Thursday, May 29, 2025
Jeth 15, 2082 | Nepal Sambat 1145 | Tachhalathwo Tritiya

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THE RISING NEPAL

ALL BE HAPPY, ALL BE WELL

REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGES

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 29

President Ramchandra Paudel has extended his best wishes to all Nepalis living in home and abroad on the occasion of the Republic Day on Thursday.

In his message, the President said that the day marks a history as 18 years ago on May 29, through the struggle, sacrifice and dedication of the Nepali people, we achieved a democratic republic with the sovereignty of the citizens. He also expressed heartfelt tribute to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for this proud transformation. Additionally, he expressed respect to the revered leaders who endured imprisonment and torture for democracy, justice and freedom.

Stating that there is no better system than democratic republic in the world, he said that it recognises the people as sovereign.

He said, "The federal democratic republic has ensured us full political rights. It has united us and given us the opportunity to move forward together towards a prosperous future. It has inspired us to build a shared nation by giving us ownership over our identity, language, religion, community, culture, and land. Hence, it stands as a great inspiration and responsibility for national building."

He said that the character of the state must change to connect its people with the change. He said, "I believe we cannot delay in making our politics, governance, parties, and representative institutions fully democratic, fair, competitive, just and effective in order to fulfill the true essence of the republic."

Additionally, the day reminds us of our historic responsibility. President Paudel hoped that we all unite to preserve the dignity of the republic and to make it more prosperous.

Meanwhile, Vice President Ramsahay Prasad Yadav also extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for happiness, peace, prosperity and continued progress to all Nepali brothers and sisters at home and abroad.

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PHOTO: PM'S SECRETARIAT

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Winston Peters during a meeting in Kathmandu on Wednesday.

Development demands continuous efforts: PM

BY KEDAR TIMALSINA
Banepa, May 28

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said that no change can happen overnight and bringing transformation in any sector requires continuous efforts and sincerity.

Laying foundation stone of Dhulikhel Trauma and Emergency Centre, which is going to be built within the premises of Dhulikhel Hospital, on Wednesday, Prime Minister Oli said that some people are quick to criticise by saying nothing is being done.

He shared that the government has initiated many new projects while also completing the old ones.

"Everyone must contribute from their level to transform the nation from underdeveloped to a developed status. It's easy to find critics in every alley, but bringing change through actual work is not as simple as criticising."

He added that those creating negative narratives by claiming 'nothing has been done' fail to see the development that has taken place.

"The government is being criticised for not doing anything, but it has started many projects. Development doesn't take place in a day. It progresses gradually. It is easy to talk but getting things done takes times. To get things done, there must be a shared spirit of commitment from everyone," he added.

Prime Minister Oli said that he has always maintained a positive attitude toward constructive work. He also stressed the meaningful progress could be achieved only with the visionary leaders and far-sighted citizens.

"We believe in work. We believe in starting work, completing what we begin. We believe in seeking life through hope and we seek our future in hope. Hopelessness is not the path of life," the Prime Minister said.

Referring to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology's prediction of Nepal getting above-average monsoon rainfall this year, Prime Minister Oli said climate change demands greater alertness and preparedness in view of potential disasters.

He also mentioned his personal intervention to improve the deteriorating relationship between Dhulikhel Hospital and Kathmandu University and urged to sustain that partnership.

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Nepal, New Zealand agree to increase trade volume

BY MODNATH DHAKAL
Kathmandu, May 28

Nepal and New Zealand have agreed to explore avenues to increase the bilateral trade volume and enhance the economic engagements.

A delegation-level bilateral meeting between Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of New Zealand Winston Peters, held in Kathmandu on Wednesday evening, also underlined the importance of cooperation in tourism considering it as an important pillar of economy in both the countries.

"We underscored the need to share and exchange our experiences, knowledge in the field," FM Dr. Rana said in the press briefing following the meeting with the visiting delegation.

Both the leaders appreciated the role played by Nepali diaspora in New Zealand in bringing two countries and peoples closer and underlined the importance of people-to-people connections for sound and sustainable bilateral relations between the countries.

Seeking to further the meaningful cooperation in the areas like agriculture, trade, investment tourism, education and multilateral engagements, they stressed on regular exchange of high-level visits and expressed our commitment to maintain the momentum created in recent years.

In the Fiscal Year 2023/24, Nepal exported goods worth Rs. 153.8 million to New Zealand and imported merchandise worth Rs. 2.14 billion.

Likewise, cooperation enhancement on multilateral platforms was another area of discussion during the meeting. "We laid emphasis on further strengthening our cooperation through multilateral forums including the UN on various global issues such as climate change, sustainable development and multilateralism," said FM Dr. Rana.

FM Dr. Rana and DPM Peters recalled the contribution of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa in initiating and elevating Nepal-New Zealand relations through their ascendance to Everest and continued subsequent activities that brought our two countries and peoples closer. Hillary and Norgay reached the top of the world on May 29, 1953.

DPM Peters said that the Himalayan Trust, established by Sir Hillary, is a symbol of deep development cooperation between the two nations.

According to him, New Zealand will support Nepal in education, development and trade.

"We both share interests in regional and global security. We have strong commitment to multilateralism and addressing global challenges together," said DPM Peters.

DPM Peters arrived in Kathmandu on Wednesday on a two-day official visit. This is the highest-level visit from New Zealand to Nepal.

Earlier, in the afternoon, DPM Peters called on President Ramchandra Paudel at his office in Shital Niwas on Wednesday afternoon.

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Govt unveiling new fiscal year budget today

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Bishnu Prasad Paudel will present the budget for the fiscal year 2025/26 at a joint session of the Federal Parliament on Thursday.

The estimated budget stands at Rs 1.9 trillion, as proposed by the National Planning Commission.

The opposition parties have been obstructing the proceedings, demanding the resignation of Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak over his alleged involvement in the visit visa case. The opposition lawmakers have been saying that they will not allow the meeting to proceed until Minister Lekhak resigns and an investigation committee is formed.

However, the opposition parties have indicated a willingness to allow the government to present the annual budget.

"We are open to allowing the government to present the budget in the Federal Parliament on Thursday. However, this depends entirely on the conduct of the ruling parties. Our position remains unchanged, we continue to demand the resignation of the Home Minister," Hitraj Pandey, Chief Whip of the main opposition party, CPN (Maoist Centre), told The Rising Nepal.

Similarly, the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) has also stated it will not obstruct the presentation of the budget in the Parliament.

Talking to journalists, acting spokesperson Manish Jha confirmed that the party would allow the budget to proceed. "We will not oppose the presentation of the budget, provided it is brought forward in accordance with the constitutional process," he said.

The meeting of the House of Representatives scheduled for Wednesday was adjourned until 1:00 pm on Thursday. Constitutionally, the government has to present the budget in the parliament on May 29. Posting a notice, General Secretary of Parliament Padam Prasad Pandey, informed the session was deferred till Thursday, 1:00 pm.

Special Supplement

The Rising Nepal carries a Special Supplement today to commemorate the Republic Day- 2025.


THE RISING NEPAL
On Republican Path
Republic Day- 2025 Special
Constitutionalism And Democracy In Nepal
Bolster Public Institutions For Robust Republic

Home Minister pledges cooperation in visit visa scandal probe

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

Minister for Home Affairs Ramesh Lekhak, who has recently been dragged into the ongoing visit visa scandal, asserted on Wednesday that he is fully committed to cooperating with any independent investigation into the matter.

Addressing a press conference organised on the premises of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, Minister Lekhak responded to the allegations leveled against him, stating that it is imperative for an independent constitutional body to conduct a thorough and impartial inquiry. "I am fully prepared to cooperate with any proceedings initiated by constitutional bodies," said Lekhak. "Independent agencies must be allowed to carry out their investigations without interference and reach a conclusion based on facts."

Minister Lekhak emphasised his long-standing commitment to democratic values and the rule of law, insisting that his conduct has always reflected these principles. "I have consistently fought for democracy and the rule of law," he stated. "My actions have always supported further transparency and accountability, which is evident from my past record."

Refuting any involvement in the visit visa scandal, Lekhak clarified that he only learned about the arrest of Tirtha Raj Bhattarai, Joint Secretary and Chief of the Tribhuvan Immigration Office, and the seizure of related documents and devices through media reports.

"I became aware through the media that the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) had taken Joint Secretary Bhattarai into custody along with documents and mobile devices," he explained. "Since then, opinions have been voiced suggesting the Home Minister's involvement in the issue, which I categorically deny."

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Bright street lamps upset life cycle of birds

BY BIJAYA KUMAR SAH
Dhalkebar, May 28

In recent years, the installation of street lights has increased from cities to rural areas. While the lights are installed to keep roads illuminated and increase safety, they have started to seriously impact the habitats of birds.

According to bird experts, the artificial light from streetlight prevents birds from distinguishing between night and day, seriously impacting their life cycles. Even at night, the ongoing brightness makes it difficult for birds to find food, build nests and maintain their reproductive cycles.

According to Chairman of Mithila Wildlife Trust, Dev Narayan Mandal, "The streetlights are causing a decline in bird habitats. The birds' lives are closely tied to the natural light of the sun, moon and stars. However, artificial lighting disrupts their sleep, foraging, reproduction and migration patterns."

He added, "Many bird species move by looking at the light of the stars or the moon. However, due to the artificial light from streetlights, they take the wrong path. As a result, they may fail to reach their destination and, due to extreme tiredness, may even die."



According to Chairman Mandal, the insects and small creatures drawn by streetlight illumination attract birds. However, this also provides an easy opportunity for the predatory animals like cats, owls and foxes to attack them. He further stated that artificial light also affects the mating process of male and female birds.

Many bird species attract mates by singing or making sounds. However, bright artificial light reduces the effectiveness of their calls, hindering reproduction. Chairman Mandal also stated that many birds, while hovering around streetlights, become exhausted or collide with buildings, poles or wires leading to injury or death.

Similarly, Suresh Sharma, an environment engineer and renowned tree conservationist, stated that the trend of installing bright lights from cities to villages is threatening the existence of birds. He also mentioned that small migratory bird species lose their way at night due to artificial light. Some collide with walls and poles, resulting in injuries. The brightness of lights not only affects birds but also causes mental stress in humans.

According to Sharma noise, smoke, soil pollution, chemical fertilizers and pesticides have also put bird's existence at risk. Birds die from poisoning after consuming grains or dead insects mixed with pesticides. Similarly, birds are dying after drinking contaminated water from rivers and ponds mixed with chemicals discharged from industries.

He said, "In recent years, the temperature in Tarai districts has started exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. Birds, especially sparrows, traditionally make nests in the holes and attics of mud houses. However, with the predominance of modern concrete houses, there is a lack of space for nesting. This has also led to a decline in the bird population, and 22 species have been found to be extinct."

Environmental activist Sharma stated that harmonized efforts among local authorities, provincial government, and federal government are necessary for the conservation of birds. He highlighted that, with the existence of birds under threat, all three levels of government should take the issue seriously and accept collaborative initiatives.

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BULLION
(Rs. per tola)

Hallmark Gold	: Rs 189,300
Worked Gold	: NA
Silver	: 2,005

STOCK

NEPSE	: 2,693.06
Total Amount	: 8,586,004,334.25
No. of Share	: 20,759,547

PRICE OF GOLD DECREASES

RSS
Kathmandu, May 28

The price of gold has slightly decreased while that of silver has increased in the domestic market Wednesday as compared to their price the previous day.

Wednes the price of gold has gone down by Rs 1,600 and that of silver gone up by Rs 10 per tola (11.66 grammes), according to the Federation of Nepal Gold and Silver Dealers' Association.

The price of gold in the international market is 3,326 US dollars per ounce today.



PHOTO: NETRA SAHI/TRN

Farmers at Shoradab in Chandannath, Jumla, planting Marsi paddy.

Initiative underway to develop Butwal as tourist stopover

BY BHUVAN KARKI
Rupandehi, May 28

Efforts are underway to transform Butwal, the major commercial centre of Rupandehi, into a tourist stopover. The city aims to attract tourists traveling from the Korala border point to Lumbini and from India to Korala via Butwal.

The Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City has launched this initiative with the goal of bringing Hindu pilgrims from India en route to Muktinath and Buddhist tourists from China heading to Lumbini to stop and rest in Butwal.

As part of the plan, Mayor of Butwal Municipality Khel Raj Pandey has initiated discussions with local governments in Palpa, Gulmi, Syangja, Baglung, Myagdi and Mustang districts to foster cooperation and launch a joint initiative to attract tourists.

According to Mayor Pandey, they have met with representatives from local levels such as Kaligandaki (Syangja), Tansen (Palpa), Kaligandaki (Gulmi), Jaimini (Baglung) and various rural municipalities in Mustang, including Lomanthang, Gharapjhong, Lo-Ghekar Damodar Kunda, and Baragung Muktikshetra. They agreed to cooperate in promoting tourism and to organise a summit of municipalities soon.

Butwal has also reached a sister-city agreement with Kaligandaki Rural Municipality of Syangja and Gharapjhong Rural Municipality of Mustang. "Butwal is a strategic city that connects almost every part of the country and has road access from India and China.

Vehicles to most destinations in Nepal operate from here and the Bhairahawa International Airport offers air connectivity as well, said Mayor Pandey.

"We aim to exploit these advantages to facilitate travel for Hindu tourists coming from India to Muktinath and Korala, and for Buddhist tourists coming through Korala from China to Lumbini," he said.

He added that a tourist information centre would be established in Butwal, and tour packages will be developed in collaboration with tourism entrepreneurs to attract tourists from India and China.

In line with this, Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City and Gharapjhong Rural Municipality of Mustang have agreed to cooperate in promoting religious tourism. Both local bodies have pledged to jointly develop the Kaligandaki Corridor as a religious tourism route.

During a visit to Mustang, Butwal's delegation also reached an understanding with Gharapjhong to continue cooperation and coordination in development, service delivery and religious tourism promotion. A formal programme will soon be organised to formalise this sister-city relationship.

Furthermore, Butwal and Gharapjhong will jointly organise a large-scale interaction and discussion programme by bringing together all local governments located along the Butwal-Muktinath trail to promote religious tourism, Mayor Pandey said.

Deputy Mayor of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City, Sabitra Devi Aryal, added that the city would take the lead in promoting and marketing local products from Mustang, and Gharapjhong would support the promotion of Butwal's local products.

Likewise, representatives from Jaimini Municipality (Baglung), Kaligandaki (Syangja), Kaligandaki (Gulmi), Lomanthang, Gharapjhong, Lo-Ghekar Damodar Kunda and Baragung Muktikshetra Rural Municipalities (Mustang) expressed their commitment to join hands with Butwal in the tourism promotion campaign.

Harihar Sharma, Deputy Mayor of Jaimini Municipality, said that Butwal and Jaimini will collaborate to promote both tourism and trade. Bed Magar, Chairperson of Kaligandaki Rural Municipality (Gulmi), Vice Chair Manju Kumari Darlami, and Kaligandaki (Syangja) Vice Chair Sabitra Koirala also expressed their commitment to work together under Butwal's leadership for tourism and trade development.



PHOTO: BHUVAN KARKI/TRN

Butwal sub-metropolitan delegation meeting with various municipalities.

BUSSEWA LAUNCHES INDIA TICKETING

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

BusSewa has launched an online ticketing service for passengers travelling by bus from Nepalgunj to India's major religious and commercial centres - Delhi and Haridwar.

It informed in a statement on Wednesday that the service has been introduced in collaboration with Bheri Yatayat Pvt. Ltd., which operates luxury buses on these routes from Nepalgunj.

BusSewa has already been providing online ticketing services to various major destinations across Nepal from east to west, including the capital Kathmandu. "Now, responding to passenger demand, the company has extended this service to destinations in India as well," read the statement.

To book a ticket, passengers can log into the BusSewa mobile app, select their destination, travel date, and time, and then reserve a seat on a Bheri Yatayat bus. Tickets can also be booked via the BusSewa web portal by visiting bussewa.com on any web browser.

Seats marked in blue indicate availability, and passengers can choose the most convenient seat and make payment online to confirm the booking.

BusSewa also confirms ticket bookings via SMS. Passengers can either show the digital ticket received or the confirmation SMS when boarding the bus.

US Ambassador calls on Energy Minister Khadka



PHOTO: TRN

US Ambassador to Nepal Dean R. Thompson with Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Dipak Khadka in his office in Singhadurbar.

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

US Ambassador to Nepal Dean R. Thompson called on Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Dipak Khadka on Wednesday.

In the meeting held at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, various aspects of energy cooperation between the two countries and the implementation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) project were discussed.

During the meeting, Energy Minister Khadka said that although the work on the projects being carried out through the MCC project is continuing, the MCC has been on hold for some time, which has created some confusion. He expressed confidence that the MCC project will continue to move forward and that the US will provide additional support in the energy sector.

During the meeting, US Ambassador Thompson said that the US will continue to support and assist Nepal's energy sector.

He said that every possible initiative and effort is being made to move forward the MCC project.

He urged for support from the government of Nepal to continue the projects currently being carried out under the MCC.

The MCA project, which is being implemented under the MCC, will cost USD 500 million from the US and USD 197 million from Nepal.

Earlier on January 2025, the MCC Board of Directors approved USD 50 million of additional funding for the Nepal Compact.

US, EU in a showdown over trade

AP
Frankfurt, May 28

Top officials at the European Union's executive commission says they're pushing hard for a trade deal with the Trump administration to avoid a 50% tariff on imported goods. Trump had threatened to impose the tariffs on June 1, but has pushed back the deadline to July 9, repeating an oft-used tactic in his trade war.

European negotiators are contending with Trump's ever-changing and unpredictable tariff threats, but "still, they have to come up with something to hopefully pacify him," said Bruce Stokes, visiting senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Stokes also sees more at play than just a disagreement over trade deficits. Trump's threats "are rooted in frustration with the EU that has little to do with trade," Stokes said. "He doesn't like the EU. He doesn't like Germany."

What exactly does Trump want? What can Europe offer? Here are the key areas where the two side are squaring off.

Over and over, Trump has bemoaned the fact that Europe sells more things to Americans than it buys from Americans. The difference, or the trade deficit in goods, last year was 157 billion euros ($178 billion).

But Europe says that when it comes to services — particularly digital services like online advertising and cloud computing — the U.S. sells more than it buys and that lowers the overall trade deficit to 48 billion euros, which is only about 3% of total trade. The European Commission says that means trade is "balanced."

One way to shift the trade in goods would be for Europe to buy more liquefied natural gas by ship from the U.S. To do so, the EU could cut off the remaining imports of Russian pipeline gas and LNG. The commission is preparing legislation to force an end to those purchases -- last year, some 19% of imports — by the end of 2027.

That would push European private companies to look for other sources of gas such as the U.S. However the shift away from Russia is already in motion and that "has obviously not been enough to satisfy," said Laurent Ruseckas, a natural gas markets expert at S&P Global Commodities Insights Research.

The commission doesn't buy gas itself but can use "moral suasion" to convince companies to turn to U.S. suppliers in coming years but "this is no silver bullet and nothing that can yield immediate results," said Simone Tagliapietra, an energy analyst at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels.

Europe could buy more from U.S. defense contractors as part of its effort to deter further aggression from Russia after the invasion of Ukraine, says Carsten Brzeski, global chief of macro at ING bank. If European countries did increase their overall defense spending — another of Trump's demands — their voters are likely to insist that the purchases go to defense contractors in Europe, not America, said Stokes of the German Marshall Fund. One way around that political obstacle would be for U.S. defense companies to build factories in Europe, but "that would take time," he said.

The EU could also reduce its 10% tax on foreign cars— one of Trump's long-standing grievances against Europe. "The United States is not going to export that many cars to Europe anyway ... The Germans would be most resistant, but I don't think they're terribly worried about competition from America," said Edward Alden, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "That would be a symbolic victory for the president."

The U.S. has long complained about European regulations on food and agricultural products that keep out hormone-raised beef and chickens washed with chlorine. But experts aren't expecting EU trade negotiators to offer any concessions at the bargaining table.

"The EU is unwilling to capitulate," said Mary Lovely, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "The EU has repeatedly said it will not change its sanitary rules, its rules on (genetically modified) crops, its rules on chlorinated chickens, things that have been longtime irritants for the U.S."

Backing down on those issues, she said, would mean that "the U.S. gets to set food safety (standards) for Europe."

One of Trump's pet peeves has been the value-added taxes used by European governments, a tax he says is a burden on US companies.

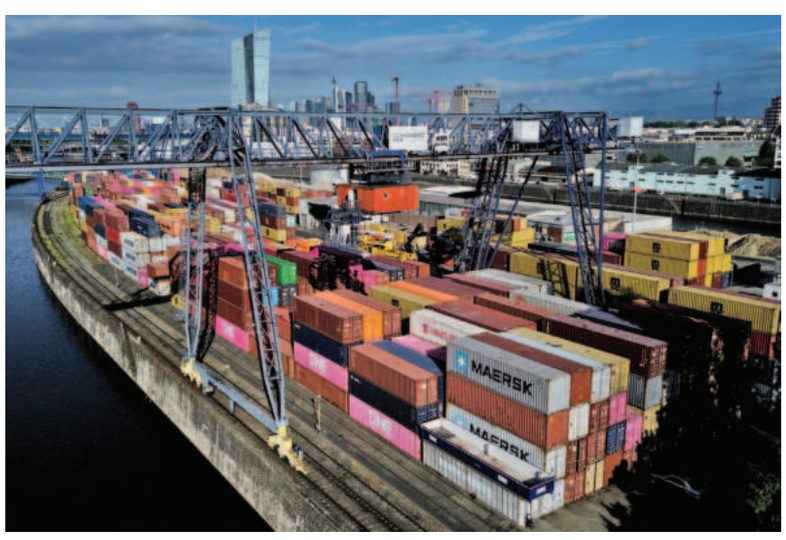


PHOTO: AP

Containers pictured at a cargo terminal in Frankfurt, Germany.

Police officers instructed to respect rights when controlling crowd

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

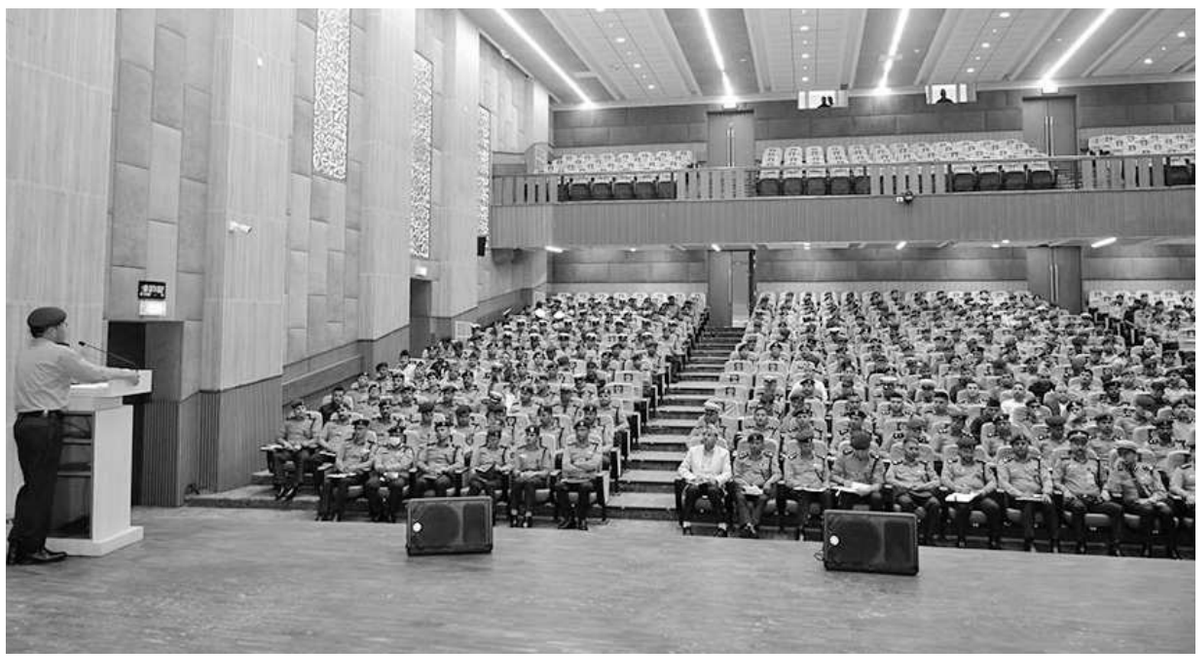


PHOTO: TRN

Additional Inspector General (AIG) of Nepal Police Tek Bahadur Tamang instructing police officers in the capital on Wednesday.

In anticipation of a pre-scheduled demonstration by the pro-royalist groups in the capital, Additional Inspector General (AIG) of Nepal Police Tek Bahadur Tamang, who is also chief of the Kathmandu Valley Police Office in Ranipokhari, has issued directives to subordinate officers emphasising restraint and adherence to human rights standards while controlling crowd.

During a briefing held a day prior to the proposed rally of the pro-royalists, AIG Tamang instructed law enforcement personnel to exercise caution and professionalism, particularly in scenarios where the use of force may become necessary.

He underscored the importance of abiding by the principles governing the use of force and respecting fundamental human rights in all interactions with demonstrators.

AIG Tamang further directed police officers deployed on the front lines to operate with a collective spirit and solidarity, encouraging a coordinated and empathetic approach in managing crowds.

Tamang emphasised that officers must maintain high morale and perform their duties with the utmost professionalism.

The orientation programme was attended by senior police officials, including Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), Superintendents of Police (SPs), senior officers, and other personnel.

AIG Tamang reiterated that any deployment involving the use of force must strictly follow legal protocols and uphold human dignity at all times.

Earlier, on March 28, a protest by the pro-royalist groups in Tinkune, Kathmandu, had turned violent. At that time, questions were raised about the role of the police.

Two months later, both the pro-royalist parties and groups, and the pro-republic CPN-UML, are set to hold demonstrations simultaneously in Kathmandu. The police have discussed security preparations to prevent the protests from becoming violent, as happened previously.

It is still not confirmed where the formal programmes of the two groups will be held.

Glanders disease detected in Sudurpaschim

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Dhangadhi, May 28

Glanders disease, an infectious and fatal disease that can also pass on humans from horses, has been detected in Sudurpaschim Province for the first time.

The fatal glanders disease was found in a horse kept to work in a brick kiln in Janaki Rural Municipality of Kailali. The brick kiln has both Nepali and Indian workers.

The Animal Disease Research Laboratory, Dhangadhi, has confirmed glanders disease in a horse. According to the lab, samples of 10 horses were tested using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method.

According to the office, a technician from an organisation called Animal Nepal had informed the laboratory about the illness of the horses in the brick kiln.

Later, samples of 10 horses were taken and tested, said chief of the laboratory Dr. Naresh Prasad Joshi. "One of the PCR tests came positive," he said, "Glanders disease had not been seen in this province before."

It is reported that four horses died after falling ill in the brick kiln industry in January this year. However, Chief Joshi said that this was not reported at that time.

According to him, glanders is a respiratory, infectious and fatal disease that affects horses.

Glanders is caused by the bacterium Burkholderia mallei, which primarily occurs in horses, mules and donkeys but can be contracted by dogs and cats, pigs, goats and even human beings.

In 2021, this disease broke out for the first time in Nepal in a horse of a brick factory in Banke.

It is reported that this disease is a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted from horses to humans and can even cause death if not treated, said Dr. Joshi.

The laboratory has urged everyone, including workers, to adopt safety precautions after glanders disease was seen in horses.

The mortality rate of glanders disease in horses is 97 per cent. Similarly, if glanders disease is transmitted from horses to humans, the mortality rate is 90 to 95 per cent if untreated, said Dr. Joshi.

If infected with the glanders, it causes high fever, runny nose and excessive tearing of eyes and also affects the respiratory system.

It is reported that the bacteria of this disease survive in horses for up to a year.

The disease is transmitted through the direct contact with infected animals, contaminated food, water, or shared utensils or contaminated materials. The disease is also transmitted through body fluids.

One held with 12 kg of silver



BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

One person has been arrested in Kathmandu with 12 kilograms of silver.

On Monday night, a person was apprehended at the Nagdhunga checkpoint in Chandragiri Municipality-2 with 12.176 kilograms of silver.

A team deployed from the Nagdhunga Police Office arrested 32-year-old Anish Kumar Singh, the assistant driver of a bus (registration number Ba.Pr 01-003 Kha 3701) coming to Kathmandu from Birgunj, Parsa.

Singh is a resident of Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City-4 in Bara district.

According to Superintendent of Police (SP) Apil Raj Bohora of the District Police Range, Kathmandu, Singh had hidden silver chains, moon-shaped pendants, anklets, and other items in the bus. No invoices were found for the silver recovered from him.

Police are conducting further investigations into the case.

Study team recommends registration of Harshakriti Buddhist Monastery

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Khajura, May 28

A study team has recommended the official registration and operation of the historically and religiously significant Harshakriti Buddhist Monastery located in Nepalgunj.

The monastery has reportedly been in operation for years without formal registration. As a result, the study team has advised that it be officially registered and brought under formal operation.

According to the report, the Harshakriti Buddhist Monastery situated close to the renowned Shaktipith Bageshwori Temple in Nepalgunj is a revered centre of faith for Buddhists. However, it has remained neglected and has been in a state of disrepair since its inception.

Following disputes over the management and finances of the monastery located in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City-2, the sub-metropolitan city had earlier formed a seven-member committee led by lawyer Chitra Bahadur Shahi.

After the long study, the committee submitted its findings to Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan City to the Mayor Prashant Bista on Monday.

The report highlights that the monastery, which has never been officially registered, is being operated by individuals without any formal structure, lacks proper accounting of income and expenditure. Additionally, the land donated to the monastery has not been utilised appropriately.

The committee found that the monastery is in a dilapidated condition due to lack of conservation and development efforts. The site is now obscured by surrounding shops, especially flower stalls that block its entrance making it invisible from outside. Due to its neglected and hidden state, the monastery grounds have reportedly become a hangout for drug users.

In 1958, during King Mahendra's visit, Bajrayana Buddhists had requested for the construction of a religious site within the Bageshwori Temple premises. In response, social worker Harshaman Pati built the Harshakriti Buddhist Monastery. Later, in 1994, another monastery was built at the same place by Hirakaji Shakya. However, neither structure is included in official government records.

The report notes that the current monastery is run under the control of individual priests and is affected by ongoing disputes between the two monasteries.

It is not affiliated with any religious trust, organisation, formal management committee and government-recognized Buddhist authority. Moreover, there is no coordination with the local government in regard to its operation.

Harshaman Pati, the original founder, donated around 15.5 bighas of land to the Mahabihar, now located in Janaki Municipality Ward No. 4. However, the income from this land has not been properly accounted for, nor has the land been effectively utilized.

At present, Harshaman Pati's grandson, Bijayman Pati, is overseeing the property. While the report states that the income is being used for community welfare, there are still no official records or audits of these accounts.

BRIEFS

Boy drowns in Makwanpur

Hetauda: One person has drowned the Kogate Stream located in ward No. 8 of Bhimphedi Rural Municipality, Makwanpur. At 2:20 pm on Tuesday, 17-year-old Namsuj Hangjabegu of Kathmandu Metropolitan City-12, Lazimpat, drowned in the stream. Namsuj, along with seven others from Lazimpat, Kathmandu Metropolitan City–12, had come to Kogate to swim.

During the swimming, Namsuj drowned, according Deputy Superintendent of Police Shyamu Aryal, Spokesperson for the District Police Office, Makwanpur. The deceased's body has been sent to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu for post-mortem, according to the District Police Office, Makwanpur.

Further investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Educational materials distributed to school

Tanahun: Educational supplies, warm clothes, and sports items have been distributed to students of Shree Jammadevi Primary School. Lions Club of Kathmandu, Indrayani Khusibu, distributed educational materials and warm clothes to the students studying at the school.

Most of the students at the school are from indigenous communities and come from extremely low-income families.

(TRN)

Discovery of ancient weapons in Bardibas sparks archaeological discussion

BY AJAY SHAH
Mahottari, May 28



PHOTO: TRN

Stones found in Bardibas kept by the Department of Archaeology.

An archaeological study has commenced at a site in Bardibas, Mahottari, where a 12,000-year-old weapon factory was discovered.

According to Dipesh Kafle, member secretary of the Culture and Tourism Promotion Committee of Bardibas Municipality, a team of archaeologists from the Department of Archaeology began a study in the Patu and Rai Mandal areas of Bardibas Municipality-3 on Saturday.

The discovery of stone tools used by ancient humans in the area has led the municipality to initiate research to further highlight the site's significance. The municipality has coordinated with a team led by archaeologist Bhaskar Gyawali and Prof. Dr. Majit Hazarika from Assam, India, to promote archaeological tourism and preserve historical and archaeological heritage.

German researcher Gudrun Corvinus studied human civilisation across various parts of the Tarai in the 1980s and, in 2007, published a book titled Prehistoric Cultures in Nepal, in which she identified the Patu and Rai Mandal region of Mahottari as a site of Mesolithic-era weapon production. In Volume 1, page 239 of her book, Corvinus has mentioned that human civilisation in the area near the Ratu River dates back 10,000 years.

She noted that thousands of Mesolithic weapons were found buried in red soil, suggesting that this might be one of the oldest known human civilisations in the region.

The Mesolithic period spans roughly from 12,000 to 10,000 years ago, followed by the Neolithic period from around 10,000 to 6,000 years ago. Corvinus concluded that this site reflects a civilisation from the Mesolithic period, approximately 10,000 years ago.

Why Corvinus chose to study this particular area, Rai Mandal and Patu, remains something of a mystery. However, her discovery of a Mesolithic-era weapon factory has since captured public curiosity and interest.

In her book, she indicated that Patu, located along the Ratu River, was densely populated during the Mesolithic era, 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

Archaeologist Bhaskar Gyawali stated that stone tools from the Mesolithic period are being collected and studied in the Patu, Ratu, and Rai Mandal areas of Bardibas-3.

He noted, "The region and the tools discovered here will be observed and researched for the next 10 days. Many researchers have already published reports and books on this area, and some of the stone tools are exhibited by the Department of Archaeology. Hence, a more detailed study has been initiated."

Although the present-day village of Patu was settled only in the 1960s, locals were astounded to learn from Corvinus' research that their land may have been home to a civilisation 12,000 years ago.

"While walking through the forest, we used to come across peculiar stone tools like axes and sharp blades. After hearing through the media that Patu was home to a 12,000-year-old civilisation, we started searching for those kinds of tools again," said local Ramesh Paudel. "This land has great potential for archaeological tourism."

The Bardibas Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also shown its interest in this mysterious archaeological site.

Led by Chairman Bishnu Khadka, the Chamber submitted a report to the then Tourism Minister Sudan Kirati to promote the site as a tourist destination. As a result, nearly 4.6 million rupees have been allocated by the federal and provincial governments.

The Mesolithic-era weapon factory, used to make stone weapons, is believed to have been not just a production site but also a population hub. Corvinus found thousands of such weapons buried in red soil.

"It seems this place could become one of the world's leading research centres," said Chairman Khadka. "We visited the Department of Archaeology to observe some of the tools discovered by Corvinus."

The media coverage has drawn attention of archaeologists from across the country, many of whom have expressed strong interest in Patu's Mesolithic-era weapon factory.

"This place has the potential to become a globally significant archaeological tourism site," said geologist Prakash Darnal. "I've heard that both federal and provincial governments have allocated budget. A master plan is needed."

Corvinus' findings are currently housed at the National Museum. Her book notes that tens or even hundreds of thousands of artefacts were buried between 30 and 50 centimetres beneath the red soil.

The government's enthusiasm to protect these relics and develop the area as a historic tourist destination has encouraged other archaeologists as well.

"We have uncovered much glorious history about Patu," said archaeologist Somnath Sapkota. "The local government must show strong interest. Corvinus not only discovered a Mesolithic-era capital of weaponry here but also suggested that it may have been the capital of serpents and holds secrets related to the great earthquake of 1218 BS."

The earthquake of 1218 BS is considered the first recorded devastating earthquake in Nepal's history. According to experts, it occurred on a Monday, Ashadh Shukla Tritiya, with a magnitude of around 7.7 on the Richter scale. King Abhaya Malla reportedly died in this earthquake, which affected nearly one-third of the Kathmandu Valley's population.

Historians say the earthquake caused the plains and low hills (Chure range) to rise even higher.

One such uplifted area is believed to be the upper region of Patu, including the Rai Mandal area, which now stands as a testimony to the earthquake that jolted Nepal 863 years ago.

According to geologist Somnath Sapkota, many PhD students have conducted research in Patu and published their findings in academic journals.

Bardibas Mayor Prahlad Kumar Kshetri stated that the local government has already begun work on managing and promoting the site. He expressed confidence that the Rai Mandal and surrounding regions could become the foundation for Bardibas Municipality's prosperity.

To reach Rai Mandal from the flat plains of Bardibas, one must climb about 7 kilometres uphill. There lie the scenic Bhimdanda and Soli Ghopte hills, which appear to gaze endlessly across the flatlands of Madhes.

Standing about 362 metres above sea level, these hills are not only the jewels of the Terai but also the pillars of Bardibas's future growth. Waiting to be recognised and developed, they are as stunning as they are full of promise.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.
- Walter Winchell

EDITORIAL

People's Sovereignty

The country is observing the Republic Day today (Thursday) amidst various programmes. This is a day when the Nepali people attained full sovereignty. Nepal's democracy often faced a threat from the dictatorial monarchy and Nepalis decided to abolish it forever so that the country's democratic journey would not suffer any disruptions. Now, the democratic consolidation is taking place smoothly and peacefully. Freedom, equality and dignity are what every human wants because they are prerequisites to attain happiness and prosperity in life. Freedom is essential not only in politics but also in an individual's life for his/her professional and intellectual growth. And the republican system creates a necessary atmosphere to enjoy freedom and pursue a life of one's choice.

On May 28, 2008, the first meeting of the elected Constituent Assembly (CA) declared Nepal a Federal Democratic Republic, abolishing the 240-year-old monarchy. It was a historic moment for the nation. It became federal from a unitary and secular from Hindu state. The declaration will go down in history as an unprecedented decision aimed at restoring stability, peace and inclusive development. The landmark political change took place against the backdrop of the successful movement that forced the then-monarch to surrender to the people's mammoth power. The historic political movement became possible after the former Maoist rebels decided to join peaceful politics and forged an alliance with the pro-parliamentary forces to restore democracy.

In 2015, the second CA promulgated the new constitution that institutionalised the nation's transformation into a federal, secular republican system. Under the federal system, the three tiers of government have been created, which drastically changed the governance structures. Powers, rights and resources have been devolved to the provinces and local levels. Subnational governments have received rights to mobilise resources and create their own administrative structures, including civil services and police force, among others. Likewise, local bodies have become autonomous to generate and spend revenues at the grassroots level. They have been granted at least 22 rights in addition to concurrent rights, which they can exercise in collaboration with the centre and provinces. The federal system is based on the principle of shared rule and self-rule so that the people directly participate in decision-making and development works.

As the country is celebrating the Republic Day with enthusiasm and fervour, it is imperative to introspect on the performance of governments and political parties during this period. The question has been raised about the delivery of goods and services to the people. In the absence of jobs, many young people are leaving the country in droves. Still around 20 per cent of people are living below the poverty line. Moreover, a section of political parties and organisations have launched street protests to restore monarchy. In order to overcome the new challenges facing the republican dispensation, priority should be given to good governance, economic opportunities and quality education. Today's need is a clean government that keeps corruption at bay.

The constitution has spelled out at least 31 fundamental rights of the people, including the right to health, education, employment, food and social security. The government should enact the necessary laws to implement these rights. The problems seen in the implementation of the republican system should be sorted out through the amendment of the constitution. Monarchy cannot be the alternative to the republic that considers the people as the ultimate source of sovereignty. The republican set-up is perhaps the best form of government. It can always be made better, not replaced.

Wear A Quality Helmet

AJITA RIJAL

Nepal's highways are turning into death traps, with an increased number of motorbike accidents causing a public health crisis. Motorbikes, outnumbering more than 80 per cent of the country's registered vehicles, are the favoured method of personal mobility, as they are affordable and easy to negotiate. But this ease is being bought with a hefty price tag — lives. The latest statistics from the Nepal Police reveal that more than half of the accidents — 57 per cent — were motorcycle accidents. The death of pillion riders accounted for 26 per cent, while only 27 per cent of all motorcycle trips comprised double rides.

Overspeeding, careless driving, improper helmet use, and drunken driving are the leading factors behind the deadly accidents. The country witnessed a minimum of 75 road accidents on average every day, with seven people losing their lives. Between mid-December and mid-January of 2025, the police registered 2,276 accidents resulting in 197 deaths. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has always expressed concern about motorcycle accidents and the fact that wearing quality helmets is a good safety measure to avoid death and serious injury. The WHO has also reaffirmed that the government should enable the supply of quality helmets as part of the United Nations' "Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030", which has been ratified by Nepal.

Despite repeated campaigns and public awareness drives, these habits persist, indicating a deep-seated flaw in the country's road safety regulations. However, one neglected aspect that makes these accidents more fatal is the cheap quality and inappropriate wearing of helmets. No secret exists that a helmet is the difference between life and death during a motorcycle accident. Despite this, numerous riders either do not wear helmets at all or wear substandard ones. To make matters even worse, helmets are often shared or fitted poorly, significantly diminishing their protective qualities. This shows the enforcement loopholes, and a lack of public education, and institutional responsibility.

Nepal has a national helmet standard supported by the Nepal Quality Council, which prescribes some size, weight, and impact resistance specifications. Standards are nothing, however, if they are not enforced. Shelves are stacked with uncertified helmets that crumble when hit, offering zero protection. Without strict monitoring and penalties, these deadly items will continue to sell — and be worn. Nepal Police's latest initiative to compel pillion riders to wear helmets on official vehicles during the UN Global Road Safety Week is a welcome step. It's a sign that road safety begins with a civic road culture. However, a single policy change will not address a system of emergencies.

The government needs to have a cohesive, multi-faceted strategy. First, the government has to tighten helmet regulations. Inferior helmets should be prohibited, and routine checks should be made to confirm adherence. Secondly, public awareness campaigns must emphasise that people need certified, good-fitting helmets. Individuals must know that a helmet is not an empty requirement — it's a lifesaver. Moreover, infrastructure must be adjusted to protect vulnerable road users. Dedicated lanes for motorcyclists, increased road signs, and better emergency services are required.

Drunk or reckless driving must result in severe punishments, not fines. Internationally, road traffic accidents are the number one killer of individuals aged 5–29, and a quarter of all deaths include pedestrians or cyclists. This is not Nepal's issue alone—it is an epidemic worldwide. But individual actions do make a difference. If appropriately broadened and enforced, Nepal's new helmet law can save hundreds of lives. Essentially, road safety is a matter of respecting the life of every human being—on a motorbike, in a vehicle, or on the roadside.

Alternative Politics In Teething Trouble

Mukti Rijal



Nepal's political parties are led by septuagenarian leaders, and they have been holding on to the leadership position invariably for the last many decades. This phenomenon has largely more or less occupied the entire political milieu in Nepal. The dominance of the elder generation in party leadership, better termed as gerontocracy, has ruled the political roost and dictated the political course of action for several decades. However, ageing party leadership is gradually facing the challenges of retaining its relevance, acceptability and legitimacy. The challenges to the senior generation of leadership have become more articulate and vociferous after the elections held two-and-a-half years ago. Even within the communist parties like CPN- Maoist Centre and CPN-UML, internal dissent is brewing to pose a challenge to the leadership.

The people's frustration and discontent with the political parties and their leadership had been expressed through the vote a well. This had found clear expression as the independent candidates triumphed in the poll, especially in the mayoral positions in different cities in the country in the last elections. According to the report, over thirty-five independent candidates had won the top executive posts for the rural municipalities and municipalities. The emergence of young leadership at local government can be construed, among others, as an indicator of the growing aversion to and disenchantment of the voters, especially in the urban areas, with the conventional modus operandi of politics executed by ageing political leaders in the country.

Independent candidates

The success of independent candidates in the polls had worked as a catalyst and thus motivated and inspired the new generation of youths to join in the electoral politics to challenge the established order of the party leadership. Mention in this context can be made about the move of the popular TV programme host Rabi Lamichhane, who launched the new political outfit called Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP). This surge of new politics won the appreciation and support of the people, as a result of which the party was able to muster 21 seats in the federal parliament, which was an incredible political feat of its own kind.

It was a quiet political transformation executed through ballots in which young political aspirants made their way to the apex seats of the parliament. The new political outfit, led by Rabi Lamichhane, forged together a new set of lesser-known youth aspirants and initiated and baptised them into politics. The young political aspirants used their agency to defy the conventional order of party leadership and established a new benchmark in the politics of the country. However, RSP is under stress because its founding leader, Rabi Lamichhane, has been charged with a cooperative fraud scheme and sent into custody for prosecution. The future of the party is contingent upon how it defines its course of action for the upcoming days.

Like RSP, experimentation with a new political group had been tried out around a decade ago. Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai, who was one of the masterminds of the ten-year-long Maoist insurgency and also headed the country's executive government for almost one-and-a-half years, had started a campaign towards building a renovated variant of alternative politics immediately after the promulgation of the new federal constitution in 2015. Dr. Bhattarai had branded his party as Naya Shakti Party, targeting to dislodge the existing conventional political parties, articulating the narrative that the country needs the new party to give leadership in the changed epoch of the twenty-first century.

> Announcing new political platforms is not a big deal but giving it a solid foundation requires solid preparation with careful consideration.

Dr. Bhattarai had plunged into the theatrics of the politics as the gallant critic of the Maoist party that he had led and nurtured, contending that its agenda no longer holds sense and logic in the changed political epoch. Dr. Bhattarai used his new party as the alternative political platform, weaving narratives to challenge the corrupt political practices and values through progressive transformative praxis. He had boiled down his ideas into five key political formulaic aphorisms, which, according to him, had been translated into action through prosperity, inclusion, good governance, participation and federalism. However, despite his propensity to write novel narrative and commitment to these much-avowed ideas, he was not able to take the notion of new politics further and turned to the fold of regional–communal groups for political salvage.

Credibility

As a result, he lost his political charm and allowed to have room to question his credibility and diligence. Currently, Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai is leading the new political outfit called Nepal Samajbadi Party (Naya Shakti), whose organisational base seems to be leaner. Dr. Bhattarai, once a popular politician, seems to be pushed to the brink and appears to be trying to find a new legitimacy and identity for his role in politics. Dr. Bhattarai's political zigzags and setbacks in the career of Rabi Lamichhane, offer some clues to the proponents of the new political outfit committed to capitalising on the popular frustrations with the conventional parties.

These examples indicate that starting a new political outfit seems not very difficult, but designing a unique selling point, giving a proper shape and getting the messages across the masses is an uphill task. Undoubtedly, the evolving political scene in the country is propitious and ripe for the new politics. However, domain knowledge, skills, temperament and character to shape up a new brand and sell is a precondition to foster such initiatives. As the upcoming elections are almost two years away, enterprising leaders and aspiring youths can take the initiative to launch new political outfits. However, announcing new political platforms is not a big deal but giving it a solid foundation requires solid preparation with careful consideration.

(The author is presently associated with Policy Research Institute (PRI) as a senior research fellow. rijalmukti@gmail.com)

Global Housing Crisis Demands Bold Action

Anaclaudia Rossbach



We are living through a global housing crisis that is worsening by the day. Nearly 3 billion people lack access to adequate housing, secure land, and even the most basic services like water and sanitation. If left unaddressed, this crisis constitutes a humanitarian emergency. As 193 countries convene in Nairobi for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, placing housing, land, and basic services at the heart of global priorities is no longer optional — it is essential. Governments and city leaders must make bold choices to fulfill access to adequate housing as a human right.

Numbers cannot fully capture the daily hardship endured by those without adequate housing. Over 1.1 billion people live in informal settlements and slums without secure tenure, safe water, or sanitation. Conflict and climate-induced displacement are pushing millions further into precarious living conditions. In rapidly urbanizing Africa, where 62 per cent of urban dwellings are informal and 30 per cent are overcrowded, the consequences of inaction are stark. By 2024, the housing deficit in Africa had reached at least 70 million units, with nearly 80 per cent of that deficit concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. At an estimated average cost of USD 20,000 per unit, addressing the current need would require close to USD 1.4 trillion in investment.

Rapid urbanisation

In Asia-Pacific, the population is projected to grow by another 1 billion over the next 25 years. Cities, already home to over 2.3 billion people, are experiencing rapid urbanisation that outpaces housing and infrastructure development. More than 500 million people lack access to basic water supply, and over 1 billion to adequate sanitation. Across both high- and low-income countries, housing costs remain high, and vulnerability to climate risks is increasing.

Adequate housing means more than walls and a roof —it provides safety, dignity, and opportunity. Secure tenure, clean water, sanitation, and access to energy are foundational to health, education, and economic mobility. UN-Habitat's experience offers a roadmap. In Iraq and Yemen, we have supported post-conflict housing and land rights. In Kenya, Uganda, and Burkina Faso, we have upgraded informal settlements and slums. This work must be scaled up as a central pillar of national development strategies. It is not only socially just but also economically sound.

Housing contributes up to 18 per cent of GDP and 10 per cent of jobs in emerging markets. It connects to critical sectors like construction, finance, technology, and basic services —generating local development and resilient communities. A study by IIED for Habitat for Humanity found that access to adequate housing in informal settlements could raise national income by up to 10.5 per cent and prevent more than 730,000 deaths annually — an impact greater than eradicating malaria.

Governments must reclaim leadership in shaping housing systems for the public good. This requires moving beyond short-term market corrections to long-term investment in housing as public infrastructure. Solutions must be diverse and adapted to local contexts — public rental housing, social housing, cooperatives, community-led models, slum upgrading, and incremental housing. The best models are those built on social, cultural, and institutional strengths.

Strong governance is essential. National governments set clear policies and regulatory frameworks, while local and regional governments — closer to communities and the people they serve — are best positioned to implement housing solutions, coordinate land use, and engage civil society. Strengthening the capacity and financing of local authorities is critical to ensure housing systems meet community needs and support inclusive urban development.

> The message is clear: housing can no longer be treated as a speculative investment. It is a human right and a foundation of sustainable development.

Building coalitions at all levels is equally vital. Civil society, academia, social movements, and the private sector all have critical roles to play. Partnerships help address the complexity of housing by combining expertise, resources, and perspectives. Housing is already rising to the center of political agendas in regions around the world and showing growing momentum for systemic change.

From Vienna's use of land banking and rent control to maintain housing as a public service, to Thailand's Community Organisations Development Institute (CODI) promoting collective savings and participatory planning — successful models already exist. Uruguay's Ayuda Mutua and Brazil's "Entidades" programme empower cooperatives to build homes with state support. In Puerto Rico, the Cano Martín Peña Community Land Trust secured land rights for thousands in a flood-prone district, demonstrating how community ownership drives equity and resilience.

Anticipating urban growth through inclusive planning is key. Ethiopia's integration of peri-urban areas into expansion strategies has curbed unplanned sprawl and created more connected, inclusive neighborhoods. To maximise social, environmental, and economic benefits, financial strategies must align with urban regulations. Housing — comprising around 60 per cent of the built environment — shapes cities and drives emissions and resource use. Integrating finance and policy is essential for sustainable development, with tools such as subsidies, investment programmes, and innovative financing mechanisms supporting energy efficiency, resilience, and affordability.

Governments must also manage land more efficiently — preserving its economic, ecological, and social functions. Compact, well-planned urban extensions can reduce sprawl and protect productive land and fragile ecosystems, especially in peri-urban areas. To ensure access to adequate housing for all, especially low-income and marginalised groups, governments must mobilise both international and domestic resources. This includes strategic public finance—using subsidies, tax reliefs, long-term loans, and incentives — and better leveraging domestic savings, private investments, and land-based finance mechanisms.

Skewed investment

With international housing finance heavily skewed — higher-income regions receive 22 times more funding per person in poverty than sub-Saharan Africa — there is an urgent need to close this gap. Enhancing property taxation, land value capture, and digital land systems, combined with smart local revenue collection, can unlock significant domestic financing.

Investment in stable, adequate, and affordable housing delivers major socio-economic returns — from improved health and education to reduced spending on justice and social protection. The message is clear: housing can no longer be treated as a speculative investment. It is a human right and a foundation of sustainable development. We must see housing as a public good, anchored in sound policy and inclusive governance. The cost of inaction is growing inequality and instability. Solutions exist. It's time to scale them up.

(The author is Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

50 YEARS AGO

THE RISING NEPAL

May 29, 1975

8 New Soviet Satellites Launched

Moscow, May 28: The Soviet Union today launched eight new satellites in the Cosmos series, reports AFP.

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READER'S MAIL

Mark Republic Day With Fervour



As we are marking the Republic Day tomorrow, everyone should take a moment and reflect on how important this day is to the history of our nation. Republic Day reminds us of our democratic culture, unity in diversity, and the primacy of law. It is a day to honour the vision of our country's founders, who bestowed upon us a constitution guaranteeing justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity to all citizens. The celebrations, e.g., parades, cultural programmes, and hoisting of the flag, instil patriotism and nationalism.

The occasion is a good opportunity for organisations, communities, and schools to celebrate activities that sensitize the younger generation to the significance of the constitution and their role as conscientious citizens. It is also a time to remind all of us of the fact that democracy is a continuous process that requires active participation and vigilance.

Let us celebrate this day with fervour and a fresh resolve to hold on to the values that impart vigor and vitality to our nation. Collectively, we can build a future which is genuinely in the spirit of our republic.

Prema Ghale
St. Xavier's College
Maitighar, Kathmandu

TAILPIECE

A mathematician, a statistician and an accountant apply for the same job. The interviewer calls in the mathematician and asks "What does two plus two equal?"

The mathematician replies "Four." The interviewer asks "Four, exactly?" The mathematician looks at the interviewer incredulously and says "Yes, four, exactly."

Then the interviewer calls in the statistician and asks the same question "What does two plus two equal?" The statistician says "On average, four - give or take ten percent, but on average, four."

Then the interviewer calls in the accountant and poses the same question "What does two plus two equal?"

The accountant gets up, locks the door, closes the shade, sits down next to the interviewer and says "What do you want it to equal?"

Zelenskyy visits Berlin seeking support for Ukraine

AP
Berlin, May 28

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with new German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Berlin on Wednesday as Ukraine seeks further military support amid a recent escalation in Russia's bombing campaign, despite U.S.-led efforts to end the war.

Germany has been the second-biggest supplier of military aid to Ukraine after the United States. Merz has plunged into diplomatic efforts to try to secure a ceasefire and keep Western support for Ukraine intact since becoming Germany's leader three weeks ago. European leaders have accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of dragging his feet in U.S.-led peace talks.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul was set to meet in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday.

Zelenskyy said Tuesday that Ukraine is ready to hold peace talks at the highest level, including a trilateral meeting with himself, Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump.

"We are ready to meet at the level of leaders. Both the American side knows this, and the Russian side knows this," he said. Zelenskyy said he would accept any configuration of talks, whether that includes one trilateral meeting or separate meetings with Trump.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russia is grateful to Trump for his mediation efforts.

"At the same time, there is a big number of nuances to be discussed that can't be neglected and which neither party is going to sacrifice, because of its national interests," Peskov told reporters. "Just like the United States, Russia has its national interests that are of primary importance to us."



PHOTO: AP

Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz, right, welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during an official military reception at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany.

He said that Moscow will "soon" deliver its promised memorandum on a framework for a peace settlement.

Merz said on Monday that Germany and other major allies are no longer imposing any range restrictions on weapons supplied to Ukraine as it fights to repel Russia's full-scale invasion, which began in February 2022.

Merz's government hasn't said whether it will supply its Taurus long-range cruise missiles to Ukraine, something his predecessor, Olaf Scholz, refused to do and which Merz advocated for as opposition leader. The government has said it would no longer provide full details of the weapons it's supplying to Ukraine, unlike Scholz's administration, citing the need for "strategic ambiguity."

Taurus missiles have a range of up to 500 kilometers (310 miles). The German- and Swedish-made missiles, which are equipped with stealth technology, would be able to reach targets deep in Russia from Ukrainian soil, including the Black Sea.

Ukraine wants the missiles to complement the long-range Storm Shadow missiles sent by Britain and France's nearly identical Scalp cruise missiles.

Zelenskyy said that he plans to discuss the supply and use of long-range weapons in his talks with Merz. The Ukrainian leader said Tuesday that he hasn't received any indications from Germany that their policy of limiting the use of Western weapons against Russian targets has changed.

Ukraine needs $30 billion in additional financing to help it compete with Russia in the production of drones and missiles, Zelenskyy said. Russia is aiming to produce 300-350 drones per day, he said.

Meanwhile, fighting has continued along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, where Ukraine's army is shorthanded against its bigger adversary. Zelenskyy claimed Tuesday that Russia is mobilizing up to 45,000 men every month, while Ukraine mobilizes between 25,000-27,000.

Both sides are continuing to conduct deep strikes. Russia launched its biggest drone attack of the war against Ukraine on Sunday.

Russian air defenses downed 296 Ukrainian drones over 13 Russian regions late Tuesday and early Wednesday, Russia's Defense Ministry said, in what appeared to be one of the biggest Ukrainian drone assaults of the war.

Ukraine is increasing its domestic production of drones and missiles, according to Zelenskyy. He said late Tuesday that Ukraine wants European countries to help it invest in the manufacturing of attack drones, air defense interceptors, cruise missiles and ballistic systems.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that air defenses shot down Ukrainian 33 drones heading toward the capital.

Andrei Vorobyov, the governor of the Moscow region, said that 42 drones were downed. He said that drone fragments damaged three residential buildings in the village of Troitskoye, but no one was hurt.

Moscow airports delayed or diverted hundreds of flights.

Overnight, Russian forces launched an attack on Ukraine using five Iskander ballistic missiles, one guided air-launched missile and 88 drones, Ukraine's Air Force said Wednesday. Air defense units shot down 34 drones, and 37 drones were jammed.

IRAN-US TALKS HAVE GOOD SIGNS

AP
Vienna, May 28

The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog said Wednesday that "the jury is still out" on negotiations between Iran and the U.S. over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program, but described the continuing negotiations a good sign.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, made the comment to journalists attending a weeklong seminar at the agency in Vienna.

Grossi acknowledged one of his deputies was in Tehran on Wednesday. Iranian officials identified the official as Massimo Aparo, the head of the IAEA's safeguards arm. "For the moment, the jury is still out," Grossi said. "The fact that they continue to meet ... that is an indication of a willingness to come to an agreement."

The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the U.S. has imposed on the Islamic Republic, closing in on a half-century of enmity.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's program, if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

Before Grossi's comments to journalists in Vienna, the head of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard issued a new warning to the U.S. as the negotiations go on.

"Our fingers on the trigger, we are in ambush and we are waiting," Gen. Hossein Salami warned. "If they make a mistake, they will immediately receive responses that will make them completely forget their past."

Trump cuts $100 million for Harvard

AP
Washington, May 28

The Trump administration asked federal agencies to cancel contracts with Harvard University worth about $100 million, intensifying the president's clash with the nation's oldest and wealthiest university.

The government already has canceled more than $2.6 billion in federal research grants for the Ivy League school, which has pushed back on the administration's demands for changes to several of its policies.

A letter sent Tuesday from the General Services Administration, which oversees contracting and real estate for the federal government, directed agencies to review contracts with the university and seek alternate arrangements.

President Donald Trump has railed against Harvard, calling it a hotbed of liberalism and antisemitism. The school filed a lawsuit April 21 over the administration's calls for changes to the university's leadership, governance and admissions policies. Since then, the administration has slashed the school's federal funding, moved to cut off enrollment of international students and threatened its tax-exempt status.

The administration has identified about 30 contracts across nine agencies to be reviewed for cancellation, according to an administration official who was not authorized to speak publicly and provided details on the condition of anonymity.

The contracts total roughly $100 million, according to a senior administration official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal deliberations. The contracts include executive training for Department of Homeland Security officials, research on health outcomes related to energy drinks and a contract for graduate student research services.

Agencies with contracts that are deemed critical are being directed not to halt them immediately, but to devise a plan to transition to a vendor other than Harvard.

The letter applies only to federal contracts with Harvard and not its remaining research grants.

Trump laid into Harvard on social media over the weekend, threatening to cut an additional $3 billion in federal grants and give it to trade schools across the United States. He did not explain which grants he was referring to or how they could be reallocated.

The president also accused Harvard of refusing to release the names of its foreign students. In a new line of attack, he argued that students' home countries pay nothing toward their education and that some of the countries are "not at all friendly to the United States."

SpaceX launches another Starship rocket

AP
New York, May 28

After back-to-back explosions, SpaceX launched its mega rocket Starship again on Tuesday evening, but fell short of the main objectives when the spacecraft tumbled out of control and broke apart.

The 403-foot (123-meter) rocket blasted off on its ninth demo from Starbase, SpaceX's launch site at the southern tip of Texas. Residents voted this month to organize as an official city.

CEO Elon Musk 's SpaceX hoped to release a series of mock satellites following liftoff, but that got nixed because the door failed to open all the way. Then the spacecraft began spinning as it skimmed space toward an uncontrolled landing in the Indian Ocean.

SpaceX later confirmed that the spacecraft experienced "a rapid unscheduled disassembly," or burst apart. "Teams will continue to review data and work toward our next flight test," the company said in an online statement.

Musk noted in a post on X it was a "big improvement" from the two previous demos, which ended in flaming debris over the Atlantic. Despite the latest setback, he promised a faster launch pace moving forward, with a Starship soaring every three to four weeks for the next three flights.



PHOTO: AP

SpaceX's mega rocket Starship makes a test flight from Starbase, Texas.

It was the first time one of Musk's Starships — intended for moon and Mars travel — flew with a recycled booster. There were no plans to catch the booster with giant chopsticks back at the launch pad, with the company instead pushing it to its limits. Contact with the booster was lost at one point, and it slammed into the Gulf of Mexico in pieces as the spacecraft continued toward the Indian Ocean.

Then the spacecraft went out of control, apparently due to fuel leaks. "Not looking great with a lot of our on-orbit objectives for today," said SpaceX flight commentator Dan Huot. The company had been looking to test the spacecraft's heat shield during a controlled reentry.

Communication ceased before the spacecraft came down, and SpaceX ended its webcast soon afterward.

PRISM

Police eject alligator from pool deck

North Carolina: Police in North Carolina responded to a resident's pool deck to eject an unwanted visitor: an alligator.

The Sunset Beach Police Department said on social media that a pair of officers were called to remove "a surprise visitor lounging on a local pool deck!"

The post included photos of the alligator wandering amid the furniture on the deck.

"With a little patience, and a lot of respect for those teeth, they safely relocated the alligator back to his proper hangout spot at the pond. No sunscreen or swim trunks were involved," police wrote. The post urged residents to report any out-of-place wildlife to authorities, "especially baby deer this time of year."

Cow caught in flood found alive

Melbourne: A cow was found alive on an Australian beach after being carried up to 11 miles by floodwaters.

Layla Philipson found the cow alive on the sand on Old Bar beach, on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

The cow was one of multiple bovines swept away by floodwaters brought on by torrential rains in New South Wales.

The bovine is believed to have originated from Taree, about 11 miles from the beach where it was located.

Philipson posted photos of the cow to the Taree Community Noticeboard on Facebook, where they came to the attention of the animal's owner.

(Agencies)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1533 – The Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declares the marriage of King Henry VIII of England to Anne Boleyn valid.

1588 – The Spanish Armada, with 130 ships and 30,000 men, sets sail from Lisbon, Portugal, heading for the English Channel. (It will take until May 30 for all ships to leave port.)

1644 – English Civil War: Bolton Massacre by Royalist troops under the command of James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby.

1802 – In Guadeloupe, 400 rebellious slaves, led by Louis Delgrès, blow themselves up rather than submit to Napoleon's troops.

1830 – U.S. President Andrew Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act which denies Native Americans their land rights and forcibly relocates them.

1871 – The Paris Commune falls after two months.

One killed, 48 wounded as forces open fire on Gaza crowd

AP
Deir Al-Balah, May 28

At least one Palestinian was killed and 48 others wounded when forces opened fire on a crowd overrunning a new aid distribution site in the Gaza Strip set up by an Israeli and U.S.-backed foundation, Gaza's Health Ministry said Wednesday.

Crowds of Palestinians broke through the fences around the distribution site on Tuesday, and an Associated Press journalist heard Israeli tank and gun fire, and saw a military helicopter firing flares.

It was not yet known whether the death and injuries were caused by Israeli forces, private contractors or others. The foundation said its military contractors had not fired on the crowd but "fell back" before resuming aid operations. Israel said its troops nearby had fired warning shots.

Ajith Sunghay, head of the U.N. Human Rights Office for the Palestinian territories, had earlier told reporters in Geneva that 47 people were wounded, mostly by gunfire.



PHOTO: AP

Palestinians carry boxes containing food and humanitarian aid packages delivered by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a U.S.-backed organization approved by Israel, in Rafah.

In a separate development, Israel carried out airstrikes Wednesday on the international airport in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, destroying the last plane belonging to the country's flagship carrier. The strikes came after Iran-backed Houthi rebels fired several missiles at Israel in recent days, without causing casualties.

The Israeli military said it destroyed aircraft used by the rebels. It was not immediately clear if anyone was killed or wounded in the strikes.

The distribution hub outside Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah was opened the day before by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which has been slated by Israel to take over aid operations.

The U.N. and other humanitarian organizations have rejected the new system, saying it won't be able to meet the needs of Gaza's 2.3 million people and allows Israel to use food as a weapon to control the population. They have also warned of the risk of friction between Israeli troops and people seeking supplies.

Palestinians have become desperate for food after nearly three months of Israeli border closures pushed Gaza to the brink of famine.

Israel says it helped establish the new aid mechanism to prevent Hamas from siphoning off supplies, but it has provided no evidence of systematic diversion and U.N. agencies say they have mechanisms in place to prevent it.

GHF says it has established four hubs, two of which have begun operating. They are guarded by private security contractors and have chain-link fences channeling Palestinians into a what resemble military bases surrounded by large sand berms.

Israeli forces are stationed nearby in what Israel refers to as the Morag corridor, a military zone separating the southern city of Rafah — which is now mostly uninhabited — from the rest of the territory.

The U.N. and other humanitarian groups have refused to participate in GHF's system, saying it violates humanitarian principles. They say it can be used by Israel to forcibly displace the population by requiring them to move near the few distribution hubs or else face starvation, a violation of international law.

MINISTER RANA LEAVES FOR HONG KONG

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba left for Hong Kong on Wednesday to participate as observer in the signing ceremony for the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), she is visiting Hong Kong at the invitation of Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.

The signing ceremony is scheduled to be held there on May 30.

FM Dr. Rana is leading a delegation comprising senior officials from the MoFA and Consulate General of Nepal in Hong Kong.

She will return to Kathmandu on May 31.

Nepal, New Zealand...

According to a statement issued by Ishwari Prasad Pandey, Deputy Spokesperson of the Office of the President, bilateral relations between Nepal and New Zealand and issues of mutual interest were discussed at the meeting.

President Paudel said that such high-level visits will further strengthen the historical friendship between the two nations and bilateral cooperation.

He also expressed his confidence that people-to-people relations between the two countries would be solidified through Himalayan Trust, educational exchanges and cooperation at various international platforms.

Likewise, DPM Peters also called on Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli at the latter's residence in Baluwatar.

According to PM Oli's Secretariat, the two leaders discussed the potential for collaboration in the fields of agriculture, tourism, education, trade, and investment.

Prime Minister Oli informed that the current government, under the national aspiration of a Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali, has prioritised stability, development, good governance, social justice, and social transformation.

Deputy Prime Minister Peters praised Nepal's efforts towards development and prosperity, emphasising the need for collaboration on common interests of small nations in the international forums.



PHOTO: RSS

The farming of the elephant foot yam, also known as oal in Terai region, at Hathidanda of Barahathawa Municipality in Sarlahi district. It is considered good for health and used to make various dishes like curry and pickles.

Govt to develop small urban centres in each local body

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development, Prakash Man Singh, has announced a nationwide plan to develop at least one small urban centre in every local body as part of Nepal's rural urbanisation initiative.

"Our goal is to eliminate inequality between villages and cities and create a modern, well-managed urban system," said DPM Singh while speaking in the National Assembly on Wednesday.

Each local urban hub will include essential facilities such as a marketplace, health centre, and community building. Singh outlined broader plans, including creating 10 new cities in the mid-hills under the 'land pooling' model, aiming to house over 100,000 people.

He also highlighted the Smart City Project, which focuses on integrating digital technology, green energy, and sustainable transport in 10 major cities including Kathmandu and Pokhara. "Smart City Indicators 2025 have been approved to guide development," he said.

Efforts are underway to protect heritage sites and upgrade infrastructure in older cities like Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. Public transport and green spaces are being prioritised to address congestion and pollution, he added.

Singh affirmed that 54 cities will be developed or modernised across all provinces, with special strategies for eco-friendly development in the Himalayan region.

Similarly, Minister for Land Management, Balaram Adhikari, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the constitutional right to housing for all citizens. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said efforts are underway to resolve land issues, including ending dual ownership by mid-June 2026 and addressing the problems of landless people, Dalits, squatters, and Guthi victims.

"The law must be amended to remove legal barriers, especially in the areas settled before 1964," he said. He also confirmed that regulations on Birta land and a new Guthi Bill are being prepared to protect farmers' rights.

Meanwhile, Lawmakers have called for a development-oriented budget that addresses citizens' aspirations and strengthens Nepal's federal democratic republic. Speaking in a special National Assembly session, they urged for effective lawmaking, service delivery, and inclusive governance.

'Shun pollution to pay respect to mountains'

SAGARMATHA DAY TODAY

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

Glaciers in the Sagarmatha (Everest) region are melting at an alarming rate, so climbers are calling for greater concern about plastic pollution in the area and more respect for this vital water tower.

Purnima Shrestha, Nepali mountaineer and photojournalist, who recently returned from Sagarmatha, said the Khumbu glaciers are flowing like rivers, a clear sign of rapid melting and impact of climate change. She expressed concern that people are more focused on competing to reach the summit than on respecting the mountain.

"Summiteers should understand the value of Sagarmatha and be committed to protecting its environment before attempting to scale the peak. It is not about ego or competition. Climbers must be aware of the mountain's environmental significance," she said.

Shrestha, who has scaled Sagarmatha five times, also highlighted the devastating impact of glacier melting on Gorakshep, the last village below the base camp. "The houses built in 2017 are now cracked, some are sinking, and the villagers are facing a severe water crisis," she said. Shrestha expressed concern that if the glaciers continue melting at the current rate, the village might not last long.

Another mountaineer, Ikramul Hasan Shakil from Bangladesh, said that he has seen plastic pollution in the region which is alarming for temperature rise. Shakil, working as an environmental advocate in Bangladesh, has completed his Sea-to-Summit expedition, walking over 1,400 kilometres from Inani Beach, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to the summit of Sagarmatha.

He said he summited Sagarmatha to raise awareness about plastic pollution, sustainable living, and climate change.

Over the 84-day trek, Shakil swam across the Jamuna River, walked through Dhaka, engaged with communities in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, and collected plastic waste along the way.

BAGMATI CM STRESSES JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Hetauda, May 28

Bagmati Province Chief Minister Bahadur Singh Lama Tamang has reiterated the provincial government's firm commitment to democracy. Speaking at a two-day provincial gathering of the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) in Hetauda on Tuesday, CM Lama stressed that journalism must be rooted in public trust and integrity.

"We firmly believe in democracy. Citizens deserve accurate, factual, and balanced information," said Lama. Cautioning against legal misinterpretations, he noted that inadequate understanding can lead to distorted laws. He admitted shortcomings in investment in production-oriented sectors and acknowledged limited progress in some government initiatives.

Province Minister for Internal Affairs and Law, Suraj Chandra Lamichhane, highlighted the need for journalists to understand the province's challenges. He criticised the federal government for obstructing the implementation of provincial laws.

"Even the police fall outside provincial jurisdiction. Most of our ministries operate from rented buildings. The lack of authority is our biggest hurdle," he said.

Monsoon preparedness and response action plan endorsed

Removal of Chobhar obstruction ordered

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

The government has officially endorsed the National Monsoon Preparedness and Response Action Plan for 2025.

The decision was made in the 32nd meeting of the Executive Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Singha Durbar on Wednesday. The meeting was chaired by Minister for Home Affairs and Committee Chairperson Ramesh Lekhak.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), the plan outlines comprehensive strategies, including monsoon forecasting, projections of potential disaster-affected populations, clearly defining roles and responsibilities for relevant ministries, departments, and agencies in disaster response.

This year, the Authority estimates that approximately 1,997,731 individuals from 457,145 households could be affected by monsoon-related disasters across the country.

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology has already projected above-average rainfall in most regions during the upcoming monsoon. The department has predicted above-average rainfall in the upcoming monsoon.

The meeting also addressed critical flood risks, particularly referencing last year's heavy rainfall from October 10 to 13, which caused the Bagmati River to swell, resulting in widespread inundation in areas including Nakkhu, Kuleshwor, Thapathali, and Balkhu within the Kathmandu Valley.

Development demands...

Speaking at the programme, Minister for Health and Population, Pradip Paudel said that health services cannot be provided solely by the government and that the upcoming fiscal policy includes provisions for granting subsides to hospitals offering services at the community level.

He said that the government aims to develop trauma centres in all seven provinces and has been progressing accordingly.

While acknowledging improvements in the health sector, he admitted that full progress has not been achieved yet.

Minister Paudel said that the government will adopt a one-door insurance system to streamline health services and ensure all citizens receive care through insurance.

By linking everyone with insurance and developing a centralized system, the government aims to fulfill the public's health service expectations.

Executive Director of Dhulikhel Hospital, Prof. Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju, said the hospital, which began with just 25 beds, has now reached the stage of developing a trauma centre.

He also asked those who doubt progress in Nepal to visit Dhulikhel and witness what can be achieved.

He added that the trauma and emergency centre will be completed on schedule and will provide quality health services.

Likewise, Mizuki Masuzaki, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), said that the construction of the Dhulikhel Trauma and Emergency Centre is a significant project.

Highlighting JICA's extensive continuation in Nepal across education, health and infrastructure, he said JICA will provide the necessary equipment for the trauma building.

The Dhulikhel Trauma and Emergency Centre is being constructed to provide timely treatment for serious injuries and emergency health cases among people in the region covered by the Arniko and BP Highways.

The concept for the centre was first presented by Dhulikhel Hospital to JICA in 2014.

Following field visits and meetings over different phases, a bilateral agreement between the government of Nepal and Japan was signed in October 2023 and April 2025 to build a 100-bed centre.

In April, 2025, a formal contract was signed between the Japanese Company Toda Corporation and Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population and JICA representatives for the construction of the trauma centre.

The Japanese government is providing support amounting to 3.879 billion Japanese Yen for the project.

According to Prof. Dr. Deepak Shrestha, the construction would be completed and handed over by June 2027. In addition to the trauma building, the contractor will provide modern medical equipment including a CT Scan, MRI machines, surgical theatres, ventilators, X-ray machines and beds.

The trauma centre is expected to benefit the people of Kavrepalanchok, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Sindhuli and Bhaktapur, as well as those from Tarai districts connected via BP Highway.

The centre will offer clinical services, pre-hospital care, trauma specialists, nurses, paramedics, trauma care leaders and will also run prevention and awareness programmes.

Bright street...

According to him, adopting some practical measures is essential for bird conservation. Using low-intensity or yellow-tinted lights is necessary, as this helps minimize the impact on the life cycle of birds.

Similarly, he highlighted the need to promote traditional house construction and implement programmes to create artificial nests for birds. He said, "Nowadays, concrete houses lack spaces for birds to build nests, so a campaign to create artificial nests must be initiated."

Likewise, Mandal, Chairman of Mithila Wildlife Trust, stated that prompting organic farming can help secure food sources for birds. He added that the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has led to an increase in bird mortality, so organic farming should be encouraged. Additionally, he highlighted the need for strict legal measures to prevent bird hunting.

Republic Day...

In his message, he respectfully remembered the great martyrs who sacrificed their invaluable lives during past democratic movements, struggles and the Madhes uprising for the establishment of a federal democratic republican system.

The message read that the Republic Day is an opportunity to reflect on democratic values. It must be observed as a day to reinforce civil rights, equality and the rule of law, while honouring the struggles and contributions of ordinary citizens.

The Vice President stated that political parties are the foundation of Nepal's democracy, playing key roles in constitution drafting and policy-making. He emphasised that parties must strengthen democracy, prioritise public service, and rise above partisan interests to address national challenges effectively. He said, "We must urgently build public trust, ensure stability and advance economic and social progress. Failure in good governance and accountability could weaken democracy. Rising public frustration must be addressed through democratic means. Republic Day is a key moment to reaffirm our commitment to the Constitution and a stronger democracy."

Likewise, Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba in his message said that a progressive, civil, and prosperous Nepal could be built only through the protection of the Constitution and the institutional development of a federal democratic republican system.

"Safeguarding this historic achievement, earned through the sacrifices of the Nepali people, is a shared responsibility of us all. I believe that this Republic Day will inspire us to move forward on the path of inclusive democracy, social justice, equality, and prosperity," Deuba said in his message.

Home Minister pledges...

Minister Lekhak described such allegations as baseless and politically motivated. "This is a misrepresentation, and I strongly assert that I have no involvement in this matter. I urge everyone to view this as politically motivated."

He further revealed that despite his attempts to clarify his position in Parliament, obstruction from opposition parties prevented him from doing so.

"I had requested the Speaker to allow me to speak during the parliamentary session," he said. "Even in yesterday's meeting of the House of Representatives, I was unable to present my views. Today, too, I sought time to address the issue, but was not granted the opportunity. Therefore, we are here before the media to inform the people of Nepal directly about our position."

Minister Lekhak has also argued that it is not appropriate for a minister to be held accountable when questions are raised about government employees.

Responding to the questions raised against him during a press conference on Wednesday, he expressed doubts over whether governance could proceed properly if such practices were followed. Lekhak questioned, "If, during an investigation into a civil servant, the leadership of the concerned ministry is held accountable, can the system of governance function properly?"

Notice for Intent to award the contract

(Date of Publication : 29 May, 2025)

Pursuant to sub clause 27.2 and 27.3 of Public Procurement Act 2063, this is to notify all concerned bidders that it is our intention to award the contract to the following bidder for the Tender Notice No. KSCL/D/ICB-181/081/082 for Supply and Delivery of 30,000 ±2% MT of DAP Fertilizer as per the Invitation for Bids published on 29 April, 2025 in **'The Rising Nepal' & www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp** as it is found substantially responsive and lowest evaluated bidder.

Tender Notice No.	Name of the successful bidder	Bidder rate in USD	Total Amount
KSCL/D/ICB-181/081/082	M/S Aditya Birla Global Trading (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Singapore	CIP Birgunj - CIP Biratnagar - CIP Bhairahawa- 859.90	USD 25,797,000.00

KRISHI SAMAGRI COMPANY LTD.
Procurement Department, Head Office
Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel : (+9771) 5374819, E-mail: aicl.nepal@gmail.com

National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Date of Publication: 2082/02/15 (29/05/2025)

1. NTNC invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** for the shortlisting of eligible, qualified, and experienced firms/companies/organizations to submit proposals for providing consulting services for the Green Climate Fund-funded project ***"Biological Baseline Survey in Sudur-Paschim Province for Indian Pangolin"***.
2. A complete set of EOI documents in English can be collected from the E-GP system bolpatra.gov.np.
3. The detailed notice can be downloaded from the E-GP system bolpatra.gov.np.
4. Shortlisting will be conducted based on the criteria outlined in the EOI documents. All applicants will be notified via the System. Only the shortlisted firm(s) will be invited to submit a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the specified assignment at a later stage. Each firm is permitted to submit only one EOI, either individually or as part of a joint venture. If two or more firms/ companies/ organization are to provide services as a group, organization, or joint venture, the name, address, and profile of each firm/ company/ organization, as well as the lead firm/company/organization's details, must be provided.
5. NTNC reserves the right to shortlist or reject any or all firm(s) without providing any reason. Further information or clarifications regarding the EOI can be obtained from the address below during office hours.

Attention: Sr. Administrative Officer
National Trust for Nature Conservation
Khumaltar, Lalitpur, P. O. Box: 3712, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel. No.: 977-1-5253571, 5253573
Email: info@ntnc.org.np

French artists to perform at Annapurna base camp



PHOTO: TRN

Mt. Annapurna

A total of 14 individuals including Herzog's son, Matthieu Emmanuel Maximilien, grandson Simon Jacques, French mountaineering researchers, and the musical team will participate in the programme.

BY THAKUR PRASAD ACHARYA
Myagdi, May 28

French artists are set to perform a musical tribute at the Annapurna base camp in honour of Maurice Herzog, the first climber to summit the mountain.

The performance is part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration marking the 75th anniversary of the first ascent of Annapurna I.

On June 3, 1950 humans set foot on Annapurna I (8,091 meters) for the first time. For this reason, Annapurna is also referred to as the eldest mountain.

A French musical group will perform at the base camp to honor Maurice Herzog, who led the French expedition alongside Louis Lachenal and two Nepali Sherpas.

The team, led by Herzog's son Mathieu Herzog, has already arrived in Nepal and will trek to the base camp for their performance.

According to Bharat Kumar Pun, Chairperson of Annapurna Rural Municipality, the musical event will be held on June 2 and 3 at the base camp, Narchyang, Ghorepani Poon Hill.

He said that the proposed performances by French artists in memory of the first summiteer of Annapurna have brought great excitement to the community. These international performances are expected to boost global promotion of Annapurna.

Distinguished guests, including the French Ambassador to Nepal, are also expected to attend the musical event.

A total of 14 individuals including Herzog's son, Matthieu Emmanuel Maximilien, grandson Simon Jacques, French mountaineering researchers, and the musical team will participate in the programme.

The Diamond Jubilee festival is being organised from May 31 to June 3 under the leadership of the rural municipality, in coordination with the Nepal Tourism Board, Mountaineering Association, ACAP, and local tourism management committees.

According to Indra Singh Sherchan, a member of the tourism committee, locals are actively preparing for the celebration.

Chairperson Pun added that this is the first official government event at the base camp of Annapurna I, and it has uplifted the entire Myagdi community.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli will unveil half-body statues of Maurice Herzog, Louis Lachenal, and the first Nepali summiteer Sonam Wangchuk Sherpa at the base camp and inaugurate an open museum on June 3.

After the base camp ceremony, the Prime Minister will attend the main Diamond Jubilee programme in Beni, Narchyang, organised by the celebration committee.

To reach the base camp from the center of Annapurna Rural Municipality in Pokharebagar, one must first travel 22 kilometers by vehicle to Homsikhola, followed by a 21-kilometer trek.

The route used by Herzog during the original ascent has been named the 'Maurice Herzog Trail' by the rural municipality in his honour, and infrastructure development has been carried out along the trail. Prime Minister Oli is also scheduled to inaugurate this trail.

Release of Mahabhoj postponed



BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28

Producers of Mahabhoj have postponed the release citing the country's current adverse situation. The film was scheduled to be released nationwide on Thursday.

In light of the ongoing protests and worsening conditions across the country, producer Himal KC issued a press statement on Wednesday announcing the postponement of the film's release.

The statement reads, "Considering the recent protests spreading throughout the country and the increasingly difficult circumstances affecting daily life, we would like to inform you that the release of the film Mahabhoj has been postponed in Nepal as well as abroad."

He also added that a new release date will be announced as soon as the situation normalises.

The film unit held a special preview screening on Tuesday evening in Kathmandu. The event was attended by journalists, members of the film unit, and 60 representatives selected from among victims of cooperative fraud from across the country.

During the screening, the atmosphere inside the theatre was deeply emotional. Victims of cooperative scams shared that the film reflected the harsh realities of their own lives.

Directed by Dinesh Raut and produced by Himal Kadariya, the film is written by Bikash Subedi.

Meanwhile, major multiplexes and single-screen theatres across the country had already opened advance bookings for Mahabhoj. According to distributors, the film was scheduled to be screened in about 200 shows nationwide.

Lead cast includes Dayahang Rai, Aryan Sigdel, Khagendra Lamichhane, Anjana Baraili, Malika Mahat, Gaumaya Gurung, Basundhara Bhusal, and Mohan Niraula.

Mahabhoj addresses the serious social issue of cooperative fraud.

A joint presentation by Clock Work Creation and Picture Frame, the film was also set for a simultaneous release in several countries alongside its release in Nepal.

Jiba Lamichhane presented Uttam Shanti Puraskar

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, May 28



Writer Jiba Lamichhane was recently awarded the 'Uttam Shanti Puraskar-2081' for his travel memoir Akshat Antarctica in Kathmandu.

The book chronicles Lamichhane's journey to Antarctica, based on his 12-day expedition through the frozen continent last year.

He received the award which includes a cash prize of Rs. 100,000 from the Uttam Kunwar Memorial Award Trust.

The award was presented by the trust's chairperson, Dr. Parthibeshwar Prasad Timilsina, along with Dr. Vasudev Tripathi and other dignitaries.

Dr. Timilsina said that the award was given in recognition of the book's innovative perspective, engaging narration, and fresh literary style.

He added that the memoir vividly captures the challenging and remote Antarctic landscape while raising important environmental issues.

He also added that the award continues to be supported by the family of the late writer Uttam Kunwar.

Since 2044 BS, the trust has annually been awarding Rs. 100,000 to an outstanding nonfiction work, including essays, memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies published within the year.

Upon receiving the award, Lamichhane said that the honour gave him renewed energy as a writer.

The Uttam Shanti Puraskar was established by Shanti Kunwar, the wife of essayist and editor Uttam Kunwar, who won the Madan Puraskar in 2023 BS for his interview collection Srashta Ra Sahitya. Kunwar passed away in 2039 BS at the age of 43.

Josh Allen shows no signs of jitters with wedding to Hailee coming up fast

AP
New York, May 28

If Josh Allen is experiencing any pre-wedding jitters, they weren't evident when the Buffalo Bills opened voluntary practices on Tuesday.

The quarterback, who is engaged to actor and singer Hailee Steinfeld, looked his usual, outgoing self. He danced in the huddle to the music being played over the loudspeakers, barked out plays behind centre and joined the celebration in the end zone after completing a perfectly placed pass to Curtis Samuel.

Allen even had time to chat with new Bills minority owner and former NBA star Vince Carter on the side-line before jogging off the field without speaking to reporters following the session.

Though the date and location of the wedding have not been disclosed, Bills tackle Dion Dawkins revealed it was May 31 during an interview on the NFL Network in March. Dawkins has since told The Rich Eisen Show, "I ain't know anything about that."



The wedding is scheduled to take place over one of the next two weekends, a person familiar with the details told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the date is private.

Coach Sean McDermott acknowledged how important the NFL MVP's presence was at practice in light of his busy offseason schedule.

"I think it says everything, right? He is the face of our organization. He's the leader of our team," McDermott said. "Like any leader, in particular the leader of the team, those words that he says and his actions are exponentially impactful, to the whole roster, the whole team."

As for Allen showing any pre-wedding nerves, McDermott laughed at the attempt to have him disclose the wedding date.

"Good try on that," he said, before adding: "But he is as confident and as calm, cool and collected as he always is."

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ARIES: Deeply noticing what's around you in your home environment can be exceptionally rewarding. The items you take for granted on a daily basis probably make your life easier and more comfortable.

CANCER: Your sensitivity could be in demand at the moment. With the delicate Moon in your sign, perhaps everyone seems to be on your wavelength for once. Will you nurture them in the way they appear to crave.

LIBRA: Today can be spent making steady progress toward an ongoing or upcoming goal of yours. While the subtle Moon slides through your ambitious 10th house, you may not check off a massive milestone.

CAPRICORN: Finding out how a companion sees you could currently be informative. As the perceptive Moon moves through your 7th House of Partnerships, you're likely to be confronted with a reminder that it's not all about you.

TAURUS: Letting a conversation run longer than expected could be worth your time today. As the caring Moon inhabits your 3rd House of Communication, you might just look like someone who's able to offer sympathy to others in need.

LEO: Getting away from it all could be restorative at this moment. With the melancholy Moon in your 12th House of Contemplation, you may need some time to think through a complicated personal issue.

SCORPIO: Reading up on an interest of yours can keep you engaged today. As the inquisitive Moon passes through your intellectual 9th house, you're in a good space to let yourself sink into a quest for information.

AQUARIUS: Keeping busy may soothe you at this time. With the nurturing Moon transiting your responsible 6th house, you're likely to derive emotional satisfaction from checking tasks off your to-do list.

GEMINI : Defining what's enough to make you feel secure could be an important task. With the nervous Moon passing through your 2nd House of Resources, you might have time on your hands to worry about where you currently stand.

VIRGO: Maintaining your social bonds is a great way to ground yourself. While the impressionable Moon transits your 11th House of Community, getting out and spending time with others may be just the thing to shake you out of a negative mood.

SAGITTARIUS: Emotional intensity could seem to find you no matter what. While the turbulent Moon passes through your 8th House of Intimacy, others may come to you with heavy concerns.

PISCES: Taking time for play today can refresh your spirit. With the impulsive Moon in your 5th House of Pleasure, trust your instincts to lead you toward joyful activities that ease stress and bring happiness.

CARTOON

gocomics.com





Paolini through, Alcaraz battles into third round

AFP
Paris, May 28

Jasmine Paolini moved into the French Open third round on Wednesday as defending champion Carlos Alcaraz was made to work hard in his second round clash at the French Open.

Paolini, last year's runner-up, brushed aside Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3, 6-3 to stretch her winning streak to eight matches following her triumph at the Italian Open earlier this month.

"A little bit of ups and downs but I'm happy I won," said the fourth-seeded Paolini, who next plays Russia's Anastasia Potapova or Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva.

Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen punched her ticket to the last 32 with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Colombia's Emiliana Arango.

The Chinese star faces another Grand Slam debutant in the next round, 18-year-old Victoria Mboko of Canada.

Defending champion Alcaraz was up for it as he dropped a set but won 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 against Fabian Marozsan at Court Philippe chatrier on Wednesday.

Alcaraz had struck 31 winners to beat qualifier Giulio Zeppieri 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in the opening round.

Spaniard Alcaraz had gone down to Marozsan at the ATP Masters 1000 event in Rome two years ago and the Hungarian's deft drop shot against created trouble under the roof.

But eventually Alcaraz's greater quality shone through.

"It was a great, great match. I played well in the first set. I had really high confidence," Alcaraz said.

"In the second set he started to play much better, really aggressively and didn't miss at all. It was a little bit difficult dealing with his game in the second set.

"But I was pleased to stay strong and refresh in the third set and I started to play better and better. I had a really good last two sets."

But two-time finalist Casper Ruud crashed to a surprise secind round defeat. Visibly struggling physically, Ruud went down 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 to Nuno Borges.

It was the first major upset of the tournament as the 28-year-old Borges became the first Portuguese man to reach third round at the clay-court major.

Finalist in 2022 and 2023, Ruud made a quicky start on Court Suzanne-Lenglen but received treatment on his left knee in he third set and could hardly move from then on.

It was Borges' maiden victory against a top-10 opponent and he faces Alexei Popyrin in the third round. 25th-seeded Australian Popyrin earlier defeated Alejandro Tabilo 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Lorenzo Musetti, who has reached at least the semi-finals in all three Masters 1000 events on clay in 2025, raced into the third round with a 6-4, 6-0, 6-4 win over Colombian lucky loser Daniel Elahi Galan.



PHOTO: AP

Italy's Jasmine Paolini hits a forehand against Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic during their second round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris, Wednesday.

Kohli primed to banish years of heartache in IPL playoffs

AFP
India, May 28

Virat Kohli can fulfil his dream of finally winning the Indian Premier League when the playoffs begin this week, desperate to banish the "heartbreak" of losing the final as captain nine years ago.

Kohli's Royal Challengers Bengaluru face table-toppers Punjab Kings on Thursday in Mullanpur after securing second place by chasing 228 to beat Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday.

The winners go straight into the final in Ahmedabad on June 3.

But even if Bengaluru lose that encounter, they will have another chance to reach the final against the winners of Friday's "eliminator" between Gujarat Titans and Mumbai Indians.

The 36-year-old Kohli recently retired from Tests having already walked away from T20 internationals after India's World Cup triumph last year.

But the hunger to lift the IPL trophy still burns bright for the two-time World Cup winner, who played a leading part in India's 50-over Champions Trophy victory earlier this year.

"I had two heartbreaks in my life in 2016," Kohli told Indian broadcaster JioStar.

"First was the World T20 and then the IPL final."

Affectionately known as "King Kohli", he has scored more runs than anyone in IPL history and is the only player to have spent all 18 seasons of the league with one team since its inception in 2008.

He has been on the losing side in the final three times, in 2009, 2011 and 2016, but fans believe that it is an omen that Kohli wears number 18 on his shirt -- and that it will be 18th time lucky this year.



He has been in vintage form as he pursues his goal: his 54 on Tuesday that set up victory against Lucknow was his eighth half-century of a season in which he has made 602 runs at an average of 60.20.

Hazlewood return

A delay to the season caused by the conflict with Pakistan means some overseas players will be missing from the playoffs including Gujarat's Jos Buttler, who has international commitments with England.

But Australia pace bowler Josh Hazlewood returned to the Bengaluru squad on Sunday and is expected to play on Thursday, having left when the IPL was suspended on May 9.

There had been doubts over his return because of a shoulder niggle and the playoffs clashing with preparations for Australia's World Test Championship final against South Africa at Lord's on June 11.

Punjab will be without left-arm quick bowler Marco Jansen, who has left to join South Africa's training camp ahead of the Test showpiece.

"Every team's missing players," Punjab head coach Ricky Ponting said.

"We'd like to think we've got good depth, and be able to cover for Marco, despite it being a big miss."

Five-time champions Mumbai, led by Hardik Pandya, seem to have been the worst hit by the extended schedule overlapping with the international calendar.

They have lost England's Will Jacks and the South African duo of Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch for their eliminator against Gujarat.

The Titans, IPL champions on their debut in 2022, have a formidable batting line-up even without Buttler.

Skipper Shubman Gill, who has taken over from the retired Rohit Sharma as Test captain, and fellow opener Sai Sudharsan are the top two on this season's batting charts, with 679 and 649 runs respectively.

Gill will take charge of India for the first time when they embark on a five-Test tour of England, starting at Headingley, Leeds, on June 20.

SUMO HAS NEW CHAMPION



AP
Tokyo, May 28

Japan has a new sumo grand champion — or yokozuna — and the big news is he's Japanese.

Onosato, the new grand champion, weighs 191 kilograms (421 pounds) and he is the first Japanese competitor to reach the top rank since 2017. By comparison, the average weight of an NFL lineman is about 140 kilos, or just over 300 pounds.

The sport has recently been dominated by Mongolians and prior to Onosato, six of the previous seven yokozunas have been from Mongolia.

"I'll devote myself to training so that I will not disgrace the title of yokozuna," Onosato said Wednesday, dressed in a formal kimono and bowing as he sat on the floor. "I will aim to become a one-and-only yokozuna."

Onosato, whose real name is Daiki Nakamura, is only 24 and was promoted Wednesday to sumo's top rank by the Japan Sumo Association. Onosato was promoted by winning last week's Summer Grand Sumo Tournament, which came after he won another prestigious tournament in March.

Onosato is from Ishikawa prefecture, which was hit on Jan. 1, 2024, by a devastating earthquake that killed about 600 people in the prefecture and caused widespread damage.

He said he hoped his success would bring joy to people in the area who are still recovering.

"I determined that yokozuna should be my goal once I entered the world of sumo," he said. "It's not easy to achieve and I'm really delighted."

Sumo is regarded as Japan's national sport, or most sacred sport, and many of the ritual elements are connected to Shinto, Japan's indigenous religion.

Sumo's origins date back more than 1,000 years, and Japan is the only country where it is contested on a professional level.

The sport is highly regimented with many wrestlers living in communal training facilities where food and dress are controlled by ancient traditions.

Onosato's promotion will set up an instant rivalry with Mongolia-born Hoshoryu, who is the other wrestler in Japan to hold the yokozuna title.

The Japanese news agency Kyodo said the two sumo stars are due to meet in a tournament in July in the central city of Nagoya.

Teenage Barca star Yamal signs new contract to 2031

AFP
Barcelona, May 28

Barcelona's teenage star Lamine Yamal signed a new contract until 2031 with the Catalan giants on Tuesday after a spectacular season.

The 17-year-old winger is already one of the club's key players and helped them land a domestic treble of La Liga, the Copa del Rey and the Spanish Super Cup.

"Barcelona and Lamine Yamal have reached a deal to extend his contract to June 30, 2031," said the Catalan club in a statement.

"Lamine Yamal's renewal is a demonstration of the solidity of Barca's project. His emergence on to the world football scene is like few others, and it began with his debut on April 29, 2023, still at the age of 15."

Spanish media reported the new deal makes him one of Barcelona's best paid players.

After triumphing at Euro 2024 with Spain last summer, Yamal scored 18 goals and provided 25 assists in 55 matches across all competitions during a sensational campaign.



Operating on the right flank and a prodigious dribbler, Yamal's skill and speed contributed greatly to Barca netting 102 league goals this season as they reclaimed the crown from rivals Real Madrid.

Yamal, who came through the club's feted La Masia youth academy and is often compared to all-time Barcelona great Lionel Messi, made his debut in 2023 under Xavi Hernandez at just 15.

By the end of the 2023-24 campaign he had emerged as the team's main attacking weapon, the bright spot in a poor campaign where Barca finished empty-handed.

Following his exploits at the Euros, Yamal fitted Flick's attacking style to perfection and adding more consistency, showed he has become one of the world's best players.

Yamal put in two brilliant Champions League semi-final performances against Inter Milan but his team were edged 7-6 on aggregate and must wait to end their European drought.

"I will keep my promise and I will bring (the Champions League trophy) to Barcelona, we will not stop until we get it," pledged Yamal after the game.

Despite his youth the winger has already played over 100 times for Barcelona.

Yamal, who turns 18 in July, follows team-mate Raphinha and coach Flick in signing contact extensions in the last few days.

Spanish media report his contract includes various bonuses for different achievements, including winning the Ballon d'Or, as well as a significant pay rise.

ARMY, KOSHI WIN

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Machhapuchre (Kaski), May 28

Tribhuvan Army Club and Koshi Province secured victories in their final league matches of the 9th PM Cup NVA Volleyball League, held in Pokhara on Wednesday.

In the men's category, Army defeated Sudurpaschim Province with a comfortable score of 25-22, 25-22, and 25-18, marking their fifth win. With this victory, Army accumulated 14 points and is set to compete against Police for third place.

Sudurpaschim finished at the bottom of the league, ending their tournament run in disappointment. Similarly, Koshi Province concluded their campaign with a second victory, defeating Manimukunda in straight sets of 25-22, 25-23, and 25-15. Both Manimukunda and Koshi finished with 7 points each.

Gandaki Province and Help Nepal will clash in the men's final.

In the women's category, Everest Volleyball Club defeated Nepal APF Club 3-0. APF and Everest will compete for third place tomorrow, while Nepal Police Club and New Diamond will face off in the final.

Defending champion Police beat New Diamond 25-19, 25-18, and 25-21, remaining undefeated in the league stage. Police have 14 points, while New Diamond earned 12 points in the standings

SNIPPETS

Sagarmatha climbers play friendly football

Kathmandu (TRN): To mark the 70th anniversary of Nepal-China diplomatic relations and International Sagarmatha Day 2082, a friendly football match was held between Sagarmatha climbers from Nepal and China. Organized by the Alpine Sports Federation Nepal with technical support from ANFA, the match took place at the ANFA Complex in Lalitpur on Wednesday. Nepal's Sagarmatha Friendship Team won against China's Mount Chomolungma Football Team with a 4–1 score. The event was attended by Chinese Ambassador Chen Song, NSC Secretary-General Tankalal Ghising, ANFA President Pankaj Bikram Nemwang, and Alpine Sports Federation Vice President Romanath Gyawali.

Suarez, Messi team up to launch a soccer club

Montevideo (AP): Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi have been partners on the pitch for several years. Now they're teaming up off it as businessmen. Suarez announced on Tuesday he has founded a professional soccer team in his native Uruguay, and he is bringing his Inter Miami teammate along on the project. Suarez, the all-time scoring leader of Uruguay's national team, explained in a video posted on his social media accounts that the team formerly known as Deportivo LS will now be called LSM and will start playing professional soccer in the Uruguay's fourth division. "Deportivo LS is a family dream that began in 2018. We have grown a lot with more than 3,000 members," Suarez said. "I'm proud and happy that you chose me, so I hope to contribute everything I can to continue growing and, above all, to be by your side in this," said Messi, who was sitting alongside Suarez in the video.

Make or break for ageing Inter in Champions League final

AFP
Milan, May 28

Inter Milan might not be favourites for the Champions League final but their thrilling run to Saturday's showdown with Paris Saint-Germain has shown the ageing Italian outfit can mix it with the best.

Simone Inzaghi's team head to Munich with a legitimate shot at going one better than in Istanbul two years ago, when a very similar line-up was narrowly beaten by Manchester City.

Inzaghi felt the 2023 final was a missed opportunity after matching mega-rich City, whose budget dwarves that of Inter, a member of Europe's old guard battling to keep up with the continent's superclubs.

Qatari-owned PSG offer the opportunity for Inter to exorcise the ghost of Istanbul while also ending an enthralling season with the most prestigious piece of silverware in club football after missing out on domestic honours.

"The club and above all the players all know that we're missing that final step to make history," Inzaghi told reporters.

"Obviously already having played the final helps you, but we also know that on the other side there are players who have won the World Cup and have played in other finals, as well as a coach who has already won the Champions League."



PHOTO: AP

Inter Milan exercise during a training session of the Champions League Media Day in view of the Saturday's Champions League final against PSG, at the Inter Milan training center, in Appiano Gentile, Italy.

Inter have already come through thrilling ties against Bayern Munich and Barcelona, two of the pre-season favourites to win the Champions League.

And their incredible semi-final with Barca showed they can go toe-to-toe with a high-pressing, youthful side despite having a squad stacked with players rapidly heading towards the end of their careers.

The average age of Inter's preferred starting XI is just over 30, while key players like goalkeeper Yann Sommer, two-time cancer survivor Francesco Acerbi and midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan are respectively 36, 37 and 36 years old.

Meanwhile the oldest player in the PSG squad now is Marquinhos, at 31 a relative youngster compared to fellow central defender Acerbi.

Old heads, tired legs

A draining season in which Inter battled for the Serie A title right down to the final day has had a clear impact on an old team, with the Barca tie the clear highlight of a tricky final few weeks of the campaign.

Inter looked capable of winning the treble after eliminating Bayern in the quarter-finals last month, with a handy three-point lead over Scudetto rivals Napoli and an Italian Cup semi-final against ailing AC Milan.

But the wind was whipped from their sails by three straight defeats in the space of a week which gave Napoli the initiative in Serie A and ended their domestic cup run, leaving the Champions League their only remaining option for a trophy.

"There was a lot of suffering among the players, it would be pointless to deny it," said Inzaghi of losing the Serie A title.

"The boys have been brilliant this season because we've played 59 matches and we've given everything on the pitch. We didn't prioritise anything, we just tried to give everything that we had."

Inzaghi has taken Inter to new heights since losing the 2023 final, even after a series of big-name departures and an enforced takeover of the club by US investment firm Oaktree this time last year after previous owners Suning defaulted on a debt of around 395 million euros ($449 million).

Unlike PSG, who can splash over 70 million euros to bring in Serie A's most exciting player in Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Inter have had to scrape the bargain bucket to stay competitive.

Sommer, who arrived for less than seven million euros in 2023 is one of just three players -- alongside Frenchmen Marcus Thuram and Benjamin Pavard -- in Inter's first-choice line-up for Saturday not to be at the club two years ago.

"We've shown courage in every match of our Champions League campaign, and that's why we're in the final," said Sommer on Monday.

"We have a lot of players who played in the final two years ago and that experience is important for us as a team."

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THE RISING NEPAL

On Republican Path

Republic Day- 2025 Special

Thursday, May 29, 2025

risingnepaldaily.com

Constitutionalism And Democracy In Nepal



Dr. Narad Bharadwaj



Constitutionalism and democracy are complementary concepts. Democracy has been defined as a form of government where the people's elected representatives rule, while constitutionalism underscores that governments must rule within the constitutional framework. For a country to have a vibrant democracy, it must have a constitution. Almost all world countries, except Britain, have a written constitution. The British constitution is based on conventions, court judgements, precedence, and international laws. A constitution is an indispensable instrument for the legitimacy of a government, but it does not mean that a constitution presupposes the existence of democracy.

In the simplest form, a constitution is a set of legal codes that have evolved over centuries from primitive society to modern times. In primitive societies, simple rules such as equal access to food, protection, and obligation to specific social functions bound the community together. The voluntary subjection to these rules had separated them from the rest of the animals. This also constituted a leap for them toward a civilised life.

Over the millennia, these rules were perfected and homogenised as norms of social behaviour. As human society became organised and statehood emerged, more critical, time-tested, and contextual rules started to be codified. The first written legal code is considered to be the Code of Hammurabi (1754 BCE). It is so called because Hammurabi, a king of the Babylonian Dynasty, enacted it.

Despite being the first ever written code, the Code of Hammurabi was not a constitution. It was only a penal code dealing with criminal justice. For any legal code to become a constitution, it should define directive principles, specify the structure of the government, designate the location of power, safeguard the rights of the citizens, specify their duties, and, above all, it must have provisions to hold state functionaries accountable for their actions. The constitution is the supreme legal document of a country. It is promulgated either by the highest authority in the case of a unitary state or by an elected parliament in the case of a federal or republican democracy. Nepal's constitution has been prepared and promulgated by the constituent assembly.

From a historical perspective, the Constitution of Medina (622 CE) is considered the world's oldest written constitution. The Constitution of San Marino (1600) is the second oldest constitution, while the Constitution of the United States (1787) is considered the third oldest written constitution. Many countries of the world have a history of prolonged struggle for enshrining the rights of their people. Britain fought for 474 years, counting from the Magna Carta (1215) to the Glorious Revolution (1688) for parliamentary supremacy. The passage of the Bill of Rights in 1689 enshrined parliamentary sovereignty in the constitution once and for all.

In modern times, Nepal is recognised as a country that has fought for the longest time to have a constitution with widespread endorsement. The fight lasted for 65 years, from the 1950 revolution to 2015, when Nepal's Constituent Assembly proclaimed the constitution, which introduced the federal democratic republican system in the country. Generally speaking, a constitution is an instrument for achieving good governance, the rule of law, and social justice, which are necessary for ensuring stability in the country and the welfare of the people.

The Government of Nepal Act 1948, promulgated by Padma Shamsher, was the first constitution of Nepal. However, this constitution did not meet the people's expectations for a broad political change. As a result, a massive people's movement broke out two years later, overthrowing the Rana Oligarchy and introducing democracy in Nepal.

A cursory look at Nepal's political history reveals that the 1950 revolution was the first significant milestone in the struggle to end the country's dynastic rule. The revolution was also the first platform to articulate the demand for a constituent assembly. After the revolution of 1950, the newly formed communist parties raised the demand for the constituent assembly election. Late King Tribhuvan had promised to hold a constituent assembly election in his address, delivered in the nation's name. But his son Mahendra backed down from the promise when Tribhuvan died in 1955. Instead, the late King Mahendra held a parliamentary election in 1959. The Nepali Congress formed the government by winning the majority, but its 18-month-long rule ended in the coup by King Mahendra. The king promulgated the Constitution of Nepal in 1963, introducing a party-less Panchayat system. This step set the country on the path of confrontation, which lasted for 30 years till a mass people's movement overthrew the absolute monarchy in 1990.

In 1991, a first-ever international seminar was held in Nepal on constitutionalism with the representation of famous constitutional experts like P.N. Bhagwati from India, Dorab Patel from Pakistan, Father William Timm from Bangladesh, Basudev Dhungana and Daman Nath Dhungana from Nepal. The election for a constituent assembly was mooted, but eventually, there was consensus to hold a parliamentary election and to draft a constitution by a Constitution Drafting Recommendation Commission. As expected, the Constitution of 1991 was promulgated by the king, who accepted the status of constitutional monarchy but retained enough power and privileges for himself and his family.

Repeated failure in getting a constitution drafted by a constituent assembly and the compromising attitudes of the Nepali Congress and CPN (UML) toward monarchy allowed the Maoists to legitimise their armed revolt, which they launched in 1996, resulting in the death of 17000 people and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of others.

The 12-point agreement signed on 22 April 2005 and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 21 November 2006 ended the 10-year-long insurgency. The parliament comprising the existing members and the coopted representatives of the CPN (Maoist) abolished the monarchy and declared Nepal a federal democratic republican country in 2008. This parliament also decided to draft a constitution through a constituent assembly. It was a defining moment in the constitutional history of Nepal.

Nepal's struggle for constitutionalism came to a successful conclusion on 22 September 2015, when the Constitution of Nepal 2015 was promulgated. Unfortunately, our country faces political instability, lack of good governance, ubiquitous corruption, and failure to deliver welfare and service to the people even under the new constitution. The dissenting voices on the issues of identity, citizenship, minority representation, untouchability, and inclusion still resonate in society. The present coalition government has come to power with the declared goal to amend the constitution. It should live up to its promise by taking bold steps to introduce necessary amendments to broaden the acceptability and ownership of the constitution so that the 65-year-long struggle of the Nepali people for a popularly endorsed democratic constitution will not go in vain.

(Dr. Bharadwaj is a former ambassador and former chairperson of Gorkhapatra Corporation bharadwajnarad@gmail.com)

Bolster Public Institutions For Robust Republic



Ritu Raj Subedi

When the political and bureaucratic leadership are sincere and accountable for their decisions and actions, many negative repercussions from instability can be minimised or significantly avoided.



The republican system, established 17 years ago, has already taken deeper root. In 2008, the country's politics took a historic course: the 240-year monarchy was formally abolished by the elected Constituent Assembly (CA). Then, in 2015, it was institutionalised by promulgating the new constitution. The country witnessed two electoral cycles in 2017 and 2022 to fill the positions of three-layer governments –federal, provincial, and local. Periodic polls have brought fresh faces into the government, revitalising the federal republican system in the spirit of the new charter.

Despite all shortcomings, Nepal's republican order enjoys a massive popular mandate. As a result, it has been consolidated and has become an integral part of the lives of Nepalis. In the federal parliament, the republican forces command more than 90 per cent support, while a fraction of lawmakers stand against it. People's consent is the primary basis for governance and its legitimacy. Elections form the cornerstone of democracy, as they serve as oxygen for a functional democracy. People can remove elected officials from their posts through the ballot box if they are found unfit for public office. This is the beauty and strength of the democratic system upon which the republic's foundation has been laid.

Supremacy

One does not need to flip through the pages of thick books on political science and sociology to know the supremacy of the republican system. Nepal's monarchical system was considered a remnant of centuries-old feudalism, in which courtiers, unelected officials, and a cabal of elites exercised their power and syphoned off public funds. Those without access to power centres operating in an opaque setting will likely be deprived of the opportunity they deserve due to their academic excellence and integrity. It is only in a free, open, democratic atmosphere that individuals' aptitude and capacity are recognised and utilised.

Nepal's democratic journey began in fits and starts. It suffered disruptions repeatedly, and the monarchy played spoilsport to nip democracy in the bud. This is why Nepalis have had to wage struggles for democracy, freedom, and equality for decades. For the first time, the Nepali people experienced democracy and exercised human rights in 1951. But the democratic experiment was short-lived. Within a decade, autocracy prevailed over democracy.

After the 1990 political change, Nepalis felt it was their final battle against the autocratic monarchy. But this assumption turned out to be an illusion. In 2005, King Gyanendra seized power in a bloodless coup, curtailing the fundamental rights of the citizens. This triggered a new wave of protests in the streets. Around a million people came to the streets, calling for the end of the dictatorial monarchy and the restoration of complete democracy.

Also known as the April Uprising, Janandolan II set the stage for reinstating the dissolved House of Representatives (HoR) that suspended the king until the CA decided his fate. The CA, elected a second time, brought the new constitution that declared Nepal a federal, secular republic, marking a transformative change in Nepali society. The inherent undemocratic character of the monarchy led to its eventual demise. This transformation was beyond imagination just a few decades ago. Under the new federal setup, governance structures have been decentralised, local bodies have been granted rights to mobilise resources, and public services have expanded.

As we are observing Republic Day today, it is prudent to rationally assess the 17 years of the experiment of the republican order. Without examining the shortcomings and strengths of a system, it can't be reformed to make it viable to deliver goods and services to the citizens. This has become more relevant as pro-monarchical elements have begun to hit the streets, demanding the restoration of monarchy and a Hindu state. This is a political and moral challenge to the ruling and opposition parties, which have been in power for over two decades.

Nepal has witnessed many political upheavals. However, challenges always persist in institutionalising achievements and delivering on the lofty promises made during the revolutions and elections. Nepali political parties have proved their mettle in engineering successful political movements. Still, they often falter when it comes to realising the aspirations of the people who have not nurtured high dreams but a decent life with incomes that meet their fundamental requirements.

The functionality of the republican system largely hinges on the effectiveness of public institutions established to provide public goods to the people. Health, education, employment, social security, and a clean environment constitute the common good that all citizens are entitled to. However, the tendency to politicise and make the public offices the recruiting centres of party cadres undermines their efficiency and professional norms. So meritocracy and impartiality should be the basis of public institutions strengthening the democratic republic.

Democratisation of the parties

Democratisation of political parties and their sister organisations are equally essential to buttress the republican setup. The bottom-up approach enables the parties to heed the genuine inputs and concerns of the lower-rung party bodies, thereby articulating the inclusive vision and participatory spirit of the entire party's workers. When their views are incorporated into the policy documents, the system will be free from contradictions and inertia. Active civic engagement is also critical to deterring the authoritarian impulses of the parties and their leaders.

Abuse of power and rampant corruption are the cancers of society. So, transparency, accountability, and responsive government must be given priority to root out such anomalies. Political instability is often blamed for bad governance. However, when the political and bureaucratic leadership are sincere and accountable for their decisions and actions, many negative repercussions from instability can be minimised or significantly avoided. Therefore, our republic faces a threat not from the outside but from the inside. Financial integrity and adherence to democratic ideals and ethics are essential to make our republic functional and deliverable. May the Republic Day inspire all to commit to its values and move accordingly.

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

Economy Grows By Leaps And Bounds



Laxman Kafle

The country embarked on a new political and economic journey by establishing a republic system and abolishing the 240-year monarchical rule in 2008. The epoch-making political change naturally increased the people's expectations for inclusive development in the country. Notable progress has been made in the economic sector over the years. The size of the gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by seven and a half times after the country was declared a republic 17 years ago,

Yet, the economic growth rate remained at an average of 4.5 per cent in the early years. A lack of investment in the productive sector, structural constraints, and the absence of sustainable policies are significant causes of this slow-paced growth. The 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic also halted growth momentum. "Although some policy, systemic, and procedural efforts have been initiated to improve the economy, the results have not been as expected," said Dr. Chandra Mani Adhikari.



Expansion of national economy

According to the National Statistics Office, Nepal's economy is estimated to reach Rs. 6,107 billion in the current fiscal year 2024/25. In the fiscal year 2007/08, GDP's size at the purchaser's price was Rs. 820 billion. The current fiscal year's budget is around Rs. 1,860 billion. It was Rs. 169 billion in the fiscal year 2007/08. Likewise, the gross national income per capita is estimated at USD 1,517 in the current fiscal year 2024/25 from approximately USD 441 in 2007/08.



The growth is estimated at 4.61 per cent in the current fiscal year 2024/25 at purchasers' price, which was around 5.3 per cent in the fiscal year the country became a republic. The economic growth rate was limited to 0.6 per cent in fiscal year 2015/16 when the massive earthquake jolted central Nepal, but it increased to 8.2 per cent in fiscal year 2016/17 and 6.7 per cent in 2017/18.

In the current fiscal year, the agricultural sector is estimated to grow by 3.28 per cent and the non-agricultural sector by 4.28 per cent. Observation of the structure of GDP shows that the primary, secondary, and service industries are estimated to contribute 25.6 per cent, 12.4 per cent, and 62 per cent, respectively. Economist Keshab Acharya said that the country saw positive growth in the energy, financial sector, insurance, and capital market, contributing to the economic growth. Nepal has been trying to make maximum use of its hydropower resources, and the installed hydropower capacity reached around 3,500 MW at present.

The information and communication technology (ICT) sector has experienced rapid growth, revolutionising how Nepalis interact with their fellow citizens, learn, and do business. Similarly, significant progress has been registered in exports in the current fiscal year. Exports have surged by 72.71 per cent to Rs. 217.91 billion by mid-May 2025, while import trade increased by 13.11 per cent to Rs. 1,474.18 billion. Due to a low volume of exports compared to imports, the country's trade deficit soared to Rs. 1,256.27 billion during the review period.

Remittance reduces poverty

In the meantime, remittances contribute to Nepal's foreign exchange reserves, bolstering the country's ability to manage imports, stabilise currency fluctuations, and meet external debt obligations. The contribution of remittance to GDP reached 25.41 per cent in fiscal year 2023/24, while it was 17.4 per cent in 2007/08. Nepal received remittance of Rs.142.68 billion in fiscal year 2007/08, which increased to Rs. 1,191.31 billion in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year. Over 50 per cent of households depend on remittance income, vital in reducing poverty and income inequality. Poverty rates were reduced to 20.27 per cent in 2023 from 25.16 per cent in 2011.

The foreign currency reserves reached an all-time high of Rs. 2,426.84 billion during the first nine months of the current fiscal year. With the increasing size of the economy, national debt has also swelled. To meet the budget deficit, the government has been compelled to take on debt to manage the expenditure, resulting in the skyrocketing public debt that has grown seven times in the last 17 years. Nepal's total outstanding public debt reached Rs. 2,622.40 billion as of mid-May 2025, while it was about Rs. 361 billion in the fiscal year 2007/08. The total debt to GDP ratio is now 42.94 per cent.

The devolution of powers has allowed rural areas to develop more efficiently using local resources and federal financial support. Citizens also benefit from proximity to government services, with ward offices serving as convenient access points for various facilities, saving time and cost for the people. Local governments have focused on road construction, water supply, education, and health sectors, spurring socio-economic development. Dr Adhikari highlights the transformative role of federal funds in fuelling rural development, "There is no single municipality where funds of at least Rs. 20 million to Rs. 30 million have not been reached." Good infrastructures such as schools, rural municipality offices, ward offices, and health posts have been built. However, due to the lack of a qualified workforce and necessary equipment, health posts cannot provide quality health services.

Focus on revenue collection

The failure to expand manufacturing industries has resulted in massive unemployment, forcing the youth to migrate abroad for better livelihood prospects. An import-based economy has deepened dependency, hurting development and prosperity. Similarly, revenue collection is not up to the mark, as expenditures are rising yearly. The elected officials must prioritise revenue mobilisation instead of demanding more allocation. Likewise, low capital budget expenditure has also prevented the government from achieving the targeted economic growth.

While there has been significant improvement in some indicators, many areas still require improvement. A long-term inclusive policy and strategy need to be executed to focus on the productive sector. Political stability, policy consistency, and capacity building are vital for inclusive growth and shared prosperity.

(Kafle is a reporter at The Rising Nepal.)

Parliament Powers The Republic



Pallav Bhusal

The Parliament keeps the spirit of our democracy by performing for the people, passing laws, holding the government accountable, and creating a space for national conversations.



Republic Day is the most significant achievement in Nepal's political structure. The new system resulted from the ending of the century-old monarchy and the establishment of a democratic structure in 2008. That moment came after years of struggle, which was capped off by the Jana Andolan II, the People's Movement of 2006. That uprising brought together citizens from all walks of life, united by a single goal: to put power where it belongs, in the hands of the people, not in a palace.

From that struggle came a new kind of politics, and at its core was the Nepali Parliament. This wasn't just the next version of what came before; it was something entirely different. Built from the aspirations of a constitutional assembly, it was a fresh beginning. Parliament was now charged with more than just passing laws. It had to help shape a new Nepal, one where the republic wasn't just an idea but a lived reality.

Not so long ago, Nepal stood at a crossroads. The revolution of 2006 was a powerful, emotional turning point. For 19 straight days, ordinary people, farmers, students, teachers, and workers poured into the streets. They braved curfews and crackdowns, not because anyone told them to, but because something profound inside them said it was time. It's time for dignity. It's time for freedom. It's time to be heard.

According to former Law Minister and Attorney General Agni Kharel, it wasn't just a political manoeuvre when King Gyanendra finally stepped aside and reinstated the dissolved Parliament. It was the people's voice being translated into action. From there, the wheels of change turned quickly. The monarchy's powers were stripped, and a new interim constitution was announced. The old Parliament, once sidelined under royal authority, has now become the beating heart of our new democracy.

Now, nearly 20 years into this journey, Parliament still plays a central role, though it hasn't always been smooth. It remains the space where the dreams and frustrations of a nation converge.

"After May 28, 2008, when Parliament abolished the monarchy by majority vote and declared Nepal a federal democratic republic, the first step was to enshrine that name in the Interim Constitution. The new constitution introduced a presidential system. The Election Commission then gave the green light for the election of the President and Vice President," said Kharel.

In 2015, the Constitution of Nepal was promulgated. Laws were revised, and terms such as Shree Paanch and the Kingdom of Nepal were removed from the new constitution following several amendment acts related to republican reforms and various other legislative measures. In this way, Parliament laid the foundation for the Democratic Republic of Nepal," Kharel added.

We can see an incredible mix of people from every district, ethnicity, and walk of life inside the Federal Parliament. Ordinary people have become heads of nation.

They come together to debate, challenge, and express the voice of the voiceless. That diversity isn't just symbolic; it is the essence of a republic, where every citizen deserves a voice.

Without this institution, where would those voices go? Where would the hopes and concerns of millions find a place to be heard? Nowhere quite like Parliament.

The laws made in those halls affect all of us: our rights, our land, our schools, our environment, and our economy. Parliament is the symbol that gives people faith and reassures them that their voices matter. It is where the rule of law, not the rule of the few, guides the nation. Similarly, Parliament is the watchdog over the government, and the government should equally be accountable to the House. Because of the republic, no one person or office holds unchecked power.

After years of debate and deliberation, the Parliament promulgated the new Constitution of Nepal in 2015. This constitution renewed the people's hope that their rightful entitlements were recognised and protected. All Nepalis felt a sense of equality, and the era of domination had come to an end. The Constitution brought new meaning and authority to the republic.

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet must answer to Parliament, representing the people. That accountability, through questions, debates, and investigations, keeps democracy honest. It's what separates a republic from a dictatorship. And while the system isn't flawless, sometimes it drags and sometimes quarrels, it's far better than the alternative.

According to the data from the Federal Parliament Secretariat, as of May 2025, the Parliament has passed 95 laws since its formation in 2017. This includes 73 bills approved by the House of Representatives and 25 by the National Assembly.

The federal Parliament experienced two dissolutions during the tenure of the first parliamentary election (2017–2022), both of which were later overturned by the Supreme Court. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the country's political and public health landscape. These are some hurdles faced in strengthening the republican system.

Parliament is also where we come together as a country. Nepal is a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and opinions. We need a place to discuss those differences, not shout over them. That's what parliamentary debate is all about.

Sometimes, national issues arrive in Parliament as debates, becoming part of the healthy practice of learning to live and govern together. The true power of the republic in action can be seen when leaders rise above personal agendas and work for the greater good.

According to former Constituent Assembly member Khimlal Devkota, there are pressing challenges that cannot be overlooked: political instability, frequent changes in government, and legislative deadlock continue to obstruct progress.

Public frustration is growing due to persistent disruptions in parliamentary proceedings, which have delayed the passage of many crucial bills required to implement the federal structure effectively.

"As long as political leadership fails to prioritise long-term national interest over short-term party gains, the federal system will remain fragile and under strain, which will impact the republic status of the nation," said Devkota.

But abandoning the system isn't the answer. Strengthening it is. That means demanding more from our representatives, doing our part as citizens, staying engaged, holding leaders accountable, and never giving up on the idea that real change is possible through democracy.

"A republic is never finished and can only be improved over time. Citizens, responsible institutions, and leaders should work for progress as we celebrate Republic Day. At the centre of that effort is our Parliament, born from struggle, sustained by hope, and powered by the people. It's where laws are made, truths are spoken, and the future is shaped. It is our strength," added Devkota.

The Nepali Parliament was born out of the people's struggle and sacrifice; it didn't just emerge; it was earned. It stands today as one of the most critical institutions in keeping the promise of the republic alive.

The Parliament keeps the spirit of our democracy by performing for the people, passing laws, holding the government accountable, and creating a space for national conversations. It serves as the guarantor of the nation's republican form of government.

(Bhusal is a journalist at The Rising Nepal.)

Act In True Republican Spirit



Yuba Nath Lamsal

British political scientist Sir Vernon Bernard Bogdanor says, "Monarchy is, in its purest form, a state ruled by a single, absolute hereditary ruler." In contrast, the republic is the supremacy of the people. In a monarchy, the monarch claims to be the supreme authority, the source of the country's sovereignty, and above the law. The hereditary system creates division and inequality in society and the nation. However, the republican system is a form of government in which people are sovereign, and elected representatives possess power and rule the country. In a republican form of government, nobody is above the law, and all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law. This is the fundamental difference between a monarchy and a republic form of government.

Democracy is people's rule, and it is only in the republican system that people are sovereign and politically equal. A monarchy is a hereditary system that does not accept people's sovereignty. Monarchy is a feudal institution in which full democracy is not possible. A person born in a particular clan and family becomes the ruler irrespective of qualification, ability, and character. It is only in the republican system that a person is chosen based on competition and quality.

There are only 29 countries, excluding some commonwealth states, in the world that have a monarchical form of government. Of them, some are constitutional, and the majority are absolute monarchies. However, the remaining countries, or more than 160, are republics. Although not all republican countries are faring better in economic development and governance, the republican form, in principle, is considered better.

Vaisali is said to be the first republic in the world, which was established around 600 BC, while the Roman Republic was established in 27 BC as the second republic in the world. The history of the republican system is, therefore, as old as human civilisation. Thus, people have constantly struggled against monarchy, seeking to establish republican government worldwide.



In a republican form of government, nobody is above the law, and all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law.

Nepal has a long experience of absolute monarchy. The monarchy always posed a threat to democracy in the country. Nepal remained under a feudal monarchical system until the government was declared a federal democratic republic in 2008. Nepal, in its almost 250 years of history, had the monarchical system declare the King as the source of sovereignty and above the law. In contrast, people were mere subjects only to obey the monarch's order. Kings treated themselves as masters, as though the nation was their private property.

The Nepali people's struggle against monarchy came to fruition on May 28, 2008, as the Constituent Assembly's first meeting declared Nepal a federal democratic republic and abolished the monarchy. This marked the dawn of a new era in Nepal's political history. The dream of the Nepali people came true as Nepal entered into an era of genuine democracy—a democratic republic.



It was true that King Prithvi Narayan Shah played a crucial role in unifying Nepal, for which he is well revered and recognised as the founder of Nepal. However, most of the Shah rulers after Prithivi Narayan Shah were too focused on their personal and family interests rather than the country's overall well-being. Conspiracy and family feuds started among the royal family members, which sometimes led to physical assault. The conspiracy and family feud reached its pinnacle in the Kot Parva, from which Junga Bahadur Rana and his brothers took advantage, giving rise to the dark era of the Rana family oligarchy in 1846. Nepal remained under the Rana family's rule for over a century.

However, a new political chapter started in 1951, with multiparty democracy being introduced in Nepal's history. The 1951 political change abolished the family oligarchy of Ranas. However, it failed to eliminate the hereditary system. The rule was transferred from one family oligarchy to another family rule. Ranas lost the absolute power, but Shahas were, instead, vested with absolute authority.

After returning to the throne following the political change in 1951, the then-king Tribhuvan promised a constitution to be written by the elected representatives of the people or Constituent Assembly. But King Tribhuvan later backed out of his promises. At the same time, his son, King Mahendra, conspired against this and instead gave his constitution, based on which he later disbanded the multiparty system and imposed absolute monarchy in the name of the Panchayat system. The kings might have feared the constituent assembly writing the constitution, and thus, they derailed this process. As a result, the country again came under the King's iron-fist regime for over three decades. During the King's absolute regime, people's democratic and human rights were summarily suppressed and denied. Criticism against the King, royal family members, and the Panchayat system was defined as treason and subject to harsh punishment. Political parties and their activities had been banned. Many of the present senior leadership of CPN-UML and Nepali Congress had been kept behind bars on the charge of treason simply for speaking and acting against the king's tyranny. The present Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli spent 14 precious and youthful years in jail just for his activities demanding democracy in the country.

Despite state repression, people's resistance against the authoritarian regime of the king continued, finally restoring multiparty democracy in 1990. King Birendra, often considered relatively liberal, agreed to be a constitutional monarch, relinquishing his absolute authority. After the royal massacre of 2001, in which King Birendra and his entire family were killed, Gyanendra Shah became a new king. Right from the beginning, he hinted that he would not remain a constitutional monarch. King Gyanendra always tried to act against democracy and the Constitution. He took over absolute power in 2005, declaring himself, sending party leaders to jail and restricting all fundamental democratic and human rights of the people.

People's power is always decisive and most potent. No ruler can withstand the people's power, and those who try to suppress people's voices are ultimately dumped in history's trash. The history of the world is witness to it. Similar things happened in Nepal. As King suppressed the people, the Nepali people rose against it and finally launched a movement against King's tyranny, which succeeded in 2008 in establishing a republican setup. Thus, we are celebrating Republic Day to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the republican system. But the genuine tributes to the martyrs will only be when we act in true republican spirit.

(Lamsal is former editor-in-chief of TRN and former ambassador)

Sagarmatha Sambaad

Nepal Emerges As Global Climate Lobbyist



Indira Aryal

The Himalayas are melting alarmingly, and glaciers are knocking louder with floods and landslides in the lowlands. As a Himalayan nation, Nepal has become most vulnerable to climate change triggered by global warming. But the country is breaking ground. It is coming to the front, lobbying for climate justice at global and regional levels.

It now leads mountainous nations for ecosystem restoration, loss and damage funding, and urgent global climate action. Nepal's visibility again came to light after it hosted Sagarmatha Sambaad (Everest Dialogue) last week in Kathmandu. It developed a 25-point "Sagarmatha Call for Action", urging science, technology, and innovation-based solutions to address climate-induced disasters and conserve glaciers, water resources, forests, and agricultural systems.



Deepening climate crisis

Nepal lies at the frontline of the climate crisis. In recent years, the country has experienced increasingly extreme weather events, from melting glaciers and glacial lake outburst floods to water shortages, destructive river flooding, intense rainfall-triggered landslides, and record-breaking heat waves. These are no longer exceptional incidents but recurring phenomena. Nepal contributes less than 0.1 per cent to global carbon emissions. The disproportionate impacts it faces despite its minimal emissions. Home to 1,310 peaks above 6,000 metres, including eight of the world's 14 highest mountains (the 'eight-thousanders'), Nepal is both a victim and a messenger in the climate conversation.

In this context, the Sagarmatha Sambaad served as a vital platform, conveying the country's concerns at both regional and international levels. The dialogue fostered collaboration among countries with similar challenges, from the Himalayas to Iceland and from mountain ranges to coastal regions. It offered vision, scope, and a call to collective action.

Issues once limited to high-level summits like the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) are now being addressed in broader, more inclusive settings. The Sambaad saw the participation of delegates from 12 countries, all of whom stressed the urgency of implementing commitments made under the Paris Agreement, particularly in the context of mountain regions and glacier preservation.

At the event, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, through a video message, expressed commitment to climate action and justice. He praised Nepal's leadership: "The world has much to learn from Nepal's climate leadership." This has acknowledged Nepal's leadership and diplomatic efforts to fight the disastrous impacts of climate change. The Sambaad has offered hope to local climate activists and leaders who have long pushed for compensation for loss and damage due to rising global temperatures. It echoed the voices of those who have tirelessly lobbied at international forums, demanding accountability from major polluters.

The urgency is real, and the time for action is now. Dialogues like the Sagarmatha Sambaad are crucial to remind the world, especially high-emitting developed countries, of their responsibilities.

The high-profile platform also called for increased international financial support, especially in grants and concessional financing, to help developing countries like Nepal implement climate actions. It urged the global community to recognise the urgency of protecting environmental integrity, as mountain glaciers and the cryosphere are rapidly disappearing, putting pressure on snow-fed river systems that support countless ecosystems and communities.

The dialogue has recognised that the loss of mountain glaciers, in addition to contributing to sea-level rise, leads to cascading effects such as landslides, floods, droughts, and extreme weather events, adversely impacting both mountainous and low-lying countries. It stressed that mountain communities contribute negligibly to global greenhouse gas emissions but continue to bear a disproportionate share of the impacts.

Climatologist Ngamindra Dahal pointed out that the Sagarmatha Sambaad was one of the few international forums focused on the planet that highlighted the vulnerabilities faced by Himalayan countries. The takeaways from the Sagarmatha Sambaad must be implemented, as the dialogue strongly advocated for equitable climate policies, recognising the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable countries and communities, particularly in mountain regions.

The HKH region has an outstandingly fragile ecosystem. Nearly 2 billion people across South Asia depend on its glaciers. It provides drinking water, food, livelihoods, and economic stability. As these glaciers vanish, the risk of severe water crises looms large for communities dependent on snow-fed rivers. At the event, COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev also stressed the urgent need for collective action to address climate threats to mountain ecosystems and vulnerable communities. Babayev warned of dire consequences from melting glaciers, citing Azerbaijan's 20 per cent glacier loss since 2018, and urged nations to deliver on adaptation plans and fulfil funding commitments.

Net zero by 2045

Nepal unveiled its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0 during the event, presenting a fair and ambitious commitment to global climate action. Nepal is among the few countries – out of 195 parties to the Paris Agreement-- to submit its NDC 3.0 on time. This contribution reflects global solidarity to limit temperature rise by reducing carbon emissions, focusing on renewable energy, waste management, and transport decarbonisation. The plan also includes an ambitious target – achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. Nepal has already met one significant milestone by expanding its forest cover to 46 per cent, a considerable achievement that plays a vital role in carbon sequestration and supports the country's net-zero goal.

The urgency is real, and the time for action is now. Dialogues like the Sagarmatha Sambaad are crucial to remind the world, especially high-emitting developed countries, of their responsibilities. Nepal and other low-emission mountain nations are not asking for charity; they are demanding climate justice to protect the planet's most fragile ecosystems. And the world must heed this clarion call that primarily seeks to save the entire planet where we live.

(Aryal is a journalist at The Rising Nepal.)

Republic Reshapes Sports Landscape



Pramod Joshi



Nepali sports underwent a significant transformation, shifting to a federal republic system. It moved from a centralised structure to a decentralised one, bringing substantial changes in policies and governance. Laws were updated to align with the country's new framework.

Sports were no longer seen as just an extracurricular activity. It became essential to national identity, leadership development, and youth engagement. It also helped strengthen unity and social cohesion.

To support this shift, the Sports Development Act 2020 replaced the older 1992 Act. This law ensured the decentralisation of sports governance. The National Sports Council remained under federal jurisdiction, while Provincial Sports Councils and District Sports Development Committees were created to oversee local sports.

With decentralised governance, sports started benefiting from improved budget allocation. However, the plan to increase the sports budget to 1 per cent of the national budget remains unfulfilled. While funding has grown, it is still below 0.5 per cent.

Infrastructure development is now a priority. Governments at all levels are investing in training, tournaments, and facilities. Yet, scattered budgets have slowed progress. Additionally, cash rewards and sports insurance policies have been provisioned in regulation to motivate and support athletes, coaches, and officials.

Since Nepal adopted a republican federal system in 2008, its athletes have achieved remarkable success in sports. Despite limited investment and facilities, they have made history on the international stage. Several athletes have brought pride to the nation. Para-athlete Palesha Goverdhan, karateka Arika Gurung, boxer Sushma Tamang, badminton player Prince Dahal, swimmer Gaurika Singh, and runners Ajit Yadav and Pushpa Bhandari have all left their mark in international competitions.



In team sports, cricket gained global attention by securing a place in the World Cup. Volleyball, Kho Kho, Kabaddi, and football also won international recognition. Palesha made history by winning Nepal's first Paralympic medal, a bronze in Para Taekwondo at the Paris 2024 Games. She was also the first Nepali athlete to win a medal at any Olympic level. Nepal has never won an official medal at the Summer Games in its 60-year-long Olympic history. Her achievements include victories at the Asian Para Games 2023, Asian Youth Para Games 2021, and 4th Asian Para Taekwondo Championship 2018.

Arika Gurung took the nation by storm with a silver medal win in karate at the 2023 Asian Games, Nepal's first Asiad silver in 25 years. She also won medals in the 20th Asian Senior Karate Championship, 10th World Siteriyo Karate Championship, US Open Karate Championship, and 8th South Asian Karate Championship.

Sushma Tamang became Nepal's first boxer to win silver at the ASBC Asian Under-22 Boxing Championship. No Nepali boxer had reached an Asian-level final before her.

Ajit Yadav grabbed gold in the 3,000m at the 2019 Asian Youth Championships, a landmark achievement in long-distance running.



Pushpa Bhandari won the first international marathon title by winning the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Dhaka Marathon 2021 under the South Asian category.

Prince Dahal became Nepal's first badminton player to top the Junior World Rankings in 2022. Table tennis player Shantoo Shrestha earned a spot in the Olympics, becoming the third Nepali player to qualify for the Olympics.

Team sports also made history. Nepal won silver in paragliding at the 2018 Asian Games and bronze in Kabaddi at the 2023 Asian Games.

The men's and women's Kho Kho teams won silver medals at India's first Kho Kho World Cup, marking a historic achievement.

The women's volleyball team claimed Nepal's first international gold by winning Bangladesh's AVC Central Zone title in 2019. They also secured silver in the 13th South Asian Games (SAG) held in Nepal. The men's volleyball team earned their first international bronze at the Asian Volleyball Confederation Central Zone event.

In football, Nepal won its first Asian title by lifting the AFC Solidarity Cup in Malaysia in 2016. That same year, they won gold at the South Asian Games (SAG) in India and triumphed in the Bangabandhu Cup in Bangladesh. In 2021, Nepal reached the SAFF Championship final for the first time.

Above all, hosting the 13th SAG in Nepal after two decades was the most significant achievement. Held across Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Janakpur, Nepal won a record 206 medals, including 51 golds, surpassing the previous best of 31 in 1999.

Gaurika Singh became the first Nepali swimmer to win an individual gold at the 13th SAG, finishing with seven medals. She equalled Taekwondo player Deepak Bista's record.

Nepali athletes shined in middle-distance races. Gopi Chandra Parki won gold in the men's 5,000m, and Santoshi Shrestha secured the women's 10,000m title. Nepal also won boxing gold after 20 years and claimed its first gold in cycling, golf, triathlon, and wrestling.

Meantime, cricket saw a massive rise in popularity. Nepal moved from Division 5 in 2008 to the ICC World Cricket League 2 and earned ODI status in 2018. The men's team played in the T20 World Cup in 2014 and returned in 2024. They set multiple records at the Asian Games, including being the first team to score 300+ runs in a single match. Kushal Malla hit the fastest T20 century in 34 balls, while Dipendra Singh Airee smashed a half-century in just nine balls.

Nepal reached the One Day World Cup global qualifier and played against India, Pakistan, and South Africa in the Asia Cup. The women's team qualified for the T20 World Cup for the first time, and the U19 team returned to the U20 World Cup after 2016.

The Nepal Premier League took domestic cricket to new heights, ranking among the world's top five franchise leagues. Joining the bandwagon, Kabaddi and women's volleyball also launched franchise leagues. Football was already holding the Nepal Super League. Nepali sports have achieved a lot, but significant challenges remain. Governance issues, political interference, and corruption continue to hold back progress. Funding is limited, and sports infrastructure development is sluggish. This makes it difficult for athletes to develop and compete internationally.

The government must reduce corruption and political interference to support sports growth. Increasing the budget for infrastructure and athlete welfare is also crucial. Regular high-performance training, top-class coaching, scholarships for international training, and global match exposure can help athletes achieve consistent success.

(The author is an associate editor at The Rising Nepal.)

Deliver On Pledges, Win The Trust Of Youths



Arpana Adhikari

With the country ushering in a federal democratic republic 17 years ago, the government has undergone profound socio-economic transformations. Power shifted from the monarchy, where leadership was determined by hereditary succession, to the people, who now hold ultimate sovereignty. Promulgated in 2015, the constitution has embraced a socialist-orientated economic model that seeks to institutionalise landmark political achievements and consolidate republican order. The elections to the three-tier government twice deepened the grassroots democratic practices and promoted people's participation in the decision-making and development process.

Still, there is a misgiving that progressive provisions and programmes have yet to be fully implemented for the broader benefit of the people. As we are marking Republic Day, it is imperative to ponder over the gains and shortcomings of the republican system so that it can be further reformed and refined.



Promoting the rule of law, curbing corruption, and creating people-centric governance is a must to maintain stability, create jobs, and attain long-term economic growth.

Empowerment

"The system has empowered citizens and enhanced inclusive governance," said Pradeep Gyawali, CPN-UML deputy general secretary. Gyawali noted that the republican set-up had allowed people to exercise full democracy, ended all vestiges of autocracy, and provided democratic methods to end political unrest, with significant progress in including marginalised groups. The system of governance has been designed to decentralise authority, strengthen public service mechanisms, and expedite development at the local level, he added.

Visibly, the political parties have failed to deliver on the promises made in the Constitution and their poll manifestos. Despite scores of rights coded into the national charter, significant socio-economic transformation remains elusive. Gyawali acknowledged that a substantial gap remained between public expectations and service delivery. "People have high hopes, but limited resources and a leadership still learning the governance process have made it hard to meet their aspirations." Political instability, triggered by frequent government changes and shifting priorities, has also hindered the effective implementation of the system in its true spirit.

CPN Maoist Centre general secretary Dev Prasad Gurung highlighted that the achievement was made possible by the sacrifices of the people, the relentless struggle of political parties, and their shared commitment to democratic values. However, he criticised the state's inability to bring about drastic socio-economic changes, stating that Nepal has remained stuck in a capitalist republic model. "A true republican system must be linked to transformative change in the people's lives."

He said that Nepal's republican journey began with the political consensus, initially following the path of a capitalist republic. "This model is often necessary during a transitional period. However, remaining in this framework for too long can pose serious challenges." Gurung also pointed to widespread corruption and commission-driven practices, which he said had prevented people from enjoying the fruits of the system. "The current system has prioritised creating a favourable environment for monopoly capitalists." He also called for replacing monopoly capitalism with a people-centric or socialism-oriented republic based on national industrial capital to bring transformative changes in the economy and production systems. "However, political parties have failed to reach a consensus on this proposition."

Gyawali believes this is an entirely new system for Nepal, but institutionalising and making it fully functional takes time. He added that although 18 years may seem long in a person's life, marking the transition to adulthood, it is a short span in the context of political transformation.

The republican system now faces a new threat in reviving pro-monarchical protest. Many people, particularly the youth, have become increasingly disappointed with the political leadership due to unfulfilled promises, political instability, rampant corruption, economic stagnation, poor governance, and lack of accountability. The growing dissatisfaction has given rise to alternative narratives that link stability and unity with the erstwhile kingship. Major party leaders have expressed their concerns over this detrimental trend.

Nepali Congress leader and National Assembly member Krishna Prasad Sitaula said monarchs were repeatedly allowed to mend their ways. "But they continued to repeat the same mistakes by locking up party leaders and seizing power through coups. This impelled the NC to join the movement to abolish the king."

Gurung attributed the mass disappointment to the slow development and service delivery pace. These growing tensions may undermine the legitimacy and long-term stability of the system. The division among political parties and the failure to deliver on pledges created space for pro-monarchist and regressive forces to exploit the growing public despair. He said they occasionally disrupt the political environment and mislead the public to dent the system and reverse past political gains.

Gyawali noted that younger generations without monarchy experience often take the current system for granted. In contrast, those who lived through that era understand the cost of freedom. He noted that ever-pervasive digital and social media brought challenges and opportunities, with a greater impact on emerging systems like Nepal's. "Negative narratives and disinformation have fuelled public frustration."

Gyawali stressed that while the media must be critical as a democratic watchdog, it should also act responsibly and help raise political awareness among the youth. "Democracy is evolving, and the media must play a constructive role in strengthening it."

Sitaula emphasised the need for the state to focus on good governance, inclusiveness, effective service delivery, and development to dispel public distrust. "The government should also adopt long-term policies, complete unfinished national pride projects, advance hydropower development, and move forward with broader initiatives for economic reforms. The key priority is to amend the shortcomings of the Constitution and ensure sustained economic growth."

No to monarchy

All three leaders have also ruled out the possibility of the return of monarchy but warned that the regressive forces could threaten political stability. They also stressed the need for national consensus on key issues to protect political gains and guide the country towards prosperity and comprehensive development.

Educating the young people about the parties' over seven-decade-long struggles for establishing the democratic federal republic inspires them to defend it. But this is not enough. The republican forces must win their trust by translating their commitments into action.

It is high time to move beyond partisan interests and fully implement the Constitution in both letter and spirit. Promoting the rule of law, curbing corruption, and creating people-centric governance is a must to maintain stability, create jobs, and attain long-term economic growth. Proportional inclusion, equal participation, and implementing 31 fundamental rights add vigour to the republican order, making it citizen-oriented and functional.

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