journey Begins With Your Choice' celebrating the platform's belief in freedom of choice, fairness, and transparency for everyone.

The campaign embodies inDrive's unique peer-to-peer (P2P) model which empowers users to set their own fares and negotiate directly with drivers, according to a press statement of inDrive.

The approach ensures equality, respect and mutual decision-making putting freedom of choice at every ride.

The campaign is built around the brand's key concept freedom of choice, which gives people the power to choose their drivers, decide the fare for their ride and even bargain directly with the driver within the app.

With the inDrive app, people can either offer a fare for their ride or select one of several driver offers based on factors such as vehicle model, driver rating and arrival time ensuing full control and transparency for both passengers and drivers.

With Swastima Khadka as the face of this camping, inDrive aims to deepen its connections with Nepali audiences, particularly the youth who value independence, authenticity and empowerment, it said.

Mark Tolley, Regional Director, APAC, inDrive, said, "Our 360-degree campaign reflects inDrive's core values of freedom, equality and community. We are delighted to have Swastima Khadka represent our brand in Nepal. Her sprit, authenticity, and values align perfectly with what inDrive stands for."

Swastima Khadka, Brand Ambassador inDrive Nepal, said, "I am looking forward to being a part of inDrive Nepal's campaign as their brand ambassador. inDrive is a platform that stands for fairness and freedom of choice."

The 360-degree campaign will roll out across digital, outdoor, and on-ground activations, creating a fully integrated communication experience.

Tourist arrivals drop by 18%; 78,711 visitors entered Nepal in September

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

International visitors' arrivals in Nepal have decreased significantly in the month of September this year.

According to the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), a total of 78,711 international visitors entered Nepal in the month of September, 2025.

The tourist arrival has decreased in September due to the Gen Z movement across the country.

This is 18.3 per cent lower than the tourist arrivals during the same month of last year 2024. A total of 96,302 tourists had arrived in Nepal in the month of September 2024.

The tourist arrival figure in the month of September this year represents only 85 per cent recovery compared to pre-pandemic levels in September 2019, according to the Nepal Tourism Board.

A total of 92,604 tourists had visited Nepal in the month of September 2019.

A total of 815,273 tourists arrived in Nepal during the first nine months since January of the year 2025.

According to the NTB, the highest number of tourists of 121,687 entered Nepal in the month of March 2025 while a total of 116,490 tourists entered Nepal in the month of April.

Similarly, a total of 79,991 tourists entered Nepal in the month of January, 96,880 in February and 86,216 in May, 76,425 in the month of June, 70,913 in the month of July and 88,680 in the month of August this year.

India continues to dominate as the largest tourist-generating country for Nepal, contributing 19.8 per cent of total arrivals with 15,556 visitors in September 2025.

USA followed with 9,679 arrivals (12.3 per cent), while Australia accounted for 6,824 visitors (8.7 per cent), according to the NTB.

Similarly, 5,237 (6.7 per cent) tourists from China and 4,981 (4.8 per cent) from United Kingdom have come to Nepal in the month of September.

Of the total tourist arrival, share of tourists from South Asia (SAARC) stood at 30.9 per cent (24,285 people), Asia (others) at 16 per cent (12,590 people), Europe at 21.1 per cent (16,597 people), Americas at 14.6 per cent (11,523 people), Oceania at 9.3 per cent (7,314 people), Middle East at 3 per cent (2,328 people), Africa at 0.4 per cent (344 people) and others at 4.17 per cent (3,730 people) in the review month.

Dang ensures ample marigold supply for Tihar



BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Tulshipur, Oct. 11

This year, Dang district will have an ample supply of marigold flowers for the Tihar festival. Farmers from Tulshipur, Ghorahi, and Lamahi areas have produced enough blooms to meet the local demand. It is estimated that around 90 quintals of marigolds will be harvested in the district this festive season.

According to flower entrepreneur Buddhiraj Paudel, who has been cultivating marigolds for the past seven years, approximately 30 quintals of flowers are consumed in Dang during Tihar. The district also exports marigolds to neighbouring Rupandehi and Banke districts.

Paudel has cultivated marigolds on eight katthas of land and said the current market price is around Rs. 350 per kilogram.

Similarly, Green Foundation Nepal, based in Tulshipur-8, has also cultivated marigolds this year. The foundation's farm manager, Ganesh Bhandari, informed that they expect to produce around five quintals of flowers.

Meanwhile, local governments in Ghorahi, Tulshipur, Lamahi and Rapti Rural Municipality have continued their long-standing ban on the sale and distribution of plastic garlands.

Lamahi Municipality, in coordination with local flower farmers, has decided to strictly enforce the ban again this year.

The municipality recently issued a public notice, listing local flower growers and urging locals to use natural marigold garlands instead of plastic ones during the festival.

A field in Tulshipur-9, cultivated by Buddhiraj Paudel, is now in full bloom. There are rows of vibrant marigolds ready to decorate homes and temples across the district this Tihar.

Floods, landslides leave Bardibas deserted

Hotels remain empty, businesses suffer

BY RABINDRA UPRETI
Bardibas, Oct. 11

At a time when the town should be bustling with activity during major festivals, Bardibas in Mahottari district wears a deserted look.

Bardibas, located at the crossroads of the East–West Highway, BP Highway, and Postal Highway, depends heavily on road connectivity for its livelihood.

However, the recent floods and landslides, which damaged key roads, have disrupted transport and deeply affected the area's economic and social life.

The situation has particularly hit the hotel and tourism sector, regarded as the economic backbone of Madhes Province. Gunja Karki Gopal, president of the Hotel and Tourism Entrepreneurs' Association, Mahottari has said that road damage has caused a severe decline in hotel business.

"This is supposed to be our peak season but the hotels are empty. The stoves are cold and workers are jobless," he lamented. Association's general secretary Narayan Ghimire said Bardibas has around 250 hotels, employing over 1,200 people.

Normally, these hotels serve meals priced between Rs. 100 and Rs. 550 and cater to about 1,500 customers daily. "Now, most hotels are empty," he said.



PHOOTO: TRN

A hotel in Bardibas remains deserted due to the lack of customers after floods and landslides damaged major roads.

Binod Thapa, who runs the Khukuri Hotel at Bardibas-3, Gauridanda, shared how his daily rice consumption has dropped drastically.

"Before the floods, we used to cook 18 kilos of rice a day, enough for 80 to 90 customers; sometimes we even had to cook more," he said. "Now, even after cooking just five kilos, there's left over food." The hotel shutdown has had a ripple effect on the agricultural and dairy sectors too.

Bardibas has four wholesale shops that sell potatoes and onions. When hotels were running, these outlets used to sell about 80 quintals of potatoes and 20 quintals of onions daily.

Now, the sales have plummeted to just five to seven quintals of potatoes and two to three quintals of onions per day.

Hari Sah, owner of Om Namah Shivaya Traders, said, "Because of the drop in demand, I had to throw away 10 quintals of potatoes and five quintals of onions that rotted in the store room. The roads are still blocked and more may rot soon."

Similarly, Purushottam Bhattarai, operator of Om Shanti Dairy, said that the 32 registered and unregistered dairies in Bardibas, which previously used to sell 2,500 to 3,000 litres of milk daily, now sell only about 1,000 litres.

The reduced consumption of meat, vegetables, pulses, rice and fruit has also affected local farmers, who supply produce to the hotels.

Trump threatens to impose new 100% tariff on Chinese imports

AP
Washington, Oct. 11

President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to place an additional 100% tax on Chinese imports starting on Nov. 1 or sooner, potentially escalating tariff rates close to levels that in April fanned fears of a global recession.

The president expressed frustration with new export controls placed on rare earth elements by China — and said on social media that "there seems to be no reason" to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping as part of an upcoming trip to South Korea.

Trump later told reporters he had not canceled his meeting. "But I don't know that we're going to have it," he said during an Oval Office appearance on another subject. "I'm going to be there regardless, so I would assume we might have it." Trump also suggested there may be time to ratchet down his steep new tariff threat. "We're going to have to see what happens. That's why I made it Nov. 1," he said.

China's new restrictions

On Thursday, the Chinese government restricted access to rare earth minerals, requiring foreign companies to get special approval for shipping the metallic elements abroad. It also announced permitting requirements on exports of technologies used in the mining, smelting and recycling of rare earths, adding that any export requests for products used in military goods would be rejected.

On social media, Trump described the export controls as "shocking" and "out of the blue." He said China is "becoming very hostile" and that it's holding the world "captive" by restricting access to the metals and magnets used in electronics, computer chips, lasers, jet engines and other technologies.

Trump said in a post that "starting November 1st, 2025 (or sooner, depending on any further actions or changes taken by China), the United States of America will impose a Tariff of 100% on China, over and above any Tariff that they are currently paying." The president also said the U.S. government would respond to China by putting its own export controls "on any and all critical software" from American firms.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

Trump is known for using threats as a tactic The S&P 500 tumbled 2.7% on worries about the rising tensions between the world's largest economies. It was the market's worst day since April when the president last bandied about import taxes this high. Still, the stock market closed before the president spelled out the terms of his threat.

NC, UML agree to reduce ministries in Bagmati

BY RAMMANI DAHAL
Makwanpur, Oct. 11



PHOTO: TRN

NC and CPN (UML) meeting in Hetauda.

Amid growing concerns about the increasing number of ministries and the financial burden they impose, the Bagmati Province government is preparing to reduce the number of ministries.

The ruling coalition in Bagmati Province, the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML, has reached an agreement to downsize the provincial ministries.

A joint meeting of the two parties decided to move forward with the plan to reduce ministries as part of broader efforts to cut down on government spending.

Speaking about the agreement, Minister for Economic Affairs and Planning, Prabhat Tamang, said the meeting discussed eliminating unnecessary government expenditures, including reducing the number of ministries.

The two parties have agreed to reduce the ministries. It is now up to the government to implement this decision," said Minister Tamang, who is also the spokesperson of the Bagmati Province.

Currently, Bagmati Province has 14 ministries, including the Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers. Along with the reduction in ministries, redundant bodies such as directorates and councils will also be removed.

According to Minister Tamang, the two ruling parties have agreed in principle to reduce at least two to three ministries each from their current responsibilities, depending on feasibility. The government will take the final decision.

He added that the joint meeting prioritised cutting administrative costs and eliminating unjustified and inefficient expenditure. Based on his proposal, the parties have agreed to release only 50 per cent of the grants allocated to organisations in the current fiscal year 2025/26 and just 40 per cent of the budget for seminars, workshops, and similar events.

Additionally, the meeting granted the government authority to reduce inter-provincial visits, drop unnecessary plans and trim the number of non-essential contractual staff.

The meeting also discussed the election of the vacant post of provincial assembly and the resumption of the Provincial Assembly session, which is likely to be held after the Tihar festival.

Among the austerity measures, the contingency fund has also been halved from 4 per cent to 2 per cent. The overall aim is to cut administrative costs while making government services more efficient.

Chief Minister Indra Bahadur Baniya, former Chief Minister Bahadur Singh Lama Tamang and CPN-UML parliamentary party leader Jagannath Thapaliya, among others, were present at the meeting.

Lack of communication at ABC troubles tourists

BY THAKUR PRASAD ACHARYA
Myagdi, Oct. 11

Tourists visiting the Annapurna I Base Camp, situated at an altitude of 4,190 metres, and trekking along the Maurice Herzog Trail often face difficulties due to the lack of communication facilities in the area.

This region, being far from human settlements, lacks both communication and electricity facilities.

Tourists who visit the northern base camp of Annapurna I, at an altitude of 8,091 metres, located in Annapurna Rural Municipality-4, Narchyang, Myagdi, face challenges in staying in touch with their families and loved ones due to the absence of communication infrastructure.

The Maurice Herzog Trail, which leads to the base camp, begins from Humkhola at an altitude of 2,883 metres. As there are no communication services above Humkhola, trekkers experience significant inconvenience, according to Tej Gurung, a local tourism entrepreneur from Narchyang and promoter of the Maurice Herzog Trail.

"There are no communication or electricity facilities along the trail or at the base camp. Once tourists leave Humkhola, they are cut off from any form of communication. There have even been incidents where families, unable to contact their loved ones, reported them missing to the police," he said.

Gurung recounted a recent incident where a family, whose relatives had come for trekking from Kathmandu and remained out of contact for two days, informed the police, fearing something had gone wrong.

The absence of communication services not only affects trekkers and climbers staying at the base camp for mountaineering, but also complicates rescue operations in case of emergencies.

Gurung said that despite efforts to raise the issue with the concerned authorities, there has been no response. Although discussions have taken place about setting up a relay station as an alternative solution for communication, a lack of interest from relevant bodies has prevented progress.

According to Bishal Khatri from Beni, who recently trekked the Maurice Herzog Trail, the route and the base camp have become increasingly popular tourist destinations, making the availability of communication services, including internet access, essential. "When you're out of contact with family and friends for two days, it naturally causes them great worry," he said.

During the Dashain-Tihar holiday season, more than 200 tourists have reportedly been reaching the base camp in a day via the Maurice Herzog Trail, said Gurung.

Due to the increasing number of visitors, hotel and restaurant operators along the trail and at the base camp are struggling to accommodate the influx.

The tents and shelter structures along the trail and at the base camp can accommodate about 50 people per night. However, with daily numbers now exceeding 150 to 200 tourists, managing lodging has become increasingly difficult, according to Gurung.

Locals have set up temporary structures since last April/May at various points along the trail - including at Humkhola, where the trail begins, the Phutphute waterfall (which has tea shops), Sadhikharka, Gufafant, Bhusket, and around the Panchakunda Lake area near the base camp - to provide food and lodging to trekkers.

From the centre of Annapurna Rural Municipality at Pokharebagar, tourists can travel 22 km by vehicle to reach Humkhola. From there, a 21-km trek is required to reach the base camp.

Due to attractions like the Phutphute waterfall on the trail, the Panchakunda Lake near the base camp, and the natural beauty of the Annapurna Himal, the Annapurna Base Camp has recently emerged as a highly appealing destination for trekkers.

14 elephants killed in electric traps in Jhapa

BY BISHNU PRASAD POKHAREL
Damak, Oct. 11

At a time when efforts are being made to promote human-elephant coexistence in Jhapa, it has come to light that 14 elephants died after being caught in electric traps.

Although dead elephants had been frequently found in the area, the causes of their deaths were rarely made public.

According to Bharat Babu Shrestha, Division Forest Officer at the Division Forest Office, Jhapa, records showed that 26 wild elephants have died in recent years. Post-mortem reports and investigations revealed that 14 of them were electrocuted by illegal electric fences.

Shrestha said the number is alarming and stressed that urgent action is needed to prevent such incidents.

Despite repeated warnings not to install electric traps, people have continued doing so. The office has therefore issued written notices to concerned authorities and stakeholders, informing them of the matter.

Wildlife conservationists had long criticised the authorities for failing to disclose the real causes behind elephant deaths.

A letter issued by the Division Forest Office also mentioned that uninsulated and haphazardly installed electric fences have previously caused human casualties, claiming the lives of innocent people. The office has urged all related bodies to take immediate control measures against the use of such fences.

Unregulated electric fencing in areas frequently used by wild elephants has continued to increase elephant deaths every year, severely affecting the conservation of this protected species.

In recent years, efforts have also been made at the community level to manage human-elephant conflict in Jhapa.

Gopal Kumar Budhathoki, Mayor of Mechinagar Municipality, said that the municipality has already written to all its wards, requesting them to immediately remove illegally installed electric traps as per the Division Forest Office's instruction. Mechinagar is the most affected area in Jhapa, as Indian wild elephants regularly cross into Nepal through this municipality.

Arjun Karki, Chairperson of Ward No. 4 and an elephant conservation activist, said that similar preventive measures had been taken earlier in Bahundangi, which is considered a major elephant corridor in Jhapa.

He appreciated the Division Forest Office's recent efforts to reveal the truth and take action, even if delayed. "We want those involved in setting electric traps and killing elephants to be identified and punished," Karki said.

Clothes Bank in Damak benefits lower-income group

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Damak, Oct. 11



Along the roadside of Ward No.6 in Damak, Jhapa, stands a small, tin-roofed room that resembles a community wardrobe. Inside, rows of well-arranged clothes, shirts, trousers, and kurthas hang ready for anyone in need. Outside, a bright signboard reads, "Those who have, give; those who need, take."

This is the newly established cloth bank, an initiative launched by the ward office of Damak-6 to promote compassion and sharing within the community. What began as a simple idea has now become a symbol of social responsibility and dignity for the less fortunate.

While various organisations in Damak have previously organised similar donation drives, this is the first time the local government itself has taken ownership of such a humanitarian effort.

According to ward chairperson Tek Bahadur Karki, the bank aims to ensure that no one in the ward goes without adequate clothing, be it during the winter chill or festive seasons.

"The idea is simple," Karki said, adding, "Anyone who can, should donate clothes. Anyone who needs them should take them. This is about giving back to the community."

The initiative welcomes locals to drop off new or gently used garments at the collection point, which is open year-round. Those in need can walk in without hesitation and choose clothes freely, maintaining both dignity and ease. "We will continue this not just during Dashain or Tihar but throughout the year," Karki added.

Torn or dirty clothes are strictly prohibited. "Donations should reflect care," Karki explained. "Only clean and wearable garments will be accepted. We want people to give something they would wear themselves."

For many low-income families and seasonal workers in the area, this initiative has become a source of quiet relief. Mothers searching for children's clothes, elderly men looking for a warm shawl, all find something here.

The Clothes Bank is more than a charity corner; it's a small act of humanity woven into the fabric of Damak's everyday life, he added.

With its simple motto, "Those who have, give; those who need, take," the Ward Office hopes to inspire other communities to follow suit, proving that generosity doesn't always need grandeur, just goodwill.

Kolti Bus Park in Bajura waits for buses to arrive

BY SHER BAHADUR SARKI
Bajura, Oct. 11



Kolti Bus Park in Budhinanda Municipality–2, situated in the northeastern part of Bajura district, now stands deserted, with no buses arriving or departing.

Long-distance buses that had started operating from Kolti in March 2024 have stopped running after floods and landslides blocked the road section, once again isolating the region from Martadi, the district headquarters.

The primary obstacle is the incomplete bridge over the Bauli stream along the Martadi–Kolti road. Without the bridge, long-route buses can only operate up to Martadi, leaving Kolti locals without direct public transport.

"In the winter, we could travel by buses right from our village," said Radha Karki, a local of Budhinanda–2. "Now, we must walk two to four hours to reach Martadi just to catch a bus. When the bus reached Kolti last year, we were so happy, thinking travel would finally be easier, but the road blockage has made life difficult again."

Though the road reached the village nearly a decade ago, locals say the irregular transport service has kept travel challenging, particularly during the monsoon season.

Short-distance vehicles such as jeeps and tractors began operating along the Martadi–Dansangu–Kolti route in 2015, but regular bus services only began last year. Due to frequent landslides, however, the buses have once again stopped reaching Kolti.

Despite being open for years, the poor condition of the road and lack of maintenance continue to force locals to walk for an entire day to reach Martadi during rainy months.

Githe Sarki, a local of Budhinanda-9, said Kolti needs a properly functioning bus park to ensure transportation access for the people of northeastern Bajura.

"Last winter, buses reached Kolti after coordination between the District Administration Office and local stakeholders," he said. "But the service couldn't continue because of the damaged road."

Bus operator Ram Chandra Giri said it was impossible to sustain services under current conditions. "We once operated a Jayamalika Yatayat bus to Kolti in 2023, but the road was so bad that the repair costs exceeded our earnings," he said.

According to officials, the Martadi–Chuthi road section (9 km) has been allocated Rs. 230 million for blacktopping under Dhulikhel Gwalbha Shyam and Shankar Pvt. Ltd., while the Chuthi–Dhamkne (6 km) and Dhamkne–Kolti (26 km) sections were contracted to Baniya Koteshwar JV Pvt. Ltd., Hetauda, for Rs. 620 million.

However, even though the project deadlines expired a year ago, blacktopping work remains incomplete. The Physical Infrastructure Development Office, Achham, has directed contractors to accelerate progress.

"We've resumed work in coordination with Budhinanda Municipality to restore road connectivity before Dashain-Tihar," said Jung Bahadur Thapa, Chief of the Physical Infrastructure Development Office, Achham. "Bulldozers are clearing landslides and working near the Bauli stream."

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

History is not a burden on the memory but an illumination of the soul.
-John Dalberg-Acton

EDITORIAL

Election For Stability

At a time when the public, media, and civil society representatives are suspicious about whether the interim government led by Prime Minister Sushila Karki could hold the election to the House of Representatives (HoR) on the scheduled date of March 5, next year, President Ramchandra Paudel convened an all-party meeting to facilitate the election process at his office in Shital Niwas on Friday. The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Karki and attended by all the political parties representing the erstwhile HoR, has now instilled the hope that the election could be organised in time. The suspicion was natural when the leadership of the UML had termed the formation of the interim government and dissolution of the House unconstitutional and said it would move to the court to reinstate the House, while a few Nepali Congress leaders were also expressing views against the dissolution. But now, when the leaders from these two parties attended the all-party meeting focused on the election, the suspension has, somehow, receded.

Also, the meeting served as a right platform for the interim government and the political parties to discuss the election and the issues associated with it, because the government, particularly Prime Minister Karki, had been drawing criticism for not holding talks with the political parties to create a conducive election environment in the country. The Shital Niwas meeting, thus, has been a key to bridging the political parties and the interim government. Moreover, the government and the political parties have formally started engaging in talks to hold the election and bring the country's politics back on the right track, because without holding the election, the country's derailed politics could not be fixed.

With the wounds of recent political turmoil yet to heal, the need to rebuild public confidence in democratic institutions cannot be overstated. Election is the only means to restore the democratic institution. This was rightly reflected by President Ramchandra Paudel in his statement that holding elections on time was essential to safeguard democratic values and ensure political stability. At the same time, he also called for unity among the political parties to create a peaceful, fair, and fear-free electoral environment, urging all political parties to focus their attention on the forthcoming election. Stating that elections are the only means to safeguard the country, its people, democracy, and the constitution, he also warned the political parties not to seek an alternative to elections. His warning came when the CPN-UML and a few Nepali Congress leaders were floating the idea of seeking the reinstatement of the dissolved parliament.

Likewise, Prime Minister Karki has assured that the government was fully aware of its responsibilities and was determined to ensure peace and security for the election. She also told the parties that organising an election could be impossible without the cooperation of the political parties and assured them that the government would manage all necessary arrangements to conduct the polls in a free, fair, and fearless manner. She also appealed to the parties to understand the causes of public dissatisfaction and to move forward in unity, embracing the changes demanded by the people.

In a democracy, power must return to the people-elected representatives at constitutionally mandated intervals. Any deviation from this principle puts the very foundation of democratic governance as well as national sovereignty at risk. Thus, the political parties now need to realise the urgency of fresh elections and engage themselves in making the election a success, because only elections can give a way out to the present political uncertainty.

Ethics In Media

GARIMA DHAKAL

The media is one of the most powerful pillars in the modern world. It informs people about events and spreads knowledge across the general public. It also plays a key role in shaping public opinion. Through newspapers, television, radio and numerous online platforms, media can influence how people think, feel and act. But with great power comes a great responsibility. This is where ethics becomes essential. Without ethical standards, the media can mislead, harm and even shake the core of society instead of helping it.

Ethics in the media is about accuracy, balance and credibility. Journalists and all the media outlets are expected to present information accurately and without bias. When the media chooses sensation over facts or selfish gain over honesty, it risks damaging both individuals and society as a whole. For example, when any form of tragedy or crime is reported, sensitivity and respect for victims are crucial. Publishing unverified details or using shocking images might attract attention, but it can also cause pain to the victims and spread misinformation among the masses. Therefore, ethics guides the media to balance the right to inform while causing no harm.

A key aspect of media ethics is avoiding bias. It is very natural for people to hold personal opinions. But when reporting any kind of news, journalists must strive for balance. Presenting only one side of a story can mislead the public and weaken their trust in journalism. Ethical reporting gives space to different voices and ensures that readers or viewers are able to make their own judgments. In societies, especially where political influence is strong, it is absolutely important for the media to function independently. When the media outlets start to serve only political or business matters, they fail their responsibility to the public.

The rise of digital and social media has made the ethical role of journalism even more urgent. Information now travels faster than ever. But how much of this information is true? Fake news, manipulated images, and misleading headlines often spread widely before corrections can be made. This creates confusion, fear and mistrust among the public. In such a situation, ethical journalism stands out as a reliable guide. Audiences need to know which sources they can trust and only those outlets that follow principles of accuracy and accountability can provide that kind of assurance to the public.

Ethics requires accountability. Mistakes in reporting can happen, but ethical media organisations take responsibility by correcting errors quickly and openly. This shows respect for the audience and builds credibility over time. When the media hides mistakes or refuses to admit bias, it damages its reputation. On the other hand, when it is transparent and accountable, it strengthens the trust of the people.

The role of the media goes beyond reporting facts. It also has the power to protect democracy, highlight injustice and give a voice to the marginalised. For this reason, ethics in media is not simply a professional guideline; it is a social necessity. Ethical media can educate citizens, encourage healthy debate and also promote social harmony. However, unethical media can spread hate, create division and even silence the truth.

Ethics is the backbone of a responsible journalist. By following principles of accuracy, balance and credibility, the media can live up to its true purpose: serving the public. In an age where there is an overload of information, ethical journalism is more important than ever. It ensures that the media remains not just a source of news but also a pillar of truth and trust in society.

Party Reforms, Polls Key To Nepal's Future



Bishnu Prasad Gautam

A month has elapsed since the unprecedented demonstration, initiated peacefully by the Gen Z group to protest against the ban imposed on social sites by the KP Sharma Oli-led government, and rampant corruption, which later turned violent, culminating in the fall of the government and the dissolution of the House of Representatives (HoR). Even the Zoomers who staged the rally on the morning of September 8 with the two simple demands might not have expected the upheaval of that scale within 48 hours, but it ended the syndicate rules of the three parties, which were leading the government turn by turn after 2015.

The blame for the violence of September 9 solely goes to the merciless killing of 19 youths in front of the Parliament Building in New Baneshwor in the afternoon of September 8. The massacre ultimately led to the violence in Kathmandu and elsewhere on September 9, which resulted in a big loss of lives and infrastructure. In two days, 76 people were killed. Still, many injured are fighting for their lives in different hospitals.

Derailed politics

A month later, we now have an interim government led by Sushila Karki. The situation has returned to normalcy, and the government has been working to hold the election to the HoR on March 5, 2026, so that the derailed politics of the country can be brought back on the right track. On the occasion of the completion of a month of the uprising, Prime Minister Karki has appealed to the people and the political parties to accept the change. In a video message on Thursday night, she reiterated her commitment to act according to the spirit of change and hold the election. On Friday, while chairing the all-party meeting called by President Ramchandra Paudel, she also said that the election could be held only with the participation of all the political parties, and reiterated commitments to ensure the safety of leaders.

However, the CPN-UML, particularly ousted prime minister KP Sharma Oli, has been challenging the interim government and the dissolution of the House. On Thursday, while addressing his first public meeting after the upheaval, Oli not only challenged the interim government but also instructed the party cadres to take to the streets. He also said that his party would not accept the report that the commission formed under former judge of Special Court, Gauri Bahadur Karki, to investigate the killings and destruction caused would prepare. He also hinted that his party would not take part in the election and initiate a process to reinstate the HoR. What Oli and UML said on Thursday could push the country into confrontation. Such statements by Oli and members of his coteries will only increase the transition period, making the election difficult.

Likewise, a section of senior NC leaders, who were enjoying power only at the mercy of party president Sher Bahadur Deuba, are also trying to resist the winds of change. They have also said that they would move to the court against the dissolution of the House. A few leaders of the two

> If the present leadership steps down, allowing the new leaders to lead the parties and contest the election, it could be the panacea for the current political crisis.

parties seem not ready to accept the change brought about by the Gen Z group, although the revolt gave a clear message that the Nepali people could no longer tolerate the existing leadership of the big three parties—NC, UML, and Maoist Centre. Obviously, the KP Oli-led government, supported by NC's president Deuba, had prepared the ground for the demonstrations. But still, they have not realised this bitter truth and are trying to spoil the environment by making false rhetoric and floating one conspiracy theory after another. They should stop irking people, the injured Gen-Zs, and the parents who lost their children.

Fortunately, the constitution drafted by the people-elected Constituent Assembly in nine years is in place, and the interim government has been functioning under it. Holding the election on the scheduled date is essential to save the constitution and the country. Failure to hold the election could push the country into further uncertainty. But the top leaders of the big two parties have, unfortunately, been hesitating to accept the change. In this context, the CPN (Maoist Centre) has shown political maturity. It has already decided to contest the election. Its coordinator, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', on Friday told the editors that a consensus was essential among the parties to make the election a success.

No matter how small the demands of the Gen Zs were, their protest has been turned into a big political event. They have pushed the powerful parties and their leaders into a defensive position. As such, the way forward now should obviously be based on the foundation of the movement. The general public and professionals have already admitted this.

Misrule

Obviously, the young people fed up with the misrule took to the streets, without fearing the bullet. Now when the youth, who lost their friends during the protest, have started demanding the arrest of Oli and then Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak for killing the children, the UML and NC leaders have started speaking against the Gen Z group and the interim government, forgetting that the Gen Z movement was stemmed from the misrule of the limited leaders of the three big parties.

Whether the leaders and their coteries agree or not, the true solution to the present crisis is the reforms in the political parties by bidding adieu to their aged leadership, and general election. If the present leadership steps down, allowing the new leaders to lead the parties and contest the election, it could be the panacea for the current political crisis. The people and even the Gen Zs also want the parties to go for a fresh poll under their new leadership. This is what the party leadership should understand to save the country and safeguard the constitution and democratic system.

(Gautam is Acting Editor-in-Chief of this daily.)

Values Of Laboratory Data In Diagnosis



Dr. Shyam P Lohani

Diagnosis is both an art and science in modern medicine. Physicians' intuition, experience, and interaction with patients are the art, and laboratory values are the science. Hence, laboratory investigations become the heart of diagnosis that are essential in confirming, supporting, or ruling out clinical impressions. A simple blood test or blood sugar test or complex genetic markers can provide objective evidence that often provides concrete evidence that transform clinical judgment to a definitive diagnosis. No doubt laboratory values have tremendous contributions in clinical medicine; their interpretation demands context, understanding, and cautious explanation.

Laboratory testing is the basis of any diagnosis in modern medicine. In previous times, when laboratory testing was not developed as today, diagnosis heavily relied on symptoms described by the patient and physical signs. However, such diagnosis often used to be misleading or ambiguous. For example, the same symptom can be due to various illnesses, such as fatigue that may result from diabetes, thyroid ailment, or stress. Hence, laboratory investigations help the provider in differential diagnosis and reach a definitive conclusion.

Evidence-based medicine

Laboratory investigations serve as an important basis for evidence-based medicine. These values help not only in emergency settings but also in preventive care and help providers to reach life-saving decisions. In acute conditions, the elevated troponin level indicates cardiac injury, positive culture or raised white blood cell count gives positive impression of infections and causative pathogen. Similarly, in chronic cases, HbA1c value provide diabetes status and renal creatinine serves important indication of renal status. Hence, laboratory values not only serve as a diagnostic adjunct but also an essential for overall clinical management.

The laboratory values are reproducible and quantifiable; hence, they are objective. The correct interpretation of those values not only reduces diagnostic uncertainty but also helps providers to reach a definitive diagnosis. A patient may exaggerate or underreport their experience; however, the lab values give concrete evidence. A person may deny taking a drug while driving but the laboratory investigation provides positive indication or a creatinine level gives definitive status of the renal system.

Sometimes, laboratory values give false impression; therefore, they must be interpreted along with clinical symptoms. Elevation of liver enzymes may not always be due to liver disease but may be the result of drug interactions, muscle injury, or intense exercise. Therefore, it is always prudent to interpret the values by integrating the patient's history and clinical symptoms. The laboratory values come with a reference range, the number within which 95 per cent of values fall for a healthy individual. The reference range is a vital benchmark, but it is not absolute. Several factors influence the laboratory results, such as age, sex, ethnicity, or even hydration status. The higher hemoglobin level is found in people residing at high altitude owing to exposure to a chronic low oxygen level and normal creatinine levels may vary between professional athletes or elderly people.

It is, therefore, essential to consider patient-related factors before reaching to a conclusive diagnosis. A person who walked for a few hours before measuring fasting blood glucose may give a false impression about diabetes or a person with stress or sleep deprivation may

> There should be harmony between laboratory data, medical reasoning, and human empathy to reach the best diagnosis to provide effective treatment.

show elevated blood glucose. In the last few decades, there have been remarkable advances in laboratory technology. The accuracy, speed, and accessibility of lab results have improved due to automation, molecular diagnostics, and point-of-care testing.

The modern automated analyzers can process samples in bulk and minimize human error, providing results quickly and in real time. People can now test pregnancy, blood glucose outside hospital settings, which has helped both healthcare workers and patients. The laboratory medicine has recently been utilising emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning. Even before any symptoms develop, algorithms can analyse data to predict diseases. With the help of such technology, cancers are being diagnosed before any clinical symptoms. Hence, these innovations have helped laboratory medicine in predicting diseases long before clinical manifestations.

The laboratory values give tremendous advantages in modern medicine; however, they should not be overly dependent. There might be errors in any stage, from pre-analytical, analytical, to post-analytical. The results can be distorted owing to a fault in sample collection, contamination during or post-collection, or delays in transportation. Similarly, discrepancies may occur between laboratories, status of equipment calibration, and quality of reagents. Therefore, standardization, calibration, and quality control systems play a crucial role in those values.

A non-medical person may panic due to slightly raised result as home testing kits are widely available and they are unaware of clinical correlation and biological variability. At the same time, they may ignore significant abnormalities thinking of minor changes. Thus, it is recommended to guide them properly before utilising home test kits and interpret only with the help of a provider.

Economic implications

Although laboratory investigations have benefits, they also carry economic implications particularly in developing economies. Both patients and healthcare settings get overburden due to over and often unnecessary testing. Sometimes, minor abnormalities recorded due to over-testing can trigger cascades of further tests. At the same time, under-testing or neglect in essential tests can result in delayed diagnosis and impact negatively on outcomes.

Therefore, providers must balance essential tests and cost effectiveness. Every test recommended should be rationally justified and test results should only be revealed to concerned people. In case of countries like ours, infrastructure, equipment, and training are paramount. Rural health centres still lack modern equipment and rely on outdated equipment. As telemedicine is expanding, laboratory data must integrate with a digital platform for speedy, cost-effective, and accurate results. At last, laboratory data help modern medicine by providing objective, reproducible, and accurate measurements of different parameters. But they should be carefully interpreted with patient variability and existing symptoms. There should be harmony between laboratory data, medical reasoning, and human empathy to reach the best diagnosis to provide effective treatment.

(Dr. Lohani is the clinical director at the Nepal Poison Information Centre. lohanis@gmail.com)

50 YEARS AGO

THE RISING NEPAL

October 11, 1975

TB Hospital To Be Set Up

Dhangadi, Oct. 11: The 16th session of Doti district assembly held here recently decided to establish a tuberculosis control hospital in Doti district and health centre in Kapaleki village panchayat, reports RSS.

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READER'S MAIL

Help Disaster Victims



This is about the news report, "*Ilam grapples with impact of floods and landslides,*" carried by this daily on October 11. The devastating natural disasters that struck on the night of October 4 killed at least 38 people, left many more injured, and displaced hundreds of families.

The catastrophe was triggered by the massive rainfall Ilam saw on that day, probably unprecedented in decades. Now, as the relief and reconstruction are underway, it's incumbent upon all of us to support the victims.

Nepalis are known for their resiliency. No matter how disastrous a calamity can be, we come together from far and wide to assist the victims to ensure that they recover from the tragedy as quickly as possible. Let this time be no different. Few ways to offer such help is to volunteer to bring back the severed roads into operation and support financially to rebuild their homes. Perhaps the most important of all is to make people prone to such disasters aware of the risk and help them relocate.

Nabaraj Poudel
Pokhara

TAILPIECE

John asks his wife, Mary, what she wants to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

"Would you like a new mink coat?" he asks.

"Not really," says Mary.

"Well how about a new Mercedes sports car?" says John.

"No," she responds.

"What about a new vacation home in the country?" he suggests.

She again rejects his offer with a "No thanks."

"Well what would you like for our anniversary?" John asks.

"John, I'd like a divorce," answers Mary.

"Sorry, I wasn't planning to spend that much," says John.

At least 7 killed in quakes in Philippines

AP
Manila, Oct. 11



PHOTO: AP

Patients stay outside a hospital following a strong earthquake in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, Philippines.

Two powerful offshore earthquakes struck the same region in the southern Philippines hours apart on Friday with the first 7.4 magnitude temblor killing at least seven people, setting off landslides and prompting evacuations of coastal areas nearby because of a brief tsunami scare.

The second one had a preliminary 6.8 magnitude and also sparked a local tsunami warning by authorities. It was caused by movement in the same fault line, the Philippine Trench, at a depth of 37 kilometers (23 miles) off Manay town in Davao Oriental province, Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology chief Teresito Bacolcol said.

"The second one is a separate earthquake, which we call a doublet quake," Bacolcol told The Associated Press. "Both happened in the same area but have different strengths and epicenters." Bacolcol and other authorities expressed fears that the second nighttime earthquake could further weaken or collapse structures already undermined by the first one.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., facing his latest natural disaster after a recent deadly quake and back-to-back storms, said the potential damage was being assessed and rescue teams and relief operations were being prepared and would be deployed when it was safe to do so. The first quake was centered at sea about 43 kilometers (27 miles) east of Manay town and was caused by movement in the Philippine Trench at a depth of 23 kilometers (14 miles), government seismologists said.

At least seven people were killed, including two patients who died of heart attacks at a hospital during the first earthquake and a resident who was hit by debris in Mati city in Davao Oriental, Ednar Dayanghirang, regional director of the government's Office of Civil Defense, told The AP.

Three villagers died and several others were rescued with injuries by army troops and civilian volunteers in a landslide set off by the first quake in a remote gold-mining village in Pantukan town in Davao de Oro province near Davao Oriental, Dayanghirang said.

Office of Civil Defense deputy administrator Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV said that several buildings sustained cracks in their walls, including an international airport in Davao city, but it remained operational without any flights being canceled.

"We've had earthquakes in the past, but this was the strongest," Saavedra said, adding that the intense ground swaying caused cracks in several buildings, including a high school, where about 50 students were brought to a hospital by ambulance after sustaining bruises, fainting or becoming dizzy because of the first quake.

Governor Generoso is a town about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Manay, where school classes in all levels were also suspended.

Children evacuated schools in Davao city, which has about 5.4 million people and is the biggest city near the epicenter, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) west of Davao Oriental province.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu said that small waves were detected on the coasts of the Philippines and Indonesia before the threat passed about two hours after the first quake. It said that small sea fluctuations may continue. A tsunami warning that set off evacuations in six coastal provinces near Davao Oriental was later lifted without any major waves being detected, Bacolcol said.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said that small tsunami waves were detected in North Sulawesi province with heights ranging from 3.5 to 17 centimeters (1.3 to 6.7 inches) in Melonguane, Beo, Essang and Ganalo in Talaud Islands districts.

7 Pakistani police officers killed in an attack

AP
Peshawar, Oct. 11

The gun battle between police and militants lasted nearly six hours. Seven police personnel were killed and 13 were injured.

At least seven police officers and six militants were killed after gunmen attacked a police training center in northwestern Pakistan, triggering a fierce firefight that lasted for hours, officials said Saturday.

It's the latest violence to rock the area, which is the base for several armed groups, and comes as Pakistan struggles with a worsening security situation.

Friday night's assault targeted a police training facility in Ratta Kulachi, on the outskirts of Dera Ismail Khan city. Police said the attackers used heavy weapons and tried to force their way into the compound after a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden truck at the gate.

"After the initial blast, the attackers managed to storm the facility, where about 200 recruits and their trainers were present," Dera Ismail Khan police chief Sajjad Ahmad told The Associated Press. The gun battle between police and militants lasted nearly six hours. Seven police personnel were killed and 13 were injured, Ahmad said.

Assailants launched the coordinated assault using heavy weapons, according to a police statement.

Officers on duty returned fire, thwarting what officials described as an attempt to cause mass casualties. The explosives-packed truck rammed into the training school's main gate, triggering a blast that collapsed part of a boundary wall, killing a police officer.

Moments later, militants in uniform entered the compound and opened fire with automatic weapons, the statement said.

They hurled grenades and exchanged heavy fire with security forces. Police and paramilitary units later cleared the compound, killing six militants and recovering suicide vests, explosives, weapons, and ammunition, the statement added.

Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the slain officers for their bravery and sacrifice.

The banned group, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, initially claimed responsibility for the assault. It later issued a second statement denying involvement. The group is allied with, but separate from, the Afghan Taliban, which seized power in Kabul in 2021.

On Friday, the Pakistani army's chief spokesman, Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry, said "terrorism had surged since 2021," particularly in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bordering Afghanistan. He told reporters at a press conference that Pakistan had carried out thousands of counterterrorism operations in recent years to neutralize the growing militant threat.

This year, until Sept. 15, security forces conducted over 10,000 operations, killing 970 militants, while 311 soldiers and 73 police officers were killed, he said.

Power restored to 800,000 in Kyiv

AP
Moscow, Oct. 11

Power was restored to over 800,000 residents in Kyiv on Saturday, a day after Russia launched major attacks on the Ukrainian power grid that caused blackouts across much of the country, and European leaders agreed to proceed toward using hundreds of billions of frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine's war effort.

Ukraine's largest private energy company, DTEK, said Saturday that "the main work to restore the power supply" had been completed, but that some localized outages were still affecting the Ukrainian capital following Friday's "massive" Russian attacks.

Russian drone and missile strikes wounded at least 20 people in Kyiv, damaged residential buildings and triggered blackouts across swaths of Ukraine early Friday. Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko described the attack as "one of the largest concentrated strikes" against Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Russia's Defense Ministry on Friday said the strikes had targeted energy facilities supplying Ukraine's military. It did not give details of those facilities, but said Russian forces used Kinzhal hypersonic missiles and strike drones against them.

The energy sector has been a key battleground since Russia launched its all-out invasion more than three years ago.

Each year, Russia has tried to cripple the Ukrainian power grid before the bitter winter season, apparently hoping to erode public morale. Winter temperatures run from late October through March, with January and February the coldest months.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly address Friday that Russia was taking advantage of the world being "almost entirely focused on the prospect of establishing peace in the Middle East," and called for strengthening Ukraine's air defense systems and tighter sanctions on Russia. "Russian assets must be fully used to strengthen our defense and ensure recovery," he said in the video, posted to X.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in a joint statement on Friday they were ready to move toward using "in a coordinated way, the value of the immobilised Russian sovereign assets to support Ukraine's armed forces and thus bring Russia to the negotiation table."

The statement added they aimed to do this "in close cooperation with the United States."

Germans flock to forests to collect mushrooms

AP
Potsdam, Oct. 11



PHOTO: AP

Wolfgang Bivour, a mushroom hunting tour leader, instructs mushroom pickers on how to hunt mushrooms in forest in Potsdam, Germany.

Wolfgang Bivour carefully emptied a basket of freshly collected mushrooms onto a forest floor covered with fallen autumn leaves. Brown-capped porcini and bay boletes lay beside slimy purple brittlegills and honey-colored armillaria — and, among them, the lethal green death caps.

Bivour, one of Germany's most famous fungi connoisseurs, described the different species just collected in an oak and beech forest on the outskirts of Potsdam in eastern Germany. Surrounding him were 20 people who listened attentively, among them university students, retirees and a Chinese couple with their 5-year-old daughter.

Across Germany, the traditional forest art of mushroom hunting is enjoying a revival, fed by the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, which pushed people from cramped apartments into forests, and by the growing popularity of the vegan lifestyle.

A growing interest in the use of medicinal fungi is also playing a role. While people in rural areas have gone mushroom picking for ages, city dwellers are now also discovering its joys.

Mushroom hunting was necessity for many in Germany in the difficult years after World War II, when people scoured forests for anything edible. But when West Germany's economy started booming in the 1950s, and economic conditions also improved in East Germany, many turned away from the practice.

In recent years, images of mushrooms have gone viral on social media, and a hobby once considered uncool has become a chic lifestyle pastime.

Bivour, a 75-year-old retired meteorologist, said the tour he led on a recent, drizzly autumn day wasn't "primarily about filling your basket — although it's always nice to find something for the dinner table."

Instead, he said, it was "about teaching people about the importance of mushrooms in the ecosystem and, of course, about biodiversity."

NKorea displays new long-range missile

AP
Seoul, Oct. 11

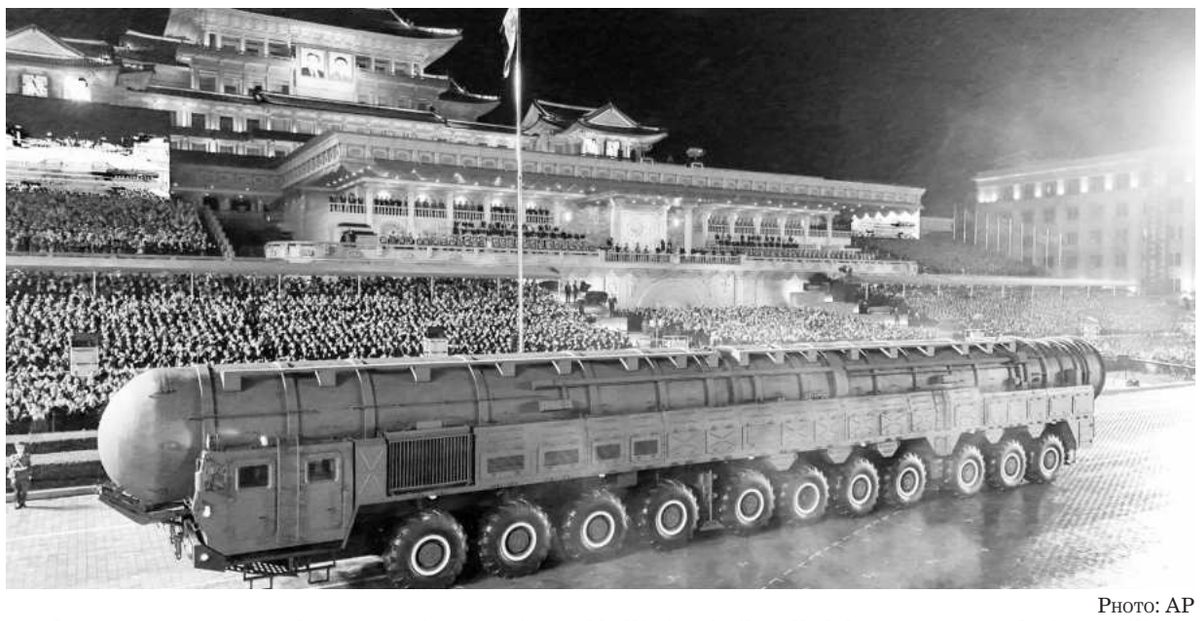


PHOTO: AP

North Korean government shows a new intercontinental ballistic missile called the Hwasong-20, during a military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea.

At a massive military parade attended by foreign leaders, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rolled out his nuclear-armed military's most powerful weapons, including a new intercontinental ballistic missile he may be preparing to test in coming weeks.

The parade, which began in the rain Friday night at Pyongyang's main square and marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party, highlighted Kim's growing diplomatic footing and his relentless drive to build an arsenal that could target the continental United States and his rivals in Asia. North Korean state media said Saturday that the parade featured a new, yet-to-be-tested ICBM called the Hwasong-20, which it described as the country's "most powerful nuclear strategic weapon system."

Joined by high-level Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian officials at a podium, Kim said in a speech that his military "should continue to grow into an invincible entity that destroys all threats," but made no direct mention of the United States or South Korea.

He also praised the thousands of North Korean soldiers he sent to Russia to join its war against Ukraine, saying they displayed "heroic fighting spirit" and "ideological and spiritual perfection" in a battle for "international justice and genuine peace."

Edited footage from North Korean state television showed what appeared to be tens of thousands of spectators packed into the brightly lit square, cheering and waving the national flag as columns of goose-stepping soldiers and missile-mounted vehicles rolled through the rain-soaked streets.

The soldiers included troops Kim had sent to Russia, who marched under North Korean and Russian flags as state media hailed them as "invincible" warriors.

North Korea in recent years has flight-tested a variety of ICBMs that could potentially reach the U.S. mainland, including missiles with built-in solid propellants that are easier to move and conceal and can be prepared for launch more quickly than the North's previous liquid-fueled missiles.

The parade saw the debut of the massive Hwasong-20, with at least three of them wheeled out on 11-axle launcher trucks. The new missile's existence was first revealed in recent weeks as North Korea tested a new solid-fuel rocket engine that it said was intended for future ICBMs. State media said the engine, built with carbon fiber, is more powerful than past models.

Kim has called for the development of multi-warhead systems that would improve the chances of penetrating missile defenses, and some experts say the Hwasong-20 could be designed for that purpose. Other weapons on display included shorter-range ballistic, cruise and hypersonic missiles, which the North previously described as capable of delivering nuclear strikes against targets in South Korea.

The parade also featured Kim's newest tanks, artillery systems and drones, which have been a key focus of his efforts to expand his conventional military capabilities after he spent much of his early rule concentrating on nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

PRISM

Mystery cow roped by cowboy on horseback on Pennsylvania highway

A mystery cow found wandering loose on a Pennsylvania highway was successfully roped by a man on horseback, but the bovine's origins remain unknown. The cow held up traffic Wednesday when it was spotted along the median of Interstate 79, near Cranberry Township and Evans City in Butler County.

Local farrier Kyle Carson heard about the situation and offered his services to local authorities. He responded to the scene with his horse, aptly named Highway. "The crews there had traffic stopped, and we sat there for a little bit and just kind of assessed the situation and let the cow relax a little more and just hang out. And then I just rode right up here and roped her and then took her over to the trailer," Carson told WTAE-TV.

Animal control officers rescue wood stork caught in fishing line

A pair of animal control officers in Florida came to the rescue of a wood stork found with its legs entangled in a fishing line and lure. The Polk County Sheriff's Office said on social media that residents reported the stork appeared to be struggling in Bartow's Hack Lake.

Animal control officers brought the bird to shore and cut it free of the fishing apparatus. The stork is now being rehabilitated by The Raptor Center of Tampa Bay. Florida police capture massive iguana in Daytona Beach

Police in Florida responded to a Daytona Beach neighborhood where locals spotted an unusual visitor: a particularly large iguana.

The Daytona Beach Police Department said officers "responded quickly" to the neighborhood where the "unexpected visitor" was spotted "roaming around."

Agencies

TODAY IN HISTORY

1654 – The Delft Explosion devastates the city in the Netherlands, killing more than 100 people.
1692– The Salem witch trials are ended by a letter from Province of Massachusetts Bay Governor William Phips.
1748– War of Jenkins' Ear: A British squadron wins a tactical victory over a Spanish squadron off Havana.
1773– America's first insane asylum opens.
1792 – The first celebration of Columbus Day is held in New York City.
1798– Flemish and Luxembourgish peasants launch the rebellion against French rule known as the Peasants' War.
1822 – Pedro I of Brazil is proclaimed the emperor.
1849 – The city of Manizales, Colombia, is founded by 'The Expedition of the 20'.



PHOTO: SHEKHAR CHAULAGAIN/TRN

Clay lamps (diyo) being dried at Pottery Square in Bhaktapur ahead of upcoming Tihar festival.

Lumbini Govt decides on adopting frugality

RSS
Lumbini, Oct. 11

The Lumbini Province Government has taken a special decision to adopt frugality in expenditures.

The provincial government made the special decision to control expenditures for the current fiscal year, considering the current economic situation of the country and the potential state of resource contraction.

Today's cabinet meeting of the provincial government decided to instruct its subordinate agencies to implement plans and programmes considering 80 percent of the allocated funds in the current fiscal year's policies and programmes as the maximum limit and to adopt thriftiness.

The meeting has decided to make additional arrangements in expenditure management, apart from the government's directives, based on the guidance received from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning.

The meeting has directed the provincial government's subordinate bodies to implement only one of the projects, programmes and activities that have double entries in the budget for the current fiscal year 2025/26 and to withhold the remaining, and to hold back 20 percent of the amount under various headings.

It has been decided to withhold 20 percent of the allocated budget for projects funded through supplementary grants under the capital expenditure heading, except for multi-year projects and regular road maintenance projects.

Similarly, the cabinet meeting decided to withhold 20 percent of the allocated budget under the headings of monitoring and evaluation expenses, programme expenses, miscellaneous and office operation expenses, various programme expenses, skill development and public awareness, training and workshop-related expenses, and service consultancy expenses.

Minister Ghising...

Chief District Officer Sunita Nepal provided further details on the extent of the damage during the discussion.

Earlier, Minister Ghising had also visited flood-affected areas in Rong Rural Municipality and Suryodaya Municipality. In Maikhola Tapu alone, 38 families have been completely displaced. With support from the Nepali Army, temporary shelters are being built for them. Flood victim Dukpa Bishwakarma, who lost his home and all his belongings, said the government must ensure long-term resettlement.

He said, "Everything I had is gone and now the river flows through where my house used to be. I have not even dared to go back and look. I feel a little hopeful now that the minister himself has come to meet us."

Flood-affected Sur Bahadur Gurung said he barely escaped with his life and now worries about his future. As landslides swept away drinking water pipes, victims are being forced to drink contaminated water, raising concerns about the possible spread of disease.

Despite efforts to reopen the blocked Mechi Highway, it remains uncertain when it will be functional again, as large portions have been washed away. While there are alternative routes, government efforts seem focused only on the Rajduwali section, which may cause further difficulties for the districts of Ilam, Panchthar, and Taplejung.

To graduate...

Nepal is getting favoured treatment and duty-free access to most of these markets, and even if a 10-per cent duty is levied, it would be difficult for Nepali products to compete with Bangladeshi or Chinese products.

However, for the short-term, Nepal has advantage over its neighbours due to US President Donald Trump's policy of reciprocal customs duties.

Economist Dr. Paras Kharel, said that since the country had delayed graduation due to earthquake and COVID-19 pandemic, it wouldn't be unusual to seek another deferral.

"Postponement of graduation from LDC status does not mean an indefinite deferral. It might be just an extra three years. That would still be precious time for reconstruction and recovery from the destruction just witnessed and, hopefully, for creating the basic conditions for a truly stable and prosperous Nepal," he said.

According to Dr. Kharel, Nepal's businesses have now been battered by the destruction of physical capital, a key pillar of a UN agency's productive capacities index. The tourism industry a major foreign exchange earner and employer, faces its greatest challenge since the pandemic while attracting foreign investment was always a struggle.

The deaths and destructions during the protests warrant a reconsideration of the decision to graduate, he said.

"However, the government should seek the deferral only after being clear about what it would do for better preparation and utilise the time available," said Dr. Kharel.

According to him, the recent economic growth estimates by the World Bank (WB) is a warning call. The multilateral donor has recently downgraded the growth rate to 2.1 per cent from the projection of 4.5 per cent made in April this year.

"In Nepal, recent unrest and heightened political and economic uncertainty is expected to cause growth to decline to 2.1 per cent in FY25/26, with a potential range of negative 1.5–2.6 per cent," the WB further warned.

But FNCCI President Chandra Prasad Dhakal said that since Nepal has moved much ahead with the preparations for graduation, the country should not seek a deferral but lobby to continue the benefits provided to an LDC country.

"Graduation of Nepal can improve Nepal's image at the international stage and force the producers and exporters to boost the quality of their products and reduce the price which will ultimately make the economy healthy," he said.

Meanwhile, several experts cite Bangladesh case as a model for Nepal in seeking postponement for graduation.

Bangladesh, that witnessed almost similar youth uprising in July last year, is reevaluating its status and readiness for graduation albeit the government denied the postponement.

According to a report of The Business Standards, the government had decided to commission an independent – comprehensive and impartial – assessment by the United Nations (UN) in response to the call from the private sector to delay the graduation. The assessment will evaluate Bangladesh's preparedness, identify external risks after graduation, and boost confidence.

Preparations at final stage

The National Planning Commission (NPC), which is the focal agency for LDC graduation, said that no proposals or discussions were made for postponing the country's entry to the 'DC club'.

The planning body had also formulated 'Smooth Transition Strategy' last year.

A senior official of the NPC said that it is a matter that should be discussed by all the stakeholders and decided by the government. And, the government has not indicated any moves for the postponement.

Prime Minister Sushila Karki has also sought cooperation from multilateral and regional bodies for the smooth transition after the country's graduation.

Addressing Nepal's ambassadors and heads of missions a few days ago, she said that the country must further strengthen its cooperative ties with friendly nations and enhance collaboration with multilateral and regional organisations for the smooth transition to the developing nation from the LDC and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

However, the NPC official said that although the proposal to extend the grace period could be a better option the decision should be made by the UN agencies such as the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), which evaluates countries and recommends graduation.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lok Bahadur Poudel Chhetri, said that the preparations for the graduation have been satisfactory.

"For now, Prime Minister's opinion is the ultimate. We must prepare for the graduation," he said.

Ready in 2015

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in November 2021 had ratified the proposal to graduate Nepal to a 'developing' country status from its current position of a 'Least Developed Country (LDC)' with a transition of five years in 2026.

The country that was in the LDC club since the origin of the concept in 1971 had met the two of the three criteria to be recognised as the developing nation in a decade ago and was scheduled to graduate in 2018 but citing the devastating Gorkha Earthquake in 2015, the government requested the United Nations not to move ahead with the graduation process.

The five-year preparatory period for graduation (granted to Nepal, Bangladesh and Laos) was unusual as the usual policy has three-year period.

According to the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), a country should meet two of the three criteria to graduate to the 'developing' status from the LDC – PC-GNI of US$ 1,306, Human Assets Index (HAI) at a score of 66 or above and Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) at a score of 32 or lower.

Alternatively, there is a provision to graduate a country on the basis of income-only criterion if it achieves three times the graduation threshold of $3,918.

Nepal's HAI is at 76.3 which is much higher than the LDCs average of 59.6 and EVI is at 29.7 while LDCs average is 40.6.

Although Nepal was elevated to lower-middle income country in 2020, it is yet to meet the threshold of Per Capita Gross National Income (PC-CNI) of US$ 1,306. In 2024 review, it missed it by just US$ 6.

Currently, 14 LDCs are in various stages of the graduation process, four will graduate from the category by 2027 – including Solomon Islands, which is due to graduate in December 2027.

Likewise, Cambodia and Senegal are slated to graduate in December 2029. Other in the pipeline are – Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Comoros, Djibouti and Myanmar.

Mixed impacts

According to the UN and Nepal's Smooth Transition Strategy, a country's graduation reflects sustained development progress which enhances national pride and creates positive international image. It might result in improved international perception which may encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and investors may view Nepal as a more stable and creditworthy destination.

The supports from the UN and development partners won't be severed immediately after the graduation, which will be available for smooth transition for several years. Nepali business people want the same facility to be prolonged.

Likewise, since the graduation requires sustained progress over at least nine years, it is helping Nepal to build structural and institutional strength and encouraging better planning, policy discipline and institutional reforms.

"None of the countries to graduate so far have fallen back into the list. The criteria are designed asymmetrically, so that it is harder to leave the list than it is to be included in the first place," read a document of the UN-OHRLLS.

However, LDC graduation comes at a cost of losing preferential tariffs for exports to the EU, China and Canada while major export goods like carpets, garments, herbs and footwear could face higher tariff.

As export diversification to new markets will be more difficult, the government should formulate diversification strategy to remain competitive. Dr. Kharel said that the National Trade Integration Strategy 2023 could serve a policy agenda for this.

Likewise, with the graduation, Nepal will lose grant support from various bilateral and multilateral donors, lose access to LDC Fund under the UNFCCC, and lose priority for UN technical and financial programmes. But the country is already opting for bilateral or multilateral loans and it has conducted sovereign credit rating and obtained BB- rating which is considered 'satisfactory'.

On a smaller scale, the country's budget contributions to the UN will be increased while travel support for attending international meetings will be lost.

Cultivation of...

The Directorate said that the area under finger millet cultivation in Koshi Province decreased by 0.14 per cent, while overall production declined by 1.57 per cent.

According to the Directorate's data, finger millet is cultivated on 7,751 hectares of land in Okhaldhunga, producing 13,178 metric tonnes. Finger millet is also grown in other districts such as Taplejung, Ilam, Panchthar, Bhojpur, Tehrathum, Dhankuta and Morang.

In eastern part of the country, farmers mainly grow local varieties like Kavre Kodo-1, Dalle and Nangkatuwa. However, the crop has become less attractive to farmers as monkeys often destroy the fields by eating the plants. As a result, farmers are gradually reducing the area of cultivation, and many have stopped growing it altogether.

President Paudel...

Doctors involved in his treatment said he may be discharged on Saturday night or Sunday.

"He initially reported feeling dizzy, but was brought to the hospital after he began vomiting continuously," said the hospital administration.

According to the doctors, President Paudel felt positional vertigo, a condition in which patients suddenly feel as if something is spinning inside the head.

सत्यमेव जयते
Embassy of India
Kathmandu

The Embassy of India, Kathmandu invites online applications for Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (**MGSS**) and Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (**GJSS**) from Nepalese nationals studying in Nepal.

The Online Application Form may be submitted through Web Portal www.goischolarship.com.np from October 06, 2025 to November 02, 2025. The portal will be closed at 00.00 hrs. on November 03, 2025. Applicants will be able to submit their application forms latest by 23.59 hrs. on November 02, 2025.

MGSS 2025-26 for Class 11	GJSS 2025-26 for Bachelor Courses
1. Eligibility: • Candidate should be a regular student of Class 11 (not Diploma) in any recognized educational institute of Nepal. *Proof of student studying in Class 11 and* ***not receiving scholarship*** *from any other source duly attested by Principal/Head of Institute to be uploaded.* • Candidate must have secured at least 60% aggregate marks in Class 10. *Mark- Sheet of Class 10 to be uploaded.*	**1. Eligibility:** • Candidate should be a regular Undergraduate student of 1st year (not Diploma) in any recognized educational institute of Nepal. *Proof of student studying in first year of Bachelor Course and* ***not receiving scholarship*** *from any other source, duly attested by Principal/Head of Institute to be uploaded.* • Candidate must have secured at least 70% aggregate marks in Class 12 (excluding Class 11 marks). *Mark Sheet of Class 12 to be uploaded.* • Age Limit: Age of Applicant must be between 17 to 22 years as on 1st July 2026.

• Candidate must be a citizen of Nepal. *Citizenship Certificate of self and parents (both mother and father) to be uploaded.*
• In case of physically challenged Candidate, *certificate issued by officer of the Government of Nepal (Local/ District Administration Office, etc.) to be uploaded.*
• Family income of the Candidate must be less than NPR 2,00,000/- per annum. Latest *income certificate issued by officer of the Government of Nepal (Local/District Administration Office, etc.) to be uploaded.*

2. Scholarship Amount and Duration:
The selected Candidates will get a scholarship amount of NPR 24,000/- per annum for 2 years (Class 11 and 12).

The scholarship will continue in Class 12 only on submission of the following documents : (i) A copy of mark sheet of Class XI ; (ii) Present status Certificate of promotion to and studying in Class 12 with percentage obtained in Class 11, duly authenticated by Principal/Head of Institute.

2. Scholarship Amount and Duration:
The selected Candidates will get the scholarship amount as detailed below:-

Course	Scholarship Amount per Annum (NPR)	Scholarship Duration (Years)
MBBS/BDS	48,000/-	5
B.E./B.Tech./B.Arch./ BAMS	48,000/-	4
Other Courses	36,000/-	3

The scholarship will continue in the second and subsequent years only on submission of the following documents : (i) A copy of mark sheet(s) of each year ; (ii) Present status certificate of promotion to and study in next year/semester of the opted course with PERCENTAGE (an AGGREGATE Percentage in case of Semester System) obtained in the previous year, duly authenticated by Principal/Head of Institute.

The scholarship awardees may submit the above-mentioned documents latest by **December 31 each year** via Email on mail ID "attacheedu.kathmandu@mea.gov.in". Further installments of scholarship will be deposited in the bank a/c (opened by the Embassy in the name of scholarship awardee) only on receipt of requisite documents. If the documents are not received in the given time-frame, the scholarship will be terminated.

Please Note:
1. Applicants receiving scholarship from any other sources are not eligible for these scholarship schemes.
2. Applicants should correctly indicate their Name, Address, Email ID, Contact Numbers, Marks etc. while submitting the applications on portal and should also upload their recent passport size colour photograph in white background along with legible/readable documents on the portal in order to avoid rejection of their applications.
3. **Candidates should keep their Email ID and its Password in safe custody for future correspondence/reference** as all the communications (e.g. verification of original documents, information regarding selection of the candidate, opening of bank A/C for depositing the scholarship amount, guidelines, reminders etc.) by the Embassy will be sent to the registered Email only.
4. Before filling in Online Application Form, the Candidates are advised to read instructions/guidelines thoroughly as there is no scope for modification of application in online system after final submission of the form. The candidates should ensure the final submission of form by generation of acknowledgement receipt.
5. Any document sent by Email/Post, after the due date of submission of Application Form, will not be considered.
6. Candidates are advised to interact/communicate solely with the Education Wing of the Embassy of India, Kathmandu.
7. The MGSS scholarship awardees, not passed in the grade 11th and GJSS scholarship awardees not passed in first year or subsequent years (both semesters) of their Bachelor Course, will not be entitled for scholarship from that year onwards.
8. The Embassy reserves the right to accept or reject any application and continue or discontinue the scholarship.

Important Information

The Embassy of India entertains applications directly from the applicants. It does not recognize or receive applications through any Education Consultants/Middle-men/Agencies in Nepal. Students are advised to beware of such unscrupulous agencies/persons. Applications found to have been received through such agencies/ persons are liable to be rejected. In case of any assistance/clarification for filing in Online Application Form, kindly send the queries (with complete details and supporting documents as deemed necessary) to the e-mail ID 'attacheedu.kathmandu@mea.gov.in'.



PHOTO: RSS

Pathibhara Temple, a famous religious site in Taplejung, with visitors offering prayers.

John Lodge, singer and bassist of Moody Blues, dies at 82



PHOTO: AP

Bassist John Lodge of The Moody Blues performs at Radio City Music Hall Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009 in New York.

AP
London, Oct. 11

John Lodge, the singer and bassist of British rock band The Moody Blues for more than 50 years, has died. He was 82.

In a statement Friday, his family said "with the deepest sadness" that Lodge died "suddenly and unexpectedly." It added that Lodge "peacefully slipped away surrounded by his loved ones and the sounds of The Everly Brothers and Buddy Holly."

Birmingham-born Lodge joined the band in 1966, two years after its formation, along with fellow singer Justin Hayward, following the departure of Denny Laine and Clint Warwick. He remained with it until it stopped performing live in 2018.

Lodge featured on some of the band's best-known work, including 1967's psychedelic album "Days Of Future Passed," which is widely regarded as one of rock's first concept albums, and its follow-up a year later, "In Search Of The Lost Chord."

Lodge also featured on the 1977 album "Octave," which saw The Moody Blues embrace a more pop-oriented sound.

He continued to make records with the group until their final studio album in 2003, "December," a collection of Christmas songs.

The group continued to perform live until 2018, the same year the band was inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame.

Dolly Parton responds to concerns about her health

AP
New York, Oct. 11

Dolly Parton "ain't dead yet," the country superstar said on social media Wednesday following public speculation about her health.

"There are just a lot of rumors flying around. But I figured if you heard it from me, you'd know that I was okay," the 79-year-old singer said in a new two-minute video posted on Instagram. "I'm not ready to die yet. I don't think God is through with me. And I ain't done working."

Her post, which appeared on numerous of Parton's social media accounts and her website, was captioned, "I ain't dead yet."

Late last month Parton postponed her first Las Vegas residency in 32 years, citing "health challenges."

She was scheduled to perform six shows at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace for "Dolly: Live in Las Vegas" between Dec. 4 and Dec. 13, overlapping with the National Finals Rodeo. Her dates have been moved to next year — Sept. 2026.

She did not provide specific details at



the time, writing, "As many of you know, I have been dealing with some health challenges, and my doctors tell me that I must have a few procedures. As I joked with them, it must be time for my 100,000-mile check-up, although it's not the usual trip to see my plastic surgeon!"

In the new video clip shared Wednesday, Parton is seen sitting on a set speaking directly to camera, telling her audience that she's about to record a few commercials for the Grand Ole Opry, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

"Everyone thinks that I am sicker than I am. Do I look sick to you? I'm working hard here! Anyway.

'Tron' franchise returns in a dazzling

AP
New York, Oct. 11

"Tron: Ares" may have the tagline "No Going Back" but Disney doesn't like to leave money on the table. So here we are, going back with a third entry in a cult franchise that's somewhat trapped between the human and digital worlds.

Ride-or-die Tron-iacs are going to need a few things to be happy — the cool motorbikes that kick off light walls, those glowing Frisbee things attached to everyone's back, and, of course, Jeff Bridges. Director Joachim Rønning gives us all those things and much, much more. Maybe too much.

"Tron: Ares" bites off so much — a light cycle chase through downtown Vancouver, a laser attack by a massive, hovering vehicle, a Jet Ski pursuit, dozens of crushed police cars and endless flipping between Earth and no less than three computer grids — that it gets a bit deafening and numbing after two hours, like a late-stage Marvel movie.

How do you go back and yet forward at the same time? The filmmakers have rather cleverly done that by incorporating plot points from the first two movies and building out with new characters and blurring the divide between flesh and digital worlds.

We begin with a financial battle between two massive technology firms — Emcom and Dillinger (think Apple versus Google) — who have both come



PHOTO: AP

This image released by Disney shows Jodie Turner-Smith, center, in a scene from "Tron: Ares."

up against the same artificial intelligence ceiling. They can create anything they like in the real world using what looks like 3D printers using lasers but it lasts only for 29 minutes before collapsing into ash. (Twenty-nine minutes is also the limit to our attention span for this plot.)

The leaders of both firms — Greta Lee, playing Encom's white hat hacker and Evan Peters, playing Dillinger's very evil CEO — are in a race to find the hidden Permanence Code that Bridges' Kevin Flynn created back when the world ran on floppy disks. The fate of the planet rests on whoever finds it. If it's Encom, health care for everyone and a cure for cancer; if it's Dillinger, a new military of superhuman fighters and, we guess, fascism.

Enter Jared Leto, who is a Dillinger's AI master control, executing all his CEO boss' orders to the letter and who is often reminded that he's expendable. He and his scary deputy (Jodie Turner-Smith) start off robotic, but there's something weird in his wiring — he starts to have all the feels and yearn to be real. ("Tron: Ares" has now officially become a reboot of Pinocchio.)

Leto does well here as the title character, able to deliver a few good lines while executing a rock star strut in a skintight suit, making slow-mo somersaults to avoid deadly light discs or powering his light cycle at dizzying speeds. But it's Lee who steals the show, a very human action heroine for 2025.

The screenplay — by Jesse Wigutow, with a story by David DiGilio and Wigutow — adds odd pockets of humor, but not enough and sometimes stashed right next to a key figure bleeding out. There are references to "The Wizard of Oz" and "Frankenstein" and the writers make Leto's soldier a serious fan of '80s synth pop, especially Depeche Mode, which is a call-back to the music swirling at the time of the 1982 original.

If we're talking music, we've got to talk about Nine Inch Nails, who have taken over soundtrack duties from Daft Punk, who composed "Tron: Legacy" in 2010. Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross are a perfect fit, layering menacing, mechanical sounds on top of thick bars of synth. (They even get on-screen cameos as fighter pilots.)

All this struggle and synths — which sometimes feels like an ad for Ducati motorcycles — peaks when The Dude himself appears. Bridges is the payoff, the constancy in a franchise that desperately needs his cool charm. "Fascinating," he says with a smile as he meets Leto. Suddenly, going back is worth it.

"Tron: Ares," a Walt Disney Studios release that hits theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for violence and action. Running time: 119 minutes. Three stars out of four.

HOROSCOPE

tarot.com

ARIES: You may feel more protective of your heart. It might be that you have had to guard your inner self against those who don't see you as a leader. They could see you as being too young, too inexperienced, or too bold.

CANCER: Stepping outside of your perspective can offer great clarity. You might feel as though you can't understand what's taking place in your life as of late, but this is because you can't see the part that you're playing in it.

LIBRA: Competition can lead to others wondering where they stand with you. When you're competing for a desirable prize, diligence might rapidly devolve into aggression.

CAPRICORN: You might be doing something for someone else that they don't realize. They may be taking your efforts for granted, accidentally.

TAURUS: A defensive mindset will just make today more stressful. You might feel as though everyone is going after you, leaving you to fight on behalf of your dignity.

LEO: Exhaustion may currently be miring your mind. You might be trying to make the right decisions for yourself, but doing so while worn out could be like herding cats.

SCORPIO: You might have your head in the clouds. It can be difficult to avoid escapism -- after all, drifting through daydreams and focusing on fantasies is usually a lot more fun than going to work or doing the dishes.

AQUARIUS: It can be hard to stay focused on your current goals. It might feel like your finish lines are so far away that you're unable to keep your eyes locked on them.

GEMINI: Stubbornness can prevent you from seeing the right answer. You might have one way that you see the situation, and it's so important or vivid that anyone else's input seems unnecessary.

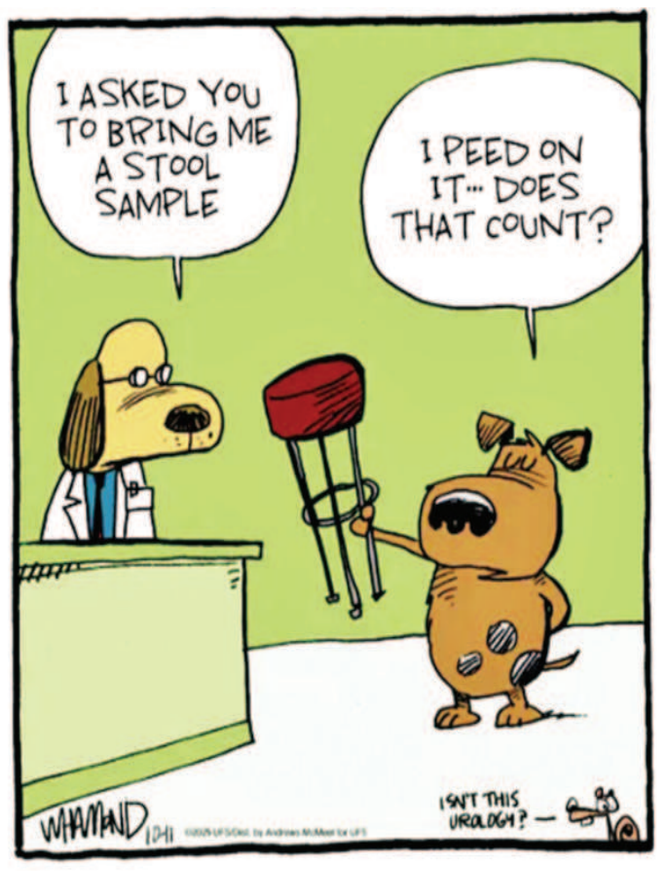
VIRGO: You might be seeking multiple opinions. Before making a decision on something, you may be seeing how many outside thoughts you can gather and average them, in order to decide what you're going to do.

SAGITTARIUS: Spending too much time in your head can obfuscate the truth. You might be overthinking your life right now, and because of this, you're getting stuck on matters that no one else has even noticed.

PISCES: Taking risks may not take you where you want to go. You might feel as though time is ticking and you need to make decisions fast to stay afloat, but taking too many risks right now invites.

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Mbappé scores but limps off in France's World Cup qualifying win

AP
Paris, Oct. 11



Kylian Mbappé showed little sign of a recent ankle injury as he scored with a slaloming run to help France beat Azerbaijan 3-0 in World Cup qualifying.

He added an assist for France's second goal but did have to limp off late after he had tussled for a ball with an opponent.

France maintained a perfect record after three games, while Germany got back on track by easing to a 4-0 win over Luxembourg.

France dominated Azerbaijan but struggled to create opportunities and it took an individual effort from Mbappé to break the deadlock in first-half stoppage time.

The Real Madrid forward gathered the ball in midfield and dribbled through numerous players before slotting a shot into the bottom right corner.

He has now scored in 10 straight matches for club and country.

Mbappé is France's second all-time scorer with 53 goals and needs five more to overtake Olivier Giroud for the No. 1 spot.

The 26-year-old Mbappé also set up France's second goal with a lofted pass in the area for Adrien Rabiot to head home in the 69th minute.

Mbappé had been a doubt before the match with an injury to his right ankle and he appeared to hurt the same ankle late on, forcing him off in the 83rd minute.

His replacement, late call-up Florian Thauvin, immediately extended France's advantage with his first goal for Les Bleus since scoring on his last international appearance six years ago.

France tops Group D with nine points, five more than Ukraine which scored two late goals to win 5-3 at Iceland after its opponents had fought back from two goals down.

Iceland has three points, with Azerbaijan bottom with just one point.

German recovery

Germany's campaign was thrown into immediate jeopardy when it lost to Slovakia last month. It now tops Group A — albeit only on goal difference — after Joshua Kimmich scored twice against Luxembourg, which played with 10 men for most of the match after defender Dirk Carlson was sent off in the 20th minute.

Northern Ireland beat Slovakia 2-0. Those two teams and Germany all have six points.

Belgium misses

Belgium had 25 attempts on goal but was held to a 0-0 draw against North Macedonia, which tops Group J.

Belgium trails North Macedonia by one point — although it has played a match less. Wales is a point further back.

Kazakhstan is six points behind North Macedonia after crushing Liechtenstein 4-0.

Swiss perfection

Group B leader Switzerland made it three wins out of three, and with no goals conceded, as two second-half goals earned it a 2-0 win at Sweden.

Kosovo remained second, five points below Switzerland, after a 0-0 draw at home to Slovenia.

Similarly in friendlies, Folarin Balogun scored in the 71st minute, offsetting Enner Valencia's first-half goal, and the United States tied Ecuador 1-1 in a friendly on Friday night.Balogun scored for the second straight game, his seventh goal in 20 international appearances, after Tim Weah intercepted a clearance and passed to Tanner Tessmann, who sent the ball wide to Malik Tillman.

Tillman crossed to Balogun, who got in front of Joel Ordóñez and from just inside the 6-yard box redirected the ball in off the inside of the near post.

'A' division clubs demand AFC standards for upcoming league

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Oct. 11



The clubs have demanded that the Martyrs' Memorial 'A' Division League, scheduled to be organised by the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) in mid-december, be conducted in accordance with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)'s club licensing standards.

On Saturday, nine 'A' Division clubs held a joint press conference in Lalitpur, accusing ANFA of creating confusion by announcing that the league would be played on a home-and-away basis.

At the press conference, outgoing ANFA president and Himalayan Sherpa Club president, Karma Tshering Sherpa, stated that despite being branded as a home-and-away format, there was no clarity regarding which grounds the clubs would actually be allocated.

"ANFA has created confusion by calling it a home-and-away league. The league must be organised in line with the AFC's club licensing standards. The league winners should be granted the opportunity to compete in AFC tournaments. Otherwise, what is the purpose of holding the league at all?" Sherpa questioned.

He further added that ANFA should take the initiative to coordinate with the government to permanently allocate home grounds to clubs. ANFA has invited the clubs for a discussion on Sunday regarding the league's organisation.

Prior to the meeting with ANFA, the clubs outlined several key demands concerning the league's structure and governance. At present, there are 14 clubs in the 'A' Division, including three departmental teams. Aside from the departmental sides, none of the clubs own their own grounds.

Representatives from nine clubs were present at the press conference. ANFA had previously announced its intention to hold the league in mid-december.

The last 'A' Division League was held in 2022. Since then, in the absence of regular competitive football, many talented Nepali players have moved abroad, particularly to countries such as Australia, in search of better opportunities.

The clubs argue that unless ANFA addresses structural issues—including infrastructure, licensing, and player development—the decline in domestic football standards will continue. They have urged the governing body to prioritise long-term planning over ad-hoc tournament announcements.

VACHEROT STUNS DJOKOVIC IN SHANGHAI MASTERS

AP
Shanghai, Oct. 11

Valentin Vacherot earned the biggest win of his career by beating a hobbled Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday to reach the Shanghai Masters final — where he could face his cousin.

The 204th-ranked Vacherot, of Monaco, was an alternate in qualifying but is having a career week.

"Is this real? I don't know," the 26-year-old Vacherot said moments after defeating the 24-time Grand Slam champion. "To have Novak on the other side of the court was, first of all, an unbelievable experience for me."

Well, believe it or not, his next court experience could be against his cousin — Arthur Rinderknech. Rinderknech faces 16th-seeded Daniil Medvedev in the other semifinal on Saturday.

"I will do some recovery of course, but I will not miss it," Vacherot said of his cousin's match.

The 38-year-old Djokovic was slowed throughout the match by a sore hip. He took a medical timeout after falling behind 4-3 in the opening set. He won only one point in the next two games.

Vacherot played collegiate tennis at Texas A&M.

West Indies 140-4 at stumps on day two after India posts 518

AP
New Delhi, Oct. 11

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja took 3-37 as West Indies reached 140-4 at stumps Saturday on day two of the second cricket test.

Through 43 overs, the visitors made a sedate reply to India's first innings total of 518-5 declared (134.2 overs) and trailed by 378 runs at end of play.

At stumps, Shai Hope was unbeaten on 31 runs with Tevin Imlach batting on 14 not out at Arun Jaitley Stadium.

This was after Indian skipper Shubman Gill scored his 10th test hundred — 129 not out off 196 deliveries with 16 fours and two sixes. Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was run out for 175.

Gill's hundred was the highlight of the post-lunch session. He got to his milestone off 177 balls and in doing so, added 102 off 155 balls with Dhruv Jurel.

The keeper-batter scored 44 off 79 balls and helped speed along the run-scoring as India looked set to declare.

Gill scored 22 off the next 19 balls after this century, with the second 50 of his partnership with Jurel coming off 45 balls.

Jurel was bowled in the 135th over — with Gill declaring immediately.

West Indies then reached 26-1 at tea — opener John Campbell (10) passed the opening barrage from pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. But as he settled down, Sai Sudharsan caught a shot on his chest off Jadeja at short leg, and Campbell walked back dejectedly.

Sudharsan did not take the field in the final session and went for scans on his hand.

Tagenarine Chanderpaul and Alick Athanaze continued the good work for West Indies, adding 66 off 121 balls for the second wicket.

Jadeja once again got the breakthrough — Chanderpaul was caught at slip for 34 off 67 balls.

He then also dismissed skipper Roston Chase — out for a seven-ball duck with a simple return catch as West Indies was down to 107-4.

In between, Kuldeep Yadav had Athanaze caught for 41 off 84 balls. Overall, West Indies lost three wickets for 20 runs in six overs.

Despite the mini-collapse, it was the visitors' best batting session of the series, with a 33-run partnership between Hope and Imlach for the fifth wicket to close down the day.

In the morning, Jaiswal was involved in a mix-up with Gill in the second over of the morning session, and was run out.

The left-handed opener only added two runs to his overnight score and was run out on the eighth ball of the day. He set off for a run, with partner Gill turning him back too late, and Chanderpaul's throw from mid-off found him way short of the crease.



PHOTO: AP

India's captain Shubman Gill celebrates after scoring a century on the second day of the second cricket test match between India and West Indies at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, India.

"It (run out) is part of cricket. I am always trying to bat as long as I can," Jaiswal said. "If I am there, I feel I should take the game forward. There is always a thought in my head about my goal and the team's goal, and how I can achieve the two."

India had finished day one on 318-2. It leads the two-match series 1-0, after winning the first test in Ahmedabad by an innings and 140 runs.

West Indies has not beaten India in their last 26 tests — home or away — dating to 2002.

Women's cricket teamsets sights on T20 World Cup qualification

BY PRAJIT SHAKYA
Kathmandu, Oct. 11

The Nepali women's cricket team is dreaming of making history by qualifying for the T20 Women's World Cup Global Qualifier in three months. This will be the first time Nepal has played in the Global Qualifier for the Women's T20 World Cup. Nepal made history last month by securing a place in the Global Qualifier after qualifying for the Asia Qualifier held in Thailand.

The Global Qualifying tournament will be held in Nepal, making it a realistic goal for the Nepali women's cricket team to play in the World Cup for the first time. In preparation for this, the Nepal women's cricket team has already begun its training. As part of their build-up, Nepal participated in a five-match T20 series against Malaysia and made a positive start, winning 3-2 on Malaysian soil.

When the Nepali women's team returned home late on Thursday night with the trophy, all attention turned towards the Global Qualifier. Coach Manoj Katuwal expressed that the series against Malaysia had been valuable, but his primary focus is on the upcoming Global Qualifier. He said, "If we want to progress in the World Cup global qualifiers, we need to improve in all three areas of cricket: batting, bowling, and fielding. Apart from Indu, Rubina, and Pooja, everyone else needs to work on their batting. I am also not satisfied with the bowling performance. I feel we have not been consistent with our line and length. We also need to focus more on fitness. A well-thought-out plan is crucial to moving forward towards the World Cup."

He added, "It would be better if we could play a series against a team that challenges us, rather than one we can easily defeat. Preparations are already underway in India, and we expect the tour to be beneficial. Playing the global qualifiers at home is an advantage for us. I believe we can perform well in the tri-nation series with the Netherlands and Thailand, as we showed promising results when playing at home."

Alongside Nepal, the teams participating in the Global Qualifiers include Ireland, Scotland, the Netherlands, Thailand, the United States, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Namibia, and Papua New Guinea. The top four teams from this tournament will qualify for the next edition of the T20 Women's World Cup.

Nepal's captain, Indu Verma, also acknowledged some shortcomings in fielding and fitness during the series against Malaysia. "We must address these issues before the Global Qualifier," she said. "There was a long gap between the Asian Qualifiers and our competitive matches in Malaysia, so the tour was beneficial for us. The upcoming tour of India for the Global Qualifier will provide further exposure for the players."



Indu, who became the first Nepali player to reach 1,000 runs in a match against Malaysia, added that this milestone would inspire others, particularly as there are few international matches in women's cricket.

Six Nepali women cricketers are set to participate in the MCA Women's Interstate T20 Championship in Malaysia. According to the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN), Sita Rana Magar, Kabita Joshi, Rajmati Airi, Rubina Chhetri, Pooja Mahato, and Kabita Kunwar will compete in the tournament, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur from October 18 to 28. The event is organised by the Malaysian Cricket Association.

Sita, Kabita Joshi, and Rajmati have joined the Selangor Cricket Association, while Rubina, Pooja, and Kabita Kunwar have teamed up with the Sarawak Cricket Association. Some of the players did not return to Nepal with the team on Thursday night as they are scheduled to participate in the tournament. Earlier, the Nepali women's team also took part in the Super Women's Series in Malaysia, where all the players competed for five different teams.

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