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THE RISING NEPAL

ALL BE HAPPY, ALL BE WELL



PHOTO: RSS

Prime Minister Balendra Shah holding discussions with Lumbini Province lawmakers at Singha Durbar in Kathmandu on Monday.

President Paudel urges NRNs to invest in Nepal

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr. 6

President Ramchandra Paudel has urged Nepalis scattered across the world to make the most of Nepal's vast investment potential in the current context and to also encourage investors in their countries of residence to invest in Nepal.

President Paudel made this appeal during a meeting with the newly elected office-bearers of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) at the President's Office, Sheetal Niwas, on Monday.

"Only by enhancing Nepal's internal capacity and achieving rapid economic development can the dignity of Nepalis living abroad be elevated. Until Nepal becomes prosperous, the prestige of Nepalis cannot improve," he said.

He expressed confidence that they would play a more effective role in steering the country towards good governance, development and prosperity, and in enhancing Nepal's standing in the international arena.

He further said that Nepal has significant investment potential in sectors such as hydropower, tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, information and communication, education and health.

At the same time, he pointed out that Nepal is situated close to and has access to vast markets like India and China, which have some of the largest populations in the world.

In such a context, he stressed that Nepal should focus on developing the necessary infrastructure, industrialisation and domestic production required for economic growth.

"For this, multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential. Your capital, knowledge, skills, experience, investment and entrepreneurship can prove to be relevant and useful," President Paudel said.

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PM Shah holds discussions with Lumbini lawmakers

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr. 6

Prime Minister Balendra Shah held discussions with newly elected lawmakers from Lumbini Province at his office in Singha Durbar on Monday, where the MPs raised concerns over delays in key development and infrastructure projects and stressed the need for their timely implementation.

According to MP Mohan Lal Acharya, the meeting focused on expediting ongoing and proposed projects, with lawmakers collectively urging the Prime Minister to prioritise stalled initiatives they consider critical to regional growth and national economic progress. During the discussion, participants highlighted that delays in execution were undermined both economic potential and public confidence.

Acharya said that discussions on the Greater Lumbini Area project, irrigation challenges, the issue of monkey menace and infrastructure development took place during the meeting.

Lawmakers highlighted the need to bring Gautam Buddha International Airport into full operation and ensure regular international flights would help unlock tourism potential. The issue of securing the border was also raised as a matter requiring immediate attention.

The discussion also underscored the importance of strengthening strategic road connectivity. Lawmakers pointed to the need to accelerate construction and called for adequate budget allocation to upgrade key sections of the road, including Ghorahi–Holeri and Sulichaur–Uwa, to improve regional mobility.

Energy infrastructure was another area of concern, with participants highlighting the stalled Madi Multipurpose Hydropower Project in Rolpa and urging for resumption of work. The project was described as vital not only for energy production but also for broader economic activities tied to infrastructure development.

Lawmakers also drew attention to the need for long-term economic planning, including the revival of the Gandaki Economic Triangle Project. The project, which envisions integrated development linking Bharatpur, Butwal and Pokhara, was discussed as a potential driver of economic transformation if implemented in partnership with the private sector.

In addition, the meeting stressed the importance of integrated agricultural development in Lumbini Province. Lawmakers highlighted the need for investments in irrigation, fertilisers, improved seeds, modern agricultural tools and market management to enhance productivity in one of the country's most fertile regions.

The participants further highlighted that development projects should be distributed proportionately across all constituencies based on recommendations from Members of Parliament.

Acharya said that the Prime Minister Shah responded positively to all the queries raised during the meeting. He noted that the PM assured lawmakers that important files would be reviewed promptly and that delivery would be expedited. He also stated that the Prime Minister encouraged lawmakers to contact him or the relevant ministries directly to resolve any hurdles in development projects.

"The Prime Minister assured us that all important projects would be reviewed and implemented promptly," said Acharya.

BHANDARI ELECTED NA VICE CHAIR

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr. 6

Lila Kumari Bhandari of the CPN-UML has been elected unopposed as Vice-Chairperson of the National Assembly.



Announcing the result at Monday's meeting, National Assembly Chair Narayan Prasad Dahal confirmed that Bhandari was duly elected as she was the sole nominee for the post. Her candidacy had been registered within the stipulated deadline on Sunday.

Bhandari's nomination was proposed by UML Parliamentary Party leader Prem Prasad Dangal and supported by lawmakers from multiple parties, including Krishna Bahadur Rokaya of the Nepali Congress, Puja Chaudhary of the Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal, and Madan Kumari Shah.

Bhandari was elected to the National Assembly from Sudurpaschim Province in the January 25 elections.

Second quarter's growth estimated at 4.05%

BY LAXMAN KAFLE
Kathmandu, Apr. 6



The National Statistics Office (NSO) has estimated 4.05 per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) at the basic price in the second quarter of the current fiscal year 2025/26.

According to the quarterly GDP estimation report released by the NSO on Monday, the seasonally unadjusted quarterly GDP at basic prices is estimated to have been 4.05 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period last fiscal year.

The growth was primarily driven by increases in electricity production and distribution, deposit collection and credit flow, non-life insurance premium collection, livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, trade services, and tourism arrivals.

However, compared to the second quarter of fiscal year 2024/25, growth was tempered by declines in the import of construction materials, paddy production, and domestic production of certain goods, resulting in a moderate overall growth rate for the quarter.

According to the NSO, the total value-added growth rates of all 18 industrial classifications of the economy are positive.

Among them, the highest growth rate is observed in the electricity and gas-related activities at 22.74 per cent.

This sector is followed by financial and insurance activities, transportation and storage, accommodation and food services, and wholesale and retail trade, with estimated growth rates of 12.51 per cent, 9.65 per cent, 5.18 per cent, and 4.11 per cent, respectively.

The agricultural sector, which contributes the most to the economy, is estimated to have a growth rate of 2.21 per cent.

Although paddy rice production has decreased, moderate growth in livestock, vegetable and fruit cultivation, and forestry production has had a positive impact on the total value-added of this sector.

Similarly, the wholesale and retail trade sector, which constitutes the second-largest part of the economy, is estimated to have grown by 4.11 per cent. Growth in both domestically produced and imported trade goods drove this sector's increase.

On the other hand, activities such as water supply, sewerage, and waste management estimated a low growth of 0.55 per cent, public administration, defense, and mandatory social security of 1.11 per cent, and education of 1.16 per cent.

Based on seasonally adjusted data, GDP at basic prices is estimated to have grown by 2.04 per cent in the second quarter of fiscal year 2025/26 compared to the first quarter of the same fiscal year.

Among the 18 industrial sectors, 16 recorded growth, while two experienced slight contractions, resulting in a moderate overall increase in GDP.

During this period, the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector grew by 2.48 per cent while the wholesale and retail trade sector grew by 0.99 per cent.

Among the 16 industrial indicators with positive growth, the highest growth was in the transport and storage sector at 6.20 per cent, followed by human health and social work activities at 3.98 per cent, and financial and insurance activities at 3.82 per cent.

Govt vows action on mountain rescue allegations

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr. 6



The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA) has taken serious note of recent national and international media reports, as well as the investigations, alleging irregularities in helicopter rescue operations in Nepal's trekking and mountain tourism sector.

These reports have raised concerns regarding instances of exaggerated altitude sickness symptoms, unnecessary helicopter evacuations and inflated insurance claims involving possible coordination among a limited number of operators, according to press statement issued by the Ministry on Monday.

The government recognises the urgency and sensitivity of these concerns and is undertaking immediate and decisive measures to address them, the statement said.

"At the same time, the government clarifies that certain allegations reported in the media -- such as claims of deliberate harm to trekkers, including the feeding of contaminated food -- have not been substantiated by investigations conducted by the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB). The Ministry urges media outlets and stakeholders to verify such claims with official sources to avoid the spread of misinformation that may unjustly harm Nepal's tourism image," the statement read.

While these incidents are not representative of the industry as a whole, the government acknowledges existing gaps in monitoring and enforcement, particularly in remote trekking regions and is addressing them with the highest priority.

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Phewa Lake boundary crackdown sparks fear among fishermen

BY PHADINDRA ADHIKARI
Lekhnath, Apr. 5

Shanti Jalari of Khapaudi, Pokhara Metropolitan City Ward No.18, Kaski, has been deeply unsettled since Saturday morning.

Until Friday, her concern was the declining fish catch in Phewa Lake. By early Saturday, a new fear started haunting her: the possibility of being displaced.

With bulldozers deployed to clear structures within the newly enforced 65-metre boundary from the lakeshore, anxiety has gripped the Jalari (fishermen) community living along the banks.

Shanti, who lives in a makeshift house built on public land by the lakeside, supports her family of four--her husband and two children.

She said they were willing to relocate if it helped preserve the lake. "Our entire family depends on fishing for survival. If that too is taken away, how will we live?" she asked.



PHOTO: PHADINDRA ADHIKARI\TRN

A fisherman returning with his boat after fishing in Phewa Lake.

"We do not own land elsewhere. If we must move, the government should arrange nearby resettlement."

Sixty-five-year-old Ramchandra Jalari shares a similar concern. Having spent his entire life by the lake, he describes the bond between the Jalari (fishermen) people and the lake as inseparable. "Just like fish cannot survive without water, we cannot survive without the lake," he said.

"Resettle us nearby. We want to see the lake restored, unwanted structures removed, walkways built, and beauty enhanced," he said.

The National Dalit Commission has classified the Jalari as a hill Dalit community. Speaking a Newari dialect, they reside in areas such as Gaighat, Sedi, Baidam, Raatmate, Khapaudi, Phyaure and Pame, with around 100 households in total.

While some younger members have ventured into small businesses or foreign employment, over 90 per cent of the community remains dependent on the lake.

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BULLION
(Rs. per tola)

Hallmark Gold	: Rs. 291,400 /-
Worked Gold	: NA
Silver	: Rs. 4,780 /-

STOCK

NEPSE	: 2,760.02
Total Amount	: 10,928,506,863.02
No. of Share	: 25,155,854

There is no reason to panic: FM Wagle

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr. 6

Finance Minister Dr. Swarnim Wagle has emphasised the importance of making the stock market more accessible to institutional investors while also ensuring stronger protection for individual investors.

He made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the Stock Brokers Association of Nepal, led by its General Secretary Bhakti Ram Ghimire, held at the ministry on Monday morning.

Finance Minister Dr. Wagle said that the capital market is inherently a transparent and professional sector, and there is no reason for stakeholders to panic.

He also highlighted the crucial role of the private sector, noting that it provides employment to nearly nine out of 10 people, and affirmed that the government has no intention of discouraging it.

According to the minister, the government is committed to broadening the scope of private sector participation.

He noted that some ongoing investigations are long-standing cases that have now reached their final stages.

He clarified that while no one involved in wrongdoing will be granted immunity, there will be no selective or retaliatory actions.

"Justice will be fair and impartial," he said.Reiterating the government's stance, Dr. Wagle stressed that it is supportive of the private sector.

"Even my first decision reflects that. Neither the government nor the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is against the private sector," he added.

Highlighting economic priorities, he said the government is working towards transforming the economy and promised that the upcoming budget will be the most transformative and historic since 2048 BS.



PHOTO: TRN

Finance Minister Dr. Swarnim Wagle in a meet with a delegation from Stock Brokers Association of Nepal, led by its General Secretary Bhakti Ram Ghimire, held at the ministry on Monday morning.

"A golden era for Nepal's economy is approaching," he remarked.

Addressing concerns in the stock market, Wagle stated that his party holds one of the most liberal positions on the share market, as clearly outlined in its manifesto.

He urged stakeholders not to be misled by rumours and misinformation currently circulating in the market.

He emphasised strengthening the role of the Securities Board of Nepal to ensure fair practices in the capital market.

The finance minister reiterated that the government's policy framework has prioritised capital market development.

He described the capital market as a model sector and suggested that other sectors could adopt similar standards of transparency and professionalism.

During the meeting, representatives of the Stock Brokers' Association of Nepal expressed concern over declining confidence among small investors.

General Secretary Ghimire emphasised that the spread of false information in the market has contributed significantly to declining confidence, particularly among retail investors.

He urged stakeholders and regulators to take steps to curb misinformation and restore trust.

They also highlighted the need to introduce measures that make the market more accessible and favourable for institutional investors, which they believe would help stabilise the market.

Regarding ongoing investigations into the private sector, they acknowledged that such actions are justified.

However, they criticised the lack of confidentiality, stating that sensitive investigations should have been conducted discreetly to avoid negative impact on market perception.

Removing Nepal from FATF grey list top priority

Meanwhile, representatives of the Society of Economic Journalists–Nepal (SEJON) and Finance Minister Dr. Swarnim Wagle discussed a wide range of economic issues.

During the discussion, Minister Wagle clarified that rumours of government action targeting investors are misleading. "There is no intention to take action against small investors," he said, adding that unnecessary fear has been created in the market.

The minister said that removing Nepal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list is the government's top priority.

He noted that Nepal's inclusion in the grey list has harmed the country's international reputation and negatively affected the investment climate, creating challenges in attracting foreign investment and maintaining investor confidence.

FM Dr. Wagle acknowledged that past efforts to exit the grey list were largely limited to paperwork and commitments without effective implementation.

However, he emphasised that the government has now entered the execution phase, focusing on enforcing necessary reforms.

INT'L INDUSTRIAL EXPO IN CHITWAN FROM APRIL 10

RSS
Chitwan, Apr. 6

The 10th international industrial exhibition is beginning here from April 10. The three-day expo is organized by Chitwan Chamber of Commerce. Information about the event was shared at a press conference organized here today.

Chamber Chairman Madan Ghimire said the exhibition would help boost production and export. The industrial and agricultural products, handicrafts, plastics and packaging are in the display. Together in the exhibition are machineries and technologies applied in production and service industries. The stalls will be managed from all seven provinces.

The industries linked to national campaign of 'Make in Nepal' will have significant presence. The machineries of the National Innovation Centre are equally important attractions, according to Ghimire.



PHOTO: RSS

Heavy snowfall since Sunday evening has affected Yak in the upper regions of Manang. Continuous snowfall has filled animal sheds across all areas of Nisyang Rural Municipality in Manang.

NEPSE bounces back with 3.11% gain after heavy Sunday losses

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr. 6

The share market rebounded sharply on Monday, recovering part of the losses it suffered in the previous session.

The benchmark NEPSE index surged by 83.33 points (3.11 per cent), closing at 2,760.02, after a steep drop of 105.50 points (3.79 per cent) on Sunday.

Market analysts attribute the recovery to discussions between the Stock Brokers' Association of Nepal and Finance Minister Dr. Swarnim Wagle, held on Monday morning to address ongoing market concerns.

The sensitive index, which tracks the performance of 'A' category companies, rose by 14.30 points (3.12 per cent), closing at 471.92 points, following a Sunday dip of 15.62 points (3.30 per cent).

All sectoral sub-indices recorded gains on Monday.

Sub-index of the life insurance group saw the highest growth of 330.63 points followed by non-life insurance and hotels and tourism group whose indices increased by 317.21 points and 233.94 points respectively.

On Sunday, the sub-index of the life insurance group dropped by 463.71 points while non-life insurance decreased by 432.74 points.

Similarly, on Monday, sub-index of development bank group increased by 208.37 points, hydropower by 166.91 points, manufacturing and processing by 162.86 points, microfinance by 116.06 points and finance by 94.66 points.

The sub-index of trading rose by 90.88 points, others by 48.25 points, banking by 44.79 points, investment by 3.41 points and mutual fund by 0.30 points.

Although the NEPSE index increased, the daily turnover decreased on Monday as compared to Sunday's transaction.

A total of 25,155,854 shares worth Rs. 10.92 billion of 345 companies were bought and sold in 124,093 transactions today.

On Sunday, a total of 31,206,162 shares worth Rs. 12.38 billion had been bought and sold.

The share price of 309 companies increased while the share price of 26 companies decreased in today's transaction.

On Monday, share price of four companies, including Upakar Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha, Bhujung Hydropower, Ridi Power Company and National Hydropower Company each surged by 10 per cent.

Likewise, share prices of Super Khudi Hydropower, Ridge Line Energy, Suryakunda Hydro Electric and Hotel Forest Inn increased by 9.99 per cent each.

However, share price of Laxmi Bank Debenture 2088 decreased by 3.10 per cent, Century Debenture 2088 by 1.94 per cent and Laxmi Value Fund 2 by 1.84 per cent.

China's mining workers ahead of change

AP
China, Apr. 6

Yang Haiming didn't stop working when he retired from the coal mines at age 60. Instead, he jumped into a new industry.

Yang is part of a generation of workers that powered China's growth by digging coal from underground mines in Datong, a city known as China's coal capital in the northern province of Shanxi. Now, as China prioritizes renewable energy over coal, Yang is ahead of the change his fellow workers are being forced to confront.

He now runs a restaurant that sells lamb skewers to tourists visiting the Yungang Grottoes, a historically significant 6th century site featuring Buddhist carvings in caves that draws millions of visitors a year.

Shanxi province would be the world's larger producer of coal if it were its own country. Its roughly 800,000 miners dug 1.3 billion tons in 2025, or nearly one-third of China's coal. A few million more people work in jobs that rely indirectly on coal, ranging from logistics to restaurants. The province will see crucial change as China adds renewable energy so fast it covered almost all of the nation's growth in power demand last year, and growing tourism is a major goal.

Experts say it's vital to make sure coal workers don't get left behind — a worry for many."It doesn't feel like money's coming into this industry," said Zhou Hongfei, a coal miner.



PHOTO: AP

Retired miner Yang Haiming prepares skewers of barbecued meat at a restaurant in Datong, China, Friday, March 13, 2026.

Coal town's evolution

As is typical for China's state-owned enterprises, the coal company built Yang's village right next to the mine — called No. 9 — that its residents would work. The place once hummed with thousands of workers and their families, with a school, a day care and a sports center. An elevated rail line passes through to carry coal to the rest of the country.

These days, the No. 9 mine is mostly a museum, though a section is still being worked. The school is empty, its gates locked. Many of the low-rise apartment blocks are only partially filled, often not by miners but by people attracted to cheap housing.

Yang recalls prosperous years before surrounding villages were dismantled.

"There were so many people, especially during the New Year," he said. "It was crowded everywhere. Now the bustling scenes have gone, and so has the feeling." Those who stayed behind, like Yang, have tried to capitalize on visitors to the Yungang Grottoes. On a day when Associated Press reporters visited, one retired coal miner walked the street striking up conversations in hopes of bringing customers to his noodle shop. Mostly elderly people walked in the street, soaking up the sun.

Transitioning to tourism is difficult

Yang is in the minority of workers who've managed to make a transition.

There are many "who don't know what to do, who say they don't have the right skill sets for anyone else. All they know is to be a coal miner, or the easiest fallback option is for them to go back to farming," said Tom Wang, a Shanxi native, environmental activist and founder of People of Asia for Climate Solutions.

Zhou, 36, said he thought about switching to tourism but didn't know how. And he worries about supporting his wife and 8-year-old daughter.

"To really be able to make contact with and then switch into a new industry is very hard, and the truth is, I don't dare," he said. "If you leave this industry, you don't know if it'll work out. Can I adapt? And what if this ends up being a burden for my family?"

Mining wages rise and fall with demand. Before Yang retired eight years ago, he earned up to 10,000 renminbi (about $1,450) in a good month. He said he earns more now from his restaurant. The province is trying to develop several alternative industries, from investing in coal-to-hydrogen projects to promoting its native "youmai," a type of oat used by locals to make a special type of noodles.

But Shanxi's major focus and biggest success for life after coal has been tourism. Hang Kan, who directs the Yungang Research Institute that oversees the grottoes and is a representative in the National People's Congress, last year called for accelerating development of the culture and tourism industry into "a strategic pillar" that "promotes people's welfare" in Shanxi.

Business leaders present agenda for FNCCI election

BY RAMMANI DAHAL
Makwanpur, Apr. 6

Bed Bahadur Shrestha, a candidate for President of the Bagmati Province chapter of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), has expressed his commitment to resolving the problems faced by businesspeople in districts connected to northern border points with China.

Speaking at a press conference held in Hetauda on Monday to announce his panel and commitments, Shrestha said that he would draw the government's special attention to the issues faced by traders during import and export through Rasuwagadhi and Tatopani, and work toward resolving them.

He said that if elected, he would take special initiatives to address problems such as double taxation, measurement issues, underbilling, and mismatches faced by businesses. He also pledged to arrange land and construct a well-equipped secretariat building for the Bagmati Province FNCCI.

While unveiling a nine-point commitment plan, he said that Bagmati Province has a great potential in agriculture and tourism, and he would work in coordination with the provincial government to develop modern and technology-based agricultural systems.

The commitment document also mentions that campaigns will be conducted in collaboration with the provincial government focusing on agriculture, tourism, hydropower, industry, and trade as key concerns of the private sector. As per the document, the Province Business Act 2076 will be revised in coordination with the provincial government to make it more business-friendly.

The plan also includes coordinating with the government to promote women-led businesses in Bagmati Province, ensuring proper marketing arrangements for products made by women entrepreneurs, and making the provincial FNCCI more inclusive, transparent, and institutionally well-governed.

Two candidates are competing for the position of president of the FNCCI Bagmati Province. Along with Bed Bahadur Shrestha, Durga Raj Shrestha has also filed his candidacy.The election for the upcoming three-year term is scheduled to take place in Hetauda on Tuesday.

On the associate side, Vice President Krishna Bhakta Shrestha and commodity executive members Jyotiratna Bajracharya and Sadis Shrestha have been elected unopposed.

Kabiraj Khatri and Krishna Kumar Gupta have registered their candidacy for Vice President (District/Municipal), Prem Hari Mainali and Raj Kumar Dahal for Vice President (Commodity), and Jivankaji Makaju Shrestha and Rudra Bahadur Khatri for Treasurer.

A total of 216 people, including 31 from the district and municipal, 165 from the associate, and 20 from the commodity sectors side, have the right to vote in the election.

Tamakoshi bridge left incomplete for nine years

BY SUJAN KAFLE
Charikot, Apr. 6

The bridge over the Tamakoshi River, located on the main route connecting Charikot-Dolakha's major commercial hub and the tourist destination of Jiri with Ramechhap, has remained incomplete for the past nine years. The project has become a symbol of government neglect and contractor negligence, lying abandoned for years.

Although the old steel truss bridge, constructed in 1982, has already exceeded its technical lifespan, instead of bringing the new bridge into operation, authorities have begun cosmetic repairs on the deteriorating structure. This has sparked dissatisfaction among locals.

Ignoring the fact that the decades-old bridge has lost its load-bearing capacity, the Bridge Division has started repainting it. Locals said this was an attempt to cover up government delays. Santosh Pokharel, a local, stated that repainting the bridge was merely a way to mask inefficiency.

A contract for the construction of a new concrete bridge was signed with Nilgiri-National JV on August 24, 2016, with a target to complete the project within two years. However, even after nearly nine years since construction began, the 75-metre-long RCC arch bridge remains unfinished.

The project, estimated to cost around Rs. 100 million, has no clear completion timeline due to contractor delays and weak government oversight.

Although initial construction work had begun, the contractor abandoned the project midway, leaving local residents' hopes of a fully operational new bridge unfulfilled. Meanwhile, the old Tamakoshi bridge is in an extremely dangerous condition. Having borne traffic for 43 years, its iron joints have weakened, and the bridge shakes significantly when heavy vehicles pass over it.



PHOTO: TRN

Pillar construction for new bridge left unattended and the old truss bridge over the Tamakoshi River in Charikot-Dolakha road.

The situation has drawn sharp criticism on social media, with many calling it both risky and questionable that authorities are attempting to make the old bridge look new with paint instead of ensuring the timely completion of the new one.

Locals argued that repainting would not extend the bridge's lifespan and would only conceal the increasing risk of accidents. They labeled the move as a misuse of public funds.

With the new bridge still non-operational, hundreds of vehicles and thousands of passengers are forced to risk their lives every day while crossing the old bridge. This single deteriorating structure remains the only transport link connecting Charikot, Jiri, and neighboring Ramechhap district, leaving drivers and passengers in constant fear.

Despite repeated warnings and protests, the inability to act against the contractor and complete the project has raised serious questions about the effectiveness of local authorities and elected representatives. Rather than deflecting the issue through cosmetic repairs, making the new bridge operational as soon as possible appears to be the only viable solution.

Regarding the delay in the Tamakoshi bridge construction and ongoing maintenance work, Ratna Laxmi Bajracharya, Chief of the Bridge Sector Office in Kathmandu, said that progress had stalled due to the contractor's negligence.

According to her, representatives of Nilgiri National JV are currently out of contact and have not returned to the project site, bringing the situation close to contract termination.

She stated that the office had set a deadline until mid-May for the contractor to resume work by installing a rig machine at the site. If work does not begin within this timeframe, the contract will be formally terminated by mid-June.

Bajracharya also informed that around Rs. 25 million has been allocated for the maintenance and repainting of the existing bridges over both the Sunkoshi and Tamakoshi rivers, including the replacement of structural members.

Although the contractor has verbally committed to resuming work, no tangible progress has been observed, and preparations to terminate the contract are now in their final stage.

SEE ANSWER SHEETS CHECKING GOES ON IN BAITADI



BY KESHAV RAJ BHATTA
Baitadi, Apr. 6

The answer sheets of SEE are being rapidly checked at the examination centre in Baitadi. As per the instructions of the Office of the Controller of Examinations, answer sheet checking commenced on Thursday evening, the first day of the SEE.

According to Puskar Sharma, Information Officer at the Education Development and Coordination Unit, Baitadi, the answer sheet examination is being conducted at all 26 exam centres in the district.

According to local officials, the concerned superintendent has arranged to assign subject-specific teachers to test the answer sheets.

It is also said that only teachers from different schools will be allowed to check the answer sheets, aiming to maintain impartiality.

Pushpa Raj Joshi, centre head of Gyaneshwor Secondary School in Patan Municipality, said that the results of each subject for each day are being prepared and sent by the evening of the same day.

Similarly, Dhirendra Madai, superintendent of Manilek Secondary School in Dasharathchand Municipality, informed that the examination is being conducted peacefully and in a dignified manner.

Narendra Prasad Awasthi, head of the EDCU, said that there is an arrangement for the checked answer sheets to be sent to the EDCU of the concerned district and from there to the Examination Controller's Office.

The examination is being conducted through 25 centres in Baitadi for regular and grade-advancement examinees, while the centre has been designated for the technical stream examinees at Bhimdatta Polytechnic School in Patan. This year, 4,551 examinees have participated in the SEE in the district.

There are 3,921 examinees, including 1,963 males and 1,958 females, in the regular category and 630 examinees, including 256 males and 374 females, in the grade-up category.

Students from a total of 142 schools, including 138 community schools and eight institutional schools, are appearing for the SEE exam this year.

Wild elephants return to BNP following season migration

BY JYOTI PANTI
Bardiya, April. 6

Wild elephants that had moved to India through the Khata Corridor along the Nepal-India border during December/January have begun returning to Nepal.

The elephants, which regularly move between Bardiya National Park (BNP) and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, are now crossing back into Nepal via the international biological corridor.

According to park officials, elephants usually migrate to the Indian side in search of food, particularly during the sugarcane harvesting season. As water sources become available and vegetation turns greener in Bardiya during March/April, the elephants return to Nepal.

More than 120 elephants from BNP typically move into India in three separate groups. After spending a few months there, they begin returning to Nepal around March/April.

The returning herds usually remain inside the park until December/January, after which they again migrate towards Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in India.

Chief Conservation Officer Ashok Ram said the elephants generally spend about four months in India before returning to Nepal for another four months. Herd sizes range from around 12 to 40 elephants.

Park officials said the migration is largely driven by the seasonal availability of food and water. During the dry months, when vegetation is scarce in Nepal, elephants move to India and return once spring brings fresh growth.

Elephants returning through the Khata Corridor are sometimes seen reaching the East-West Highway, occasionally disrupting traffic movement.

Officials said elephants travelling in groups are generally calm and well-organised, often led by an older female. However, solitary elephants that stray from the herd can be aggressive.

Hari Gurung, chairperson of the Khata Corridor Conservation Committee, confirmed that elephants have already started returning through the corridor.

Similarly, Information Officer Saroj Mani Paudel said two to three herds have recently been spotted inside BNP, indicating the seasonal return has begun.

Contractor's negligence stalls Bheri River Bridge for 13 years

BY RAJU LAMICHHANE
Rukum West, Apr.6

A bridge over the Bheri River along the Madhyapahadi (Mid-Hill) Highway has remained incomplete for 13 years, highlighting how negligence by responsible authorities can stall public service and development projects.

The bridge, which is meant to connect Rukum West and Jajarkot, was originally scheduled for completion in 2015. The Mid-Hill Highway Project Office had signed a contract with YP Construction Pvt. Ltd. in 2012, with a three-year completion target. However, the project remains unfinished even after 13 years.

As a result, a key section of the Mid-Hill Highway -- considered a national pride project -- has yet to link Rukum West and Jajarkot. The bridge, being constructed over the Bheri River to connect Adhere of Chaurjahari Municipality-2 with Kudu of Bheri Municipality-13 in Jajarkot, currently has only its foundation pillars erected on both sides.

According to Niranjan Thapa, chief of the Mid-Hill Highway Project Office in Dailekh, preparations are under way to call a new tender for the bridge construction. He said that a revised design,



including some additions, has been sent to the Department of Roads for approval, and a tender is likely to be announced within this fiscal year.

Due to changes in the river's course, a new design incorporating necessary embankments has been prepared. Thapa added that after the first contract was cancelled, two separate tenders were called but failed to attract contractors. In one case, the proposed cost was too high, while in another, no bids were submitted.

The delay in bridge construction has also affected the upgrading and blacktopping works of the highway. Moreover, vehicles have yet to operate between Rukum West and Jajarkot along this section of the Mid-Hill Highway.

The contract with YP Construction Pvt. Ltd. was terminated on December 15, 2022, 10 years after it was signed, due to the contractor's failure to carry out the work. Following the termination, a security deposit of Rs. 7.2 million and an advance payment of Rs. 26 million were confiscated.

In addition, as per the Public Procurement Regulations 2007, the contractor was fined Rs. 85.79 million. The contract, estimated at Rs. 180 million, remained incomplete after the death of the contractor's proprietor, Raju Shrestha, which reportedly contributed to the delay.

Poll expense details made public

BY CHANDRA PANDAK
Taplejung, Apr. 6

All candidates who contested the House of Representatives (HoR) election from Taplejung, held on March 5, have submitted their election expenditure details.

On Sunday, the final day for submission, all 13 candidates from various political parties who competed in the election submitted their expense reports to the District Election Office.

According to the District Election Office, Taplejung, the total election expenditure submitted by the 13 candidates from different political parties amounts to Rs 10,919,173.

As per legal provisions, candidates are required to make their election expenses public and submit the details to the Election Commission within 30 days of the announcement of the final results.

In line with this provision, all candidates from the district disclosed their expenses by Sunday, the final day of the 30-day deadline following the announcement of results.

According to Chief Election Officer Dhanraj Shrestha, Kshitij Thebe of the CPN-UML, who was elected from Taplejung, reported election expenses of Rs 2,242,525.

However, his closest rival, Gajendra Prasad Tumyahng of the Nepali Congress (NC), reported higher expenditure than Thebe.

Tumyahng submitted an expense report of Rs 2,493,000, the highest among all 13 candidates.



Similarly, Khel Prasad Budhakhetri (Parag), who contested from the Nepali Communist Party, reported spending Rs 2,349,928.

Birendra Shrestha, a candidate from the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), submitted expenses of Rs 1,176,575. Likewise, Santosh Rai of the Shram Sanskriti Party reported expenses of Rs. 319,545, while Indra Prasad Thapa of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party spent Rs 985,000.

Kirtiman Maden of the Ujyalo Nepal Party reported Rs. 416,000, and Narapati Paudel of the CPN (Maoist) reported Rs. 350,500 in election expenses.

Indra Kumar Limbu of the Nepal Janamukti Party reported Rs. 168,000, while Surya Gurung of the Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal submitted expenses of Rs. 150,000. Arun Subba Lechharwo, another candidate from the Janata Samajwadi Party, reported Rs. 67,000.

The lowest expenditure was reported by Santa Bahadur Limbu of the Mongol National Organisation, amounting to Rs. 65,100.

According to Bandabraj Dulal (Bipin), a computer operator at the District Election Office, Taplejung, candidates Shrestha of the RSP and Tumyahang of the NC submitted their expense reports five days after the election. Other candidates followed thereafter.

Thapa of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party submitted his expense report only on the final day, Sunday, informed Chief Election Officer Shrestha.

He added that all candidates from the district have now submitted their election expenditure details to the office.

The final results of the election in Taplejung were announced on the evening of March 7, two days after the voting.

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Health and Population
Department of Health Services
Management Division
Teku, Kathmandu, Nepal

Re-Invitation for Electronic Bid

Date of publication: 7 April 2026

Invitation for Bid No: DOHS/G/ICB-18.1/EDCD/2082-83

1. Government of Nepal, Department of Health services invites the International Competitive Bid for the procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine 0.5ml (ARV) under the contract identification number (IFB No. **DOHS/G/ICB-18.1/EDCD/2082-83**) to be delivered at Central Store Teku, Kathmandu.
2. Department of Health Services Management Division Teku, Kathmandu invites *electronic* bids from eligible bidders for the **procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine 0.5ml (ARV)** under **International Competitive Bidding – Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure.**
3. Under the Single Stage, Two Envelope Procedure, Bidders are required to submit simultaneously two separate sealed envelopes, one containing (i) the Technical Bid and the other (ii) the Price Bid, both in turn enclosed in one sealed envelope as per the provision of ITB 23 of the Bidding Document.
4. Eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Management division Teku Kathmandu or may visit PPMO e-GP system www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp.
5. The bidder shell chooses to submit their bid electronically may download the bidding documents for e-submission from PPMO's e-GP system www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp. Bidders, submitting their bid electronically, should deposit the cost of bidding document NRs. 5000.00 or USD. 50.00 in the following Rajaswa (revenue) account as specified below.

Information to deposit the cost of bidding document in Bank:
Name of the Bank: Rastriya Banijya Bank, Teku Kathmandu
Name of the Office: Department of Health Service,
Office Code No. : 370-013-501
Office Account No. : 1000200010000
Revenue Head No. : 14229

6. Pre-bid meeting shall be held at **Meeting Hall of Management Division Department of Health Services Teku Kathmandu** at **12:00 Hr 17 April 2026**
7. Electronic bids must be submitted to the office of Management Division Department of Health Services Teku Kathmandu by through PPMO's e-GP system www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp on or before **13: 00 Hr** on **28 April 2026** Bids received after this deadline will be rejected.
8. The bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **13:10 Hr 28 April 2026** at the office of **Management Division Department of Health Services Meeting Hall**. Bids must be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of bid opening and must be accompanied by a scanned copy of the bid security in pdf format, amounting to a minimum of NRs **1,700,000.00 (USD. 17,000.00)** which shall be valid for 30 days beyond the validity period of the bid (i.e., **26 August 2026)**
9. If the last date of purchasing and /or submission falls on a government holiday, then the next working day shall be considered as the last date. In such case the validity period of the bid and bid security shall remain the same as specified for the original last date of bid submission.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.
- Mahatma Gandhi

EDITORIAL

Protecting Phewa Lake

Pokhara, known as the nation's capital of tourism, is synonymous with scenic beauty. Its economy largely hinges on the flow of tourists who throng to relish its beautiful lakes and shiny mountains that line its northern border. The picturesque city hosts numerous lakes, including Phewa and Begnas. The Annapurna range standing nearby provides a breathtaking view from the city. However, illegally built structures that have encroached on the lake recently have become an eyesore, impacting its magnificence and ecological balance. In 2023, the Supreme Court ordered the removal of all structures within a 65-metre protected area from the high-flood line. The verdict aimed to safeguard water quality, biodiversity, and the lake's natural beauty. Earlier, a total of 611 poles had been placed along the roughly 16-kilometre perimeter to demarcate the lake area.

Previously, the governments' endeavour to implement the court's order met with the obstacles from the encroachers and both visible and hidden forces that supported them. This time, however, Prime Minister Balendra Shah's government has stepped up the measures to demolish such illegal structures, which will restore the exquisiteness of the water body. The move closely aligns with the electoral agenda of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).

Hotels, restaurants, resorts and other commercial structures that slowly encroached on the lake's natural shoreline and buffer zone diminished the natural beauty of the lake and polluted it. Likewise, the hustle and bustle around these areas has disturbed the fragile ecosystem of the lake, including the birds, both native and migratory, vegetation, and the aquatic ecosystem. The government, time and again, intensified the effort to execute the court order and remove the illegal structures within the lake boundary, but failed due to obstruction from the encroachers' side and the undue influence they exerted. This time, however, the new government seems firm on its stance, and Pokhara Metropolitan City has demolished the illegal physical infrastructures. The court ruling envisioned a green, lush Phewa buffer zone that could control pollution and erosion. If the government does not take the right action on time, the Phewa Lake will suffer irreparable harm, so the bulldozers demolishing the swimming pools and demolishing the restaurants were important.

The Supreme Court's verdict stresses that the private land that does not fall under protected areas and that was legally registered before the lakes boundary was demarcated in 1973-74 will be liable to compensation. Encroachers staging a protest and demanding compensation do not have any legal basis, as the government is not liable to compensate those who have constructed the structures encroaching the lake; instead, they should be punished as per law. The Phewa Lake, one among the cluster of nine lakes in Kaski, is listed in the Ramsar site, and it plays an important role in groundwater recharge, water purification and climate regulation. However, pollution, human encroachment, and the construction of infrastructure for commercial purposes have led to the shrinking of the lake. Phewa is not the only lake to face encroachment; nearly every other lake and wetland in Nepal has encountered a similar problem. The natural boundaries of lakes and wetlands were deliberately shrunk to fulfil vested interests. Now it's time for this government to demolish illegal structures built around such lakes and wetlands in an endeavour to restore their natural beauty and protect the ecosystem and the communities dependent on them.

Tips On Personal Finance

PRATIK AWALE

We have often heard that no matter how much a person earns, it simply isn't enough. It barely survives till the end of the month and won't have much to save or invest. Then, in the next month, the paycheck arrives, and the cycle continues. The same is true for someone earning Rs. 15,000 per month or someone earning Rs. 1, 00,000 per month. If we analyse the pattern, the problem isn't our earning capacity, but our personal finance management capacity. This doesn't mean we should stop focusing on earning more, but it is always better to start by fixing the current situation.

In order to manage our personal finances, we must know how money is flowing into and out of our pockets. We can start by recording our expenses for a few months, noting down both the expense amount and the objective of spending. First of all, you will notice yourself becoming more conscious about your spending. In a few months, you can even start to analyse where the majority of your money is being spent.

Maybe you eat too much in restaurants, maybe you make too many impulsive purchases on unnecessary items, maybe you spend too much on new clothes, and other similar expenses. There will be some patterns that can be seen and corrected. For example, instead of eating out too frequently, you can start packing lunch boxes. Before buying any new item, ask yourself if it adds any value to your life. Before buying new clothes, you can review the clothes you already own and analyse whether you really need more.

The first few days after receiving the paycheck are usually when the majority of expenses occur. The amount shown in your bank balance, or the cash available in your hand, gives a sense of high purchasing power and often influences overspending. To solve this problem, you can allocate your budget for each week and transfer the amount to your digital wallet or another bank account specifically for this purpose. Allocating the budget helps to ensure that you aren't spending too much at the start of the month and that there is still a sufficient amount left for the end.

After you receive your paycheck and before making any expenses, it is always better to save or invest first. We often have the habit of using all the available resources and adjusting accordingly. For example, if you receive Rs. 25,000, you may end up spending the full amount in a month. But if you save and invest about Rs. 5,000 and have Rs. 20,000 left, then you spend only Rs. 20,000. Hence, it is better to allocate a certain amount for saving and investing as soon as you receive money.

Investing can be done in various ways, for starters. After careful research, you can begin by investing in the stock market, investing as low as Rs. 1,000 in SIPs, or purchasing commodities. The earlier you start investing, the more benefits you can get from the power of compounding. Even a small amount of money, if invested consistently for a long period of time, can grow significantly. Apart from financial investments, you can also invest in yourself by purchasing new books or courses to improve your skillset.

Nepal Can Contribute To AI Growth

Saramsh Kharel



Using a basic feature phone, a Nepali-speaking farmer can consult a chatbot for advice on soil, seeds, and irrigation in his preferred language. In hospitals, doctors use AI tools to detect diseases faster. Meanwhile, a young engineer from a rural area trains language models to protect, document, and revive endangered local cultures. These cases are no longer science fiction. With the approval of the National AI Policy 2082, Nepal has taken a crucial step toward embracing AI for development. The potential is clear, but risks remain: a mistranslation can cause real harm. For AI to succeed, its answers must rest on verified sources.

However, the real impact lies not in downloads, but in whether Nepal can deliver safe and inclusive growth that benefits everyone. Nepal can offer solutions to agricultural productivity, disaster resilience, and access to health care. For the global AI ecosystem, Nepal brings unique talent, diverse data, and real-world problems, which make AI more inclusive. So, the relationship should be mutual: What AI means for Nepal and what Nepal means for AI forms an interdependent relationship that shapes the structural transformation of Nepal.

Policy

The National AI policy aims to promote AI for agricultural production forecasting, smart irrigation and e-markets. More than 60 per cent of people still rely upon agriculture. For instance, PlantSat Nepal helps farmers manage crops more effectively by using satellite data and is working on digitising crop and livestock insurance. The use of drones and satellites can forecast yields, optimise irrigation needs, and monitor progress. Reliable and quality healthcare is limited in rural Nepal. AI can facilitate telemedicine, early disease detection and forecast outbreaks like tuberculosis and malaria. For instance, NAAMI, a non-profit organisation, focuses on exploring ways to leverage AI to address significant challenges faced in remote regions.

In a disaster-prone region, AI can improve early warning systems for monsoons, landslides, floods, among other calamities by analysing weather patterns and satellite data. This can save lives and reduce potential economic losses. AI learning platforms can assist students in remote areas through learning activities. Such AI-driven offline tutors and customised learning platforms boost educational inclusivity. Likewise, universities are integrating AI robotics and data science into their curricula, and private institutions provide AI fellowships to prepare students for global markets as well.

AI helps to automate public services across various tiers of government. Integrating AI into existing e-governance platforms like Nagarik App will improve access. Another laudable example is that Lalitpur Metropolitan City has successfully deployed an AI-based intelligent traffic light system in the city to manage traffic efficiently. The AI policy aims to increase IT sector's contribution to GDP by an additional 1 per cent and train AI professionals. For instance, F1Soft International has revolutionised digital payments, enabling people to shift towards online transactions. Such growth can directly impact global outsourcing, attracting foreign investment and promoting exports.

People tend to trust institutions more than algorithms. For widespread adoption, AI must carry the credibility of trusted institutions with credible sources. Nepal ranks 150th out of 193 nations in the Government AI Readiness Index, reflecting gaps in regulation, infrastructure, and digital literacy. The prevailing digital divide is worrying. Rural Nepal still suffers from poor internet, electricity, and low digital literacy, risking that AI benefits only urban and educated people while widening the inequality.

> Nepal geographic diversity can contribute valuable data that improves AI models trained on local agricultural issues such as crop management, which can be adopted for similar geographic zones regionally and globally.

Skills shortage and brain drain further complicate the issue, as a talented population often seeks better opportunities abroad. Likewise, advanced systems demand a reliable energy source and infrastructure, which is still limited. Finally, regulatory and ethical risks, including data privacy, potential job displacement, and misuse, require careful governance. Even though the AI Regulation Council has been established, its implementation will be crucial. Nepal's approach to AI should be focused on leveraging technology for socio-economic development, digital inclusion, and efficient public service delivery, as supported by the National AI Policy. So, Nepal is not only a consumer of AI technologies; it also offers valuable assets for the global economy.

Nepali professionals are already contributing to global AI projects abroad. With initiatives like the Fusemachine fellowship and growing university courses, Nepal can definitely become one of the cost-effective and high-quality talent hubs. Nepal possesses vast hydropower potential. As AI data centres require huge energy and raise environmental concerns, Nepal can position itself as a green solution for the South Asian region. By investing in AI excellence centres, Nepal can move towards creator of global AI solutions. Nepal geographic diversity can contribute valuable data that improves AI models trained on local agricultural issues such as crop management, which can be adopted for similar geographic zones regionally and globally.

AI literacy

Effective implementation mechanisms should be adopted for the National AI Policy, with clear action plans, adequate resources, and monitoring. Priority should be given to AI literacy through targeted programmes focused on rural youth, women, and marginalised communities for skills development. Also crucial is building public-private partnerships to develop infrastructure and pilot projects in key sectors such as agriculture, health, and disaster resilience. Finally, focus on ethical AI governance must be ensured from the ground-level implementation.

Nepal could be one of the emerging markets for the world's leading AI firms. The government should invite companies, academics, and innovators to test their systems in Nepal on a national scale. If done right, the adoption will not only improve public service but also enrich the science of AI through feedback from millions of users. The hardest place to make AI work is also the place where it matters the most.

(The author is an assistant manager at the Rastriya Banijya Bank.)

New Advertising Policy Serves Nation's Interest

Narayan Prasad Mishra



Whether we use the Nepali words aama-babu, mata-pita (father and mother), daddy-mummy, or any other similar term, they all carry the same meaning—the head of the family, the guardian. They are the principal couple who dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the peace, happiness, welfare, prosperity, and progress of their children. Similarly, when we speak of a government, it is understood to be the guardian and protector of the entire nation and its people, working for their welfare, advancement, and progress. Therefore, there is no doubt that every plan and policy of a government should be directed toward the well-being of the country and the majority of its citizens. Regardless of the political system or which party is in power, the fundamental duty of any government is to focus on how to serve the nation and its people best - not merely its own party, group, or close associates.

It is often said that the past should not be discussed in the present, and in our country, there exists a tendency to condemn everything from the past while praising everything in the present. For over three decades, this mindset has prevailed, and as a result, many may find what I say unpleasant. However, there was a time when the government in our country functioned much closer to the ideals described above than it does today. Certain rules and policies were designed not for the benefit of specific organisations or groups, but for the nation and its people as a whole. Remembering that time, I feel compelled to write a few words.

At a young age, after passing the civil service examination, I entered government service in 2017 B.S. (1960 A.D.) and was posted to the Publicity Department at the Gorkhapatra Printing Press. At that time, the government was led by Prime Minister B.P. Koirala of the Nepali Congress Party. Surendra Raj Sharma was the Director of the concerned department (Publicity Department), Nani Babu Acharya was the manager of the printing press (Gorkhapatra Chhapakhana), and Prem Raj Sharma was the Chief Editor of Gorkhapatra. The post of Director General did not exist then.

Policy

Since national policies were formulated in the best interests of the country and its people, the government's printing and advertising policies were structured accordingly. Under these policies, any ministry, department, corporation, committee, office, or institution had to mandatorily assign all printing work—such as letterheads, forms, books, and booklets—to the Gorkhapatra Printing Press. Only if the press officially responded in writing that it could not handle a specific task due to an already heavy workload was the work allowed to be outsourced, and even then, only in accordance with existing rules and regulations. It is clear that this system effectively protected government institutions, ensured their development, and significantly helped control irregularities and corruption in printing work.

Similarly, all types of government notices and advertisements had to be published in Gorkhapatra. Legally, only information published in Gorkhapatra was considered officially communicated to the public. This policy not only protected government-owned institutions but also served the interests of citizens. Anyone who wished to stay informed about government announcements needed only to read Gorkhapatra. Unlike today, citizens did not have to worry about missing important notices published somewhere else. There was certainty and ease of access to official information. This system, which served both national and public interests, existed in our country, and, having personally worked within it, I still recall it fondly at 84.

> There is little doubt that the public will support the successful implementation of policies and programmes that genuinely serve the national and public interest.

With the passage of time and changing circumstances, the country has transitioned from monarchy to democracy, from partyless democracy to multiparty democracy, and now to a republic. However, in recent decades, the focus has shifted from national and public interest to the interests of political parties, party systems, leaders, cadres, and affiliated groups and organisations. In this context, upon reading the recently published policies and programmes—specifically the government's 100-point governance reform agenda—of the newly formed government led by Balendra Shah of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, a sense of hope has emerged. It appears the country is, by chance, moving away from a leader-centric and cadre-centric system toward a more democratic, people-oriented governance.

National interest

Policies such as an advertising policy that prioritises national and public interest over the benefit of specific journalists or media outlets, prohibiting government employees from forming politically affiliated unions and engaging in politics, and preventing students, teachers, professors, and staff of educational institutions from abandoning their duties to participate in the dirty game of politics and disrupt the academic environment — all these are encouraging developments.

Of course, those political parties and groups that see their advantage in leader-centric and cadre-centric systems rather than in democracy and public welfare have perceived these national-interest policies as threats and have raised their voices in opposition under various pretexts. There are also renewed claims that the country has been progressing and developing under past agreements, and that such arrangements should be preserved. Nevertheless, judging by the results of recent elections, it is evident that the Nepali people have become increasingly politically aware, informed, and conscious. Therefore, there is little doubt that the public will support the successful implementation of policies and programmes that genuinely serve the national and public interest.

(The author is a freelancer.)

50 YEARS AGO

THE RISING NEPAL

April 7, 1976

Suez Canal Receipts Total 64.5M Dollars

Ismailia, Egypt, April 6: Income from Suez Canal charges will total 215 million Egyptian pounds (about 64.5 million dollars) this year, Mashur Ahmed Mashur, chairman of the Canal Organisation, announced yesterday, reports AFP.

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READER'S MAIL

Adopt EVs To Tackle Energy Crisis



This is about the news report headlined *"Govt grants two-day weekly holiday,"* carried by this daily on April 6. According to the report, the decision was made to address the deepening fuel crisis in the country in the wake of the war in West Asia.

By taking this step, Nepal has joined the list of South Asian countries that have already taken measures to that end, such as cutting excise duty on imported fuel, shifting fuel supply from non-priority sectors to key users, cutting the staff number, rationing, and even invoking emergency measures, among others, to lower the fuel consumption.

While the step is critical to deal with the crisis in the short-term, long-term solutions must be sought to cushion the country against recurring energy shocks. Incentivising the use of electric vehicles (EVs) through policy interventions, such as tax breaks, could be one of them.

Given the leap Nepal is making in hydropower generation, there shouldn't be an electricity crunch to power the rapid surge in adoption of EVs. Doing this not only dampens our oil demand but also contributes significantly to environmental protection.

Kapil Basyal
Dhapakhel, Lalitpur

TAILPIECE

A priest was hiking in the woods when suddenly a mountain lion appeared, ready to devour the man whole. The priest quickly falls to his knees, looks up to the heavens and prays, "Dear God, please teach this lion mercy and give him religion." A chorus of angels is heard as a beam of light shines down on the mountain lion. The lion then drops to his knees, looks up to heavens and prays, "Dear God, bless you for this food I'm about to receive."

++++

I got really angry with my car navigation today. I even yelled at it and told it to "go to hell." Twenty minutes later, it brought me in front of my mother-in-law's house.

Israel targets Lebanon's health care system

AP
Lebanon, Apr. 6



PHOTO: AP

Mohammad Qubaisi, 53, with burn wounds from an Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon, undergoes surgery by Dr. Mohammed Ziara, left, and his team, at the Sidon Government Hospital, in Sidon, Lebanon, Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Two years ago, Dr. Mohammed Ziara watched Israel ravage Gaza's health care system, shelling hospitals, striking ambulances and forcing patients to evacuate.

Now Ziara — along with many other medical workers, human rights groups and civilians — warns that the same scenario is unfolding in Lebanon.

Israel is pushing deep into the southern part of the country in its campaign against the Iran-backed group Hezbollah, a powerful militant force and political party that long has exercised de facto control over much of Lebanon's Shiite community.

To describe its strategy in this war, the Israeli military has invoked the devastation it wrought in Gaza after the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attacks. At one point last month, Israeli warplanes even dropped leaflets over Beirut warning that after "great success in Gaza, a new reality is coming to Lebanon, too."

"I've lived this before," Ziara, a surgeon from Gaza City who specializes in burns, told The Associated Press on Thursday at the government hospital in the Lebanese port city of Sidon.

"I cannot go back to Gaza now," Ziara said. "But I can be here, in Lebanon."

As it did with Hamas in Gaza, Israel accuses Hezbollah of hiding in and operating from civilian areas, and using hospitals and ambulances for military purposes. Israel has increasingly targeted Lebanese first responders and medical centers, forcing several hospitals to evacuate.

"I was besieged in a hospital," Ziara said of his time at Gaza's Shifa Hospital, where he worked before evacuating to Egypt with his family. He then joined the U.K.-based nonprofit Interburns, which sent him to Lebanon in 2024 to respond to the outbreak of the previous Israel-Hezbollah war. "I feel what these people feel."

Since the war between Israel and Hezbollah reignited on March 2, Israeli airstrikes have killed at least 54 health professionals as of Sunday, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. Israel has carried out 152 attacks against emergency medical workers and ambulances, and forced the closure of six hospitals and 49 health clinics through attacks or threats, the ministry says.

Ziara and his team from Interburns, which trains medics around the world in burn care, have set up the Lebanese public health system's first specialized burn unit — a critical resource in this crisis-stricken country where the war has killed 1,461 people and wounded 4,430, according to the ministry. Israel claims to have killed hundreds of Hezbollah operatives in the latest bombardment and ground invasion.

The Israeli military argues that Hezbollah's use of medical facilities makes them legitimate military targets under international law. It does not offer evidence to support its claims. Hezbollah denies conducting militant activities within civilian sites. Although the group's presence in residential areas is well-documented, there has been no independent verification of its use of hospitals for military purposes.

Based in the first city just north of Israel's evacuation zone that covers nearly all southern Lebanon, Sidon Government Hospital takes more wounded people every day.

Kamal Fakih, 27, hates when people ask him what happened on March 17.

It's not that it pains him to recall the Israeli airstrike. It's that he doesn't remember anything at all. He regained consciousness a day later at the hospital in Sidon, his body burned and cut by shrapnel.

Once stabilized, Fakih tried to connect with the paramedic who pulled him and his friend Hassan from the burning rubble, hoping to hear his account and thank him for saving their lives. But by the time Fakih got his contact, Muhammad Tafili was already dead, killed with a fellow paramedic in an Israeli airstrike on ambulances in the southeastern village of Kfar Tebnit on March 28, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

That same day, Israeli attacks killed seven other medics across four additional villages, the World Health Organization said. Among the dead was a medic targeted while responding to an Israeli airstrike that killed three journalists working for pro-Hezbollah TV channels. Footage of the incident shows two strikes in quick succession — the first hitting journalists in their car, the second crashing into paramedics as they rushed to the rescue.

Iran airstrikes kill over 25 as new ceasefire plan shared

AP
Dubai, Uae, Apr. 6

Israel and the United States carried out a wave of attacks on Iran on Monday, killing more than 25 people, and Iran responded with missile fire on Israel and its Gulf Arab neighbors. U.S. President Donald Trump's deadline for Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz loomed as mediators circulated a new ceasefire proposal.

Explosions rang out in Tehran and low-flying jets could be heard for hours as the capital was pounded. Thick black smoke rose near the city's Azadi Square after one airstrike hit the grounds of the Sharif University of Technology.

Among those killed in one of the attacks was the head of intelligence for Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Maj. Gen. Majid Khademi, according to Iranian state media and Israel's defense minister.

Iranian missiles hit the northern Israeli city of Haifa, where two people were found dead in the rubble of a residential building, and searchers looked for two more.

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia all activated their air defense systems to intercept incoming Iranian missiles and drones, as Tehran kept up the pressure on its Gulf neighbors. Iran's regular attacks on regional energy infrastructure and its stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped in peacetime, has sent global energy prices soaring.

Under pressure at home as consumers are growing increasingly concerned, Trump gave Tehran a deadline that expires Monday night Washington time, saying if no deal was reached to reopen the strait, the U.S. would hit Iran's power plants and other infrastructure targets and set the country "back to the stone ages."

"Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran," he threatened in a social media post, adding that if Iran did not open the strait "you'll be living in Hell."

In an effort to stop the fighting, Egyptian, Pakistani and Turkish mediators have sent Iran and the U.S. a proposal calling for a 45-day ceasefire and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to give time to try and find a way to end the war, two Mideast officials have told The Associated Press.

Iran and the U.S. have not responded to the proposal, sent late Sunday night to both Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and U.S. Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff, the officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private negotiations.

Trump has at times demanded that Iran reopen the strait or face a significant escalation in bombing from the U.S. while at other times said it was not up to Washington to force the waterway open or even that the war could end without it being reopened.

He has also given multiple deadlines to Iran on the issue, and after the threat he posted Sunday he later posted a single line saying "Tuesday, 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time!" It was not clear whether that meant he had extended the deadline another day.

Tehran has shown no signs of backing down from its stranglehold on shipping through the strait, which was fully open before Israel and the U.S. attacked Iran on Feb. 28 to start the war.

Following Trump's expletive-laced posts on Easter Sunday, Iran's parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf called the threats of targeting Iran's infrastructure "reckless."

"You won't gain anything through war crimes," Qalibaf wrote on X. "The only real solution is respecting the rights of the Iranian people and ending this dangerous game."

Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose to $109 in early Monday spot trading, some 50% higher than it was when the war started.

SKorea regrets 'reckless' drones sent to North

AFP
Seoul, Apr. 6

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung expressed regret to Pyongyang Monday over drones sent into North Korea earlier this year, actions he called "irresponsible".

Seoul initially denied any official role in the January drone incursion -- with authorities suggesting it was the work of civilians -- but Lee said a probe had revealed government officials had been involved.

The North warned in February of a "terrible response" if it detects more drones crossing the border from the South, prompting Seoul to investigate the claims.

Pyongyang said it downed a drone carrying "surveillance equipment" in early January. Photos released by state media showed the wreckage of a winged craft scattered across the ground alongside grey and blue components that allegedly included cameras.

"It has been confirmed that a National Intelligence Service official and an active-duty soldier were involved," Lee told a cabinet meeting.

"We express regret to the North over the unnecessary military tensions caused by the irresponsible and reckless actions of some individuals."

Lee has sought to repair ties with North Korea since taking office last year, criticising his predecessor for allegedly sending drones to scatter propaganda over Pyongyang.

Russian attack kills 3 in Odesa as Ukraine hits Russian oil sites

AP
Kyiv, Ukraine, Apr. 6

A Russian drone attack on Ukraine's southern port city of Odesa killed two women and a toddler, authorities said Monday, while Ukrainian long-range drones targeted Russia's key Black Sea port for oil exports.

The nighttime attack on Odesa heavily damaged an apartment block, killing the women and a 2-year-old child, officials said. Rescuers working under floodlights pulled four people from the rubble.

Eleven people were hospitalized, including a pregnant woman and two children — the youngest less than a year old, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

Russia has pounded civilian areas of Ukraine since it invaded its neighbor just over four years ago, killing more than 15,000 people, according to the United Nations.

It has also taken aim at Ukraine's power grid, and the Russia overnight barrages also hit energy infrastructure in the Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Dnipro regions, Zelenskyy said.

More than 300,000 households were without electricity in the northern Chernihiv region after distribution facilities were damaged in attacks, according to the regional power utility.

Over the past week, Russia has launched at Ukraine more than 2,800 attack drones, nearly 1,350 powerful glide bombs and more than 40 missiles of various types, according to Zelenskyy.

Zelenskyy expressed concern in a weekend interview with The Associated Press that the Iran war is draining stockpiles of weapons that Ukraine needs to defend itself, especially American-made Patriot air defense systems that can stop missiles.

Zelenskyy said Monday that the country's partners "need to strengthen air defense together so that the interception rate of drones and missiles continues to increase."

With U.S.-led peace efforts stalled, Zelenskyy added: "Russia has no intention of stopping" its invasion.

Ukraine has fought back by developing its own long-range drones, which now reach targets some 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) inside Russia.

PRISM

Bald eagles welcome two chicks

California: The two famed eagles of Big Bear Lake -- Jackie and Shadow -- welcomed two babies to their nest during the last 48 hours, one year after another eaglet froze to death during a blizzard.

The second of the two chicks finally broke free from its egg at 8:30 a.m. cam time, nearly 12 hours after the first chick escaped its egg after roughly 36 hours of work cracking the shell, the Friends of Big Bear announced on Instagram.

"Both chicks are doing well, looking great and their journey has just begun," FOBB said in the post.

Stop for gas earns lottery prize

Maryland : A Maryland man stopped to fill up his gas tank and ended up winning $100,000 from a scratch-off lottery ticket.

The New Carrolton man told Maryland Lottery officials he originally only stopped at the Shell gas station in Hyattsville for gas.

"While I was pumping the gas I thought, 'why not grab a scratch-off game,'" he said. "So, I filled up, went inside, pointed at a game and asked the cashier to give me that one."

The man selected a $10 Red 5's Doubler game and immediately scratched it off, revealing the $100,000 prize.

-Agencies

Saudi oasis town adjusts to life in firing line

AFP
Al Kharj, Apr. 6



PHOTO: AFP

A Patriot missile battery pictured near the Prince Sultan Air Base at Al Kharj on February 20.

For generations, a Saudi oasis town has been a favoured spot for stressed visitors from the nearby capital Riyadh to come and decompress.

But the serenity in Saudi Arabia's Al-Kharj has been rattled after it found itself in the line of fire from Iranian attacks.

Renowned for its dates and palm-lined streets, the town also lies on the edge of the sprawling Prince Sultan Air Base.

Last month, US media outlets said at least a dozen American soldiers were injured by an Iranian attack on the base. Iranian officials later boasted of hitting an advanced surveillance aircraft that costs hundreds of millions of dollars.

Several aerial refuelling planes also suffered damage in the attack, the reports said.

Tehran has unleashed punishing waves of attacks targeting its Gulf neighbours, accusing them of serving as a launchpad for American strikes, following the US and Israeli attack on Iran that began on February 28.

The residents of Al-Kharj, however, have remained largely stoic in the face of regular barrages that now fly overhead. "We hear the loud sounds of interceptions, but we rarely see anything in the sky," Abdullah, a resident in his 60s, told AFP. He asked that only his first name be used because of sensitivities around security issues in the kingdom.

Al-Kharj was the scene of the first civilian deaths in Saudi Arabia after the war erupted, when two migrants working in the city were killed on March 8 after a projectile hit a residential area.

And just last week, two people were injured after debris from a drone interception crashed down on three homes.

Six more homes were also damaged in another similar incident, according to Saudi authorities.

"This is unusual in Al-Kharj," Abdullah told AFP after afternoon prayers at a local mosque.

"Life is normal and continues as usual without any change or panic."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have accused Saudi Arabia of hosting advanced American fighter aircraft on its territory, including "F-35 and F-16 fighter jets", along with facilities for storing and refuelling aircraft.

US forces returned to Saudi Arabia in 2019, following an agreement between Washington and Riyadh, with media reports at the time suggesting that hundreds would be hosted at Prince Sultan Air Base.

The base was a command centre during the first Gulf war and later briefly during the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 before all American troops were pulled out of the kingdom.

The presence of US forces in Saudi Arabia has been a point of contention with more conservative elements of Saudi society in the past, who see the presence of foreign troops in the land of Islam's two holiest sites as an affront to their religion.

The issue was later cited as one of Osama Bin Laden's reasons for launching the September 11 attacks on the United States in 2001.

But at first glance, much of Al-Kharj's tranquil environment offers few hints of its martial history.

The area has long been a centre of agricultural production, with its green fields and bountiful orchards offering a striking contrast to the vast tracts of desert that cover most of the kingdom.

At a local restaurant visited by AFP recently, customers during the lunch rush could be seen checking on the latest war updates on their phones in between bites of rice and meat.

"Al-Kharj is now in the news, and friends call to check on us with almost every update," said government employee Turki, who also gave just his first name.

Even as Iran fires regular salvos at the base, AFP did not see any signs of a heavy security presence there.

However, residents said worries about the next barrage are ever present, and phones buzz regularly with messages warning of incoming attacks.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1348 –Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV charters Prague University.
1767 –End of Burmese–Siamese War (1765–1767).
1795 –The French First Republic adopts the kilogram and gram as its primary unit of mass.
1831 –Pedro II becomes emperor of the Empire of Brazil.
1906 –Mount Vesuvius erupts and devastates Naples.
1906 –The Algeciras Conference gives France and Spain control over Morocco.
1926 –Violet Gibson attempts to assassinate Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini.
1943 –The National Football League makes helmets mandatory.
1956 –Francoist Spain agrees to surrender its protectorate in Morocco.
1990 –A fire breaks out on the passenger ferry Scandinavian Star, killing 159 people.
2020 –COVID-19 pandemic: China ends its lockdown in Wuhan.

Locals forced to walk across frozen Nyalu Pass to reach Limi

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Humla, Apr. 6

Residents travelling from Kathmandu to Limi, a remote village in Namkha Rural Municipality-6 in Humla, are being forced to walk across frozen snow at Nyalu Pass, which lies at an altitude of around 5,000 metres.

Snow that has accumulated since mid-November has yet to be cleared, leaving locals with no option but to travel in groups across the icy pass.

Pendup Tamang, who recently travelled from Simkot to Halji village in Limi, said the journey was unavoidable despite the risks. Travellers can drive up to Chhusha in Namkha Rural Municipality-4 and after that should continue on foot, slipping and struggling across the snow-covered Nyalu Pass.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KUNJOK TAMANG, LIMI

Residents of Halji village in Limi walk across the snow-covered Nyalu Pass at an altitude of 5,000 metres.

He said the journey has become extremely difficult, with snow measuring between two and four feet deep. Tamang had travelled from Halji to Kathmandu in November-December and was now returning under harsh conditions.

According to him, it takes around three hours to cross the snowy section, and the route is particularly challenging for elderly people and children, many of whom are unable to walk it. He added that travelling alone is not possible, as people must move in groups, taking turns to lead and break through the snow, which is physically exhausting.

Ward Chairperson of Limi, Paljor Tamang, said that several youths from Halji village currently living in Kathmandu were called back to help construct a community building. As a result, they had to cross the snow-covered Nyalu Pass to reach the village.

Earlier, around 40 locals had also crossed the pass in similar conditions ahead of March 5 election. Continued snowfall since then has worsened the situation, making travel along the unpaved road extremely difficult.

Complete probe or release Oli, Lekhak by Thursday: SC

RSS
Kathmandu, Apr. 6



The Supreme Court has stated that CPN-UML Chairman and former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Nepali Congress leader and former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak be released from custody if the investigation is not completed by coming Thursday.

Oli and Lekhak are currently remanded to judicial custody in the course of implementation of the Karki Commission to Investigate September 8 and 9 incidents, which implicated both in criminal offense.

A division bench of Justices Binod Sharma and Sunil Kumar Pokharel ordered that if the investigation is completed within the time limit as per the order of the District Court, the case should be decided accordingly, and if not, the accused should be released until further investigation is completed.

A mandamus order was issued in the name of the defendants to complete the process of Section 15 of the Criminal Procedures, 2074, release the KP Sharma Oli and Ramesh Lekhak from custody, and complete the further investigation work and do whatever is required.

The apex court acted in response to a habeas corpus petition filed by Oli's wife Radhika Shakya, and leader Lekhak's wife Yashoda Lekhak.

President Paudel urges...

He acknowledged that the investments made by non-resident Nepalis, both individually and collectively, in various sectors in the past have contributed to Nepal's development and prosperity.

He also urged that this support be made even more effective in the days ahead.

He remarked that the recently concluded House of Representatives election has provided a way out of the country's difficult and complex situation.

"In line with the aspirations of the Nepali people, especially the youth, the electorate has given a mandate to move forward towards development and prosperity with social justice through good governance," he said.

President Paudel stated that while the state's administrative restructuring has been carried out, the restructuring of the state's character and way of life is still pending.

He emphasised that unless the core values, principles and ideals of the federal democratic republic are fully internalised, it will be difficult to achieve the kind of prosperity with social justice that the Nepali people desire.

"Therefore, there is a need for all of us today to embrace those values, principles and ideals and move forward," he added.

He also mentioned that work has been progressing on a master plan to develop Chundi Ramgha, the birthplace of Adikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya, as a literary tourist destination, expressing confidence that the NRNA would extend its support to this initiative.

Congratulating the newly elected President, office-bearers and all members elected from the recently concluded NRNA Global Conference, he expressed his best wishes for the committee to successfully unite all non-resident Nepalis around the world and foster a sense that the organisation belongs to everyone.

On the occasion, newly elected NRNA President Dr. Hemraj Sharma briefed the President on the association's activities and future plans.

Govt vows action on...

It is also mindful of the potential reputational impact on Nepal as a premier global trekking destination, as well as the unfair disadvantage faced by the overwhelming majority of ethical and responsible tourism operators who uphold Nepal's long-standing tradition of hospitality and integrity, it said.

In response, the Ministry is implementing a set of immediate measures to ensure transparency, accountability, and system integrity. A zero-tolerance policy is being applied through strict investigation, blacklisting, and public disclosure of individuals and agencies found involved in fraudulent practices.

The government is open to engage directly with international insurance providers to establish verification channels and restore confidence, while a joint monitoring task force comprising MoCTCA, Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), Nepal Police, Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) and aviation stakeholders has been mobilized to strengthen oversight and conduct regular audits and for authentic and timely communication, it read.

According to the Ministry, "In parallel, the government is advancing medium- and long-term structural reforms aimed at strengthening the overall governance of the sector. These include the development of a technology-enabled Rescue Management System integrating trekker registration, rescue requests and insurance validation; strengthening licensing requirements for guides and agencies with mandatory ethical compliance; standardizing medical protocols for altitude sickness diagnosis; enhancing local-level governance in trekking regions; and promoting ethical tourism certification standards."

The government considers this a serious but manageable issue, reflecting isolated cases of malpractice rather than systemic failure. A high-level review committee, coordinated by the Joint Secretary of MoCTCA, has been formed to strengthen and ensure the strict implementation of existing procedures.

With tighter regulation, digital verification systems and firm action against offenders, Nepal is confident of renewing international trust and reinforcing its reputation as a safe, responsible, and world-class trekking destination, it said.

Phewa Lake boundary...

Gyan Bahadur Jalari, chair of the Harpan Phewa Fisheries Cooperative, emphasised that the community cares deeply for the lake.

"No one loves this lake more than we do," he said. "We are ready to support efforts to expand and beautify it. But displacing us or sending us far away will be unjust. We have grown up alongside this lake, just like the fish."

A Supreme Court ruling on April 29, 2018 directed authorities to enforce lake boundaries, develop greenery in the area, annul illegal land registrations, and vacate privately held land with compensation.

This directive has also been incorporated into the government's hundred-point governance reform agenda. Except for 15–20 families, most Jalari households possess land ownership certificates.

Pokhara Metropolitan City Mayor Dhanraj Acharya stated that the government has no intention of forcibly displacing citizens.

He explained that structures built without approval within the designated boundary were being symbolically removed.

"We will not evict the Jalari community without providing alternatives," he assured.

He also clarified that land belonging to Home Minister Sudan Gurung, located near the Harpan stream within the lake area, falls under irregular registration and will be cleared without compensation.

"We aim to develop Phewa as a model site through coordination among all three levels of government. There will be no injustice based on position or influence," he says.

Preparations are underway to determine compensation and include it in the next fiscal year's budget.

The Supreme Court's decision was based on a 2012 report submitted by a commission led by Bishwa Prakash Lamichhane.

According to him, 81 per cent of the affected land requires compensation, while the remaining 19 per cent falls under encroached land.

The report also proposed measures for resettling the Jalari community and enhancing the lake's aesthetics.

"We recommended creating a model Jalari settlement near the lake," Lamichhane recalls.

"We submitted detailed records of polluted, encroached and public land, including parcel data." Data indicate that Phewa Lake has shrunk by nearly half over the past six decades.

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Physical Infrastructure & Transport
Department of Roads
Mechanical Branch
(Date of Notice: April 7, 2026)
E-mail: mechb@dor.gov.np
Chakupat, Lalitpur, Nepal

Notice regarding Price Bid Opening

This is to inform to undermentioned qualified bidder (after technical bid evaluation) under IFB mentioned below, that the "Price Bid" shall be opened at DoR, Mechanical Branch on **April 16, 2026** at 1:00 pm.

S.N.	Contract Identification No.	Bidder's Name & Address
1.	DORMEB/CB/082-83/02 (Supply and Delivery of Supervision Utility Truck-30 units)	i. M/S MAW Vridhi Commercial Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. ii. M/S Continental Trading Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.

बागमती प्रदेश सरकार
स्वास्थ्य मन्त्रालय
मदन भण्डारी स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान प्रतिष्ठान
हेटौंडा अस्पताल
हेटौंडा, नेपाल

जिन्सी मालसामानको लिलाम बिक्री सम्बन्धी बोलपत्र आह्वानको सूचना

(प्रथम पटक प्रकाशित मिति २०८२/१२/२४)

यस हेटौंडा अस्पतालमा तपसिल बमोजिमका फर्निचर औजार उपकरण, पुराना जिन्सी सरसामान जे जस्तो अवस्थामा छन् सोही अवस्थामा बोलपत्र माध्यमद्वारा एकमुष्ट १-८७ आइटम लिलाम बिक्री गर्नुपर्ने भएकाले यो सूचना प्रकाशित गरिएको छ। इच्छुक नेपाली नागरिकता भएको व्यक्ति, रजिष्टर भएको फर्म वा कम्पनीले निम्न शर्तहरूको अधीनमा रही यो सूचना प्रकाशित भएको मितिले एक दिन अगावै (२०८३/०१/०८ गते कार्यालय समय भित्र) बोलपत्र दर्ता गर्नु हुन यो सूचना प्रकाशित गरिएको छ।

शर्तहरू :

क. इच्छुक व्यक्ति वा फर्महरूले नागरिकता वा कम्पनी दर्ताको कपी संलग्न राखी लेखा शाखाबाट आवश्यक जानकारी लिन तथा दस्तुर रु १,०००.०० तिरी फारम खरिद गर्न सकिने छ।
ख. लिलामजन्य वस्तुहरूको एकमुष्ट न्यूनतम मूल्य रु ४,६३,६६०.००(अक्षरेपी चार लाख त्रिसठ्ठी हजार छ सय साठी मात्र) कायम गरिएको छ।
ग. बोलपत्र पेश गर्ने मिति तथा धरौटी : मिति २०८३/०१/०८ गते कार्यालय समय भित्र पेश गर्नुपर्ने छ र बोलपत्रमा उल्लेख गरिएको रकमको दश प्रतिशत बराबरको हुन आउने रकमको सक्कल बैंक भौचर बोलपत्रमै समावेश हुनुपर्ने छ।
छ. धरौटी खाता नं. लेखा शाखाबाट लिन सकिने छ।
घ. बोलपत्र खोल्ने समय र स्थानः २०८३/०१/०९ दिनको १:०० बजे हेटौंडा अस्पतालको सभाहल।
ङ. लिलाम सकार गर्नेले सम्झौता भएको मितिले सात दिनभित्र उठाई लैजानुपर्ने छ। यदि नउठाएमा निजको राखेको धरौटी जफत हुनेछ।
च. लिलाम बढाबढ हुने मालसामान हेर्न चाहनेहरूले दिउँसो २ देखि ४ बजेसम्ममा स्टोर शाखामा सम्पर्क राखी हेर्न सक्नुहुनेछ।
छ. लिलामपछिको सम्पूर्ण आर्थिक दायित्व लिलाम सकार गर्नेले नै व्यहोर्नु पर्ने हुनेछ, कार्यालयले व्यहोर्ने छैन।
ज. अन्य कुराहरू प्रचलित कानुनमा तोकेबमोजिम हुनेछ।

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Health and Population
Department of Health Services
Procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine 1.0ml (ARV)
IFB No.: DOHS/G/ICB-18.2/EDCD/2082-083

Addendum No. 1

Date of Issue: 7 April 2026

Referring to the IFB published on The Rising Nepal dated 3 April 2026 for the procurement of **Anti-Rabies Vaccine 1.0ml (ARV)** following amendment has been made.

S. No	Particular	Existing	Amended As
1.	Re-Invitation for Electronics Bids Published notice IFB no.: and Bullet no-1	DOHS/G/ ICB-18.2/ EDCD /2082-083	DOHS/G/ ICB-18.2/ EDCD /2082-83

Other remains the same.

Amendment Notice

OCB No. and Title: PMD/ETDSP/NDNSEP-082/83-01 "Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the NEA Digital Network and SCADA Expansion (Package No. P-13)"

Pursuant to ITB Clause number 8 Amendment-I has been issued. All the bidders are requested to collect the hard copy of Amendment -I from Project office. This Amendment-I shall be a part of bidding document and failure to collect the same shall be at the risk of the bidder. Amendment-I consists of the following.

SN	Clause Reference	Existing	Amendment
1	Section 2: BDS: ITB 24.1	The Deadline for bid submission is Date: **09th April 2026** Time: 12:00 Noon (Local Time)	The Deadline for bid submission is Date: **10th May 2026** Time: 12:00 Noon (Local Time)
2	Section 2: BDS: ITB 27.1	The Deadline for bid Opening is Date: **09th April 2026** Time: 12:30 Noon (Local Time)	The Deadline for bid Opening is Date: **10th May 2026** Time: 12:30 Noon (Local Time)

NEA Digital Network and SCADA Expansion Project,
Distribution line and Substation Department
Project Management Directorate
Nepal Electricity Authority
Matatirtha, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone No: +977-1-5164099
Email Address: ndnsep@nea.org.np/ ndnsep@gmail.com

NEPAL AIRLINES CORPORATION
CONTINUING AIRWORTHINESS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, Nepal

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

International Competitive Bidding (ICB)
Date of Publication: 05th April 2026 (2082/12/22 B.S.)
"In-Shop Repair/Refurbishment/Overhaul of NAC's RB211-Trent 772B-60/16 Engines of A330 Aircraft with Lease Support"
(IFB No.: NAC/A330/RB211-TRENT/OS/2082-83)

1. Continuing Airworthiness Management Department, Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC), Kathmandu, Nepal invites electronic bids from the eligible bidders for In-Shop Repair/ Refurbishment/Overhaul of NAC's RB211-Trent 772B-60/16 Engines of A330 Aircraft with Lease Support aircraft under International Competitive Bidding (ICB).
2. Interested eligible Bidders may download the IFB and Bidding Documents for e-submission from PPMO's web portal **www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp**
3. This notice can also be viewed at the Corporation's official website **http://nepalairlines.com.np/home/notices**

Refer bid documents for detail information.
Employer Name: **CAM Department, Nepal Airlines Corporation**
Location: **Tribhuvan Int'l Airport, Kathmandu, Nepal**
Attention: Director-CAM Department
Tel: **+977 1 4113076; +977 1 4113209**
Email: **dir.camd@nac.com.np; dydir.epd@nac.com.np**

Nepal Airlines Corporation
CAM Department
at Tribhuvan Int'l Airport
Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal Electricity Authority
(A Government of Nepal Undertaking)
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECT

Loan No. and Title: Loan No. 4014/4109-NEP: Electricity Grid Modernization Project-Additional Financing

OCB No. and Title: ICB/FD/EGMPAF/ERP-082/83-01: Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of ERP based Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS)

Pursuant ITB Clause number 8 Amendment-I has been issued. All the bidders are requested to collect the hard copy of Amendment -I from project office. This Amendment-I shall be a part of bidding document and failure to collect the same shall be at the risk of the bidder. Amendment-I consists of:

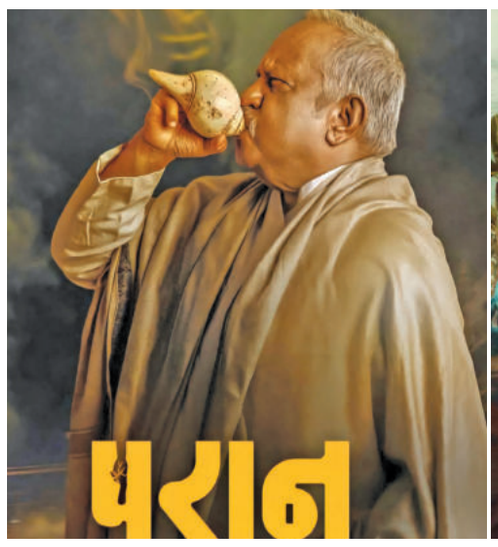
a) Vol-I, Section-II, Bid Data Sheet; Extension of bid submission deadline and technical bid opening date.

Amendment -I

S/N	Clause Reference	Existing Clause	Revised Clause
1	Section 2: BDS: ITB 24.1	The Deadline for bid submission is Date: 10 April 2026 Time: 12:00 Noon (Nepal Standard Time)	The Deadline for bid submission is Date: 3 May 2026 Time: 12:00 Noon (Nepal Standard Time)
2	Section 2: BDS: ITB 27.1	The Technical bid opening shall take place at: Date: 10 April 2026 Time: 13:00 Noon (Nepal Standard Time)	The Technical bid opening shall take place at: Date: 3 May 2026 Time: 13:00 Noon (Nepal Standard Time)

The amendments/clarifications/Addendum issued in this document shall be treated as a part of Bidding Document from here and after and shall be read with the original Bidding Document and subsequently issued corrigendum documents.
For further details, please contact:
Institutional Strengthening Project,
Nepal Electricity Authority,
Bishwojyoti Mall, Jamal, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Telephone: 977-01-4153310, 977-01-4153201
e-mail: ispnea@gmail.com

Local films earn Rs. 1.084 billion in 2082 BS







BY RENUKA DHAKAL
Kathmandu, Apr. 6

Nepali films released from April 14, 2025, to April 1, 2026, earned Rs. 1.084 billion at the box office.

According to the statistics released by the Film Development Board on Monday, the number of cinemagoers who watched Nepali films stood at 3,781,544.

Likewise, in the international film sector, collections worth Rs. 1.115 billion were recorded, with 3,322,757 tickets sold, according to the statistics.

The data further shows that 458,778 more viewers visited cinema halls to watch domestic films this year.

Releasing the annual status report of films screened from the Nepali New Year for the current fiscal year 2082 BS, the Board published the latest film statistics.

According to the published details, 230 films were registered with the Board this year, while 94 films received censor recommendations.

According to the Board, during this period, 56 Nepali films and 93 international films were screened. Likewise, eight new cinema halls were registered across the country, bringing the total number of operational halls to 172.

The distribution sector also saw notable activity this year.

According to the Board's details, nine new distributors were registered, taking the total number of distributors to 44.

This year, the Nepali film 'Paran', directed by Deepak Prasad Acharya, became the highest-grossing Nepali film at the domestic box office. According to the data, Paran earned a gross of Rs. 177.68 million, with a total of 630,691 tickets sold.

The second-highest-grossing film of the year is 'Aa Bata Aama', directed by Chandra Pant and starring Paul Shah in the lead role. The film has earned Rs. 131.38 million so far and is still screening in Nepali cinemas.

In third place is 'Jerry on Top', starring Anmol KC, which earned Rs. 122.88 million.

The fourth position is held by 'Unko Sweater', which grossed Rs. 114.19 million.

Since 'Aa Bata Aama' and 'Hami Teen Bhai' are still running in Nepali cinemas, their earnings may continue to increase.

A total of 56 Nepali films have been released this year.

The annual report made public by the Film Development Board indicates that the production, exhibition, distribution and commercial activities of the Nepali film industry continue to expand.

The Board has expressed confidence that such statistics will provide an important basis for evaluating the real state of the film sector, formulating policy plans and determining the future of the industry.

Third Nawalpur Festival from April 9

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT
Nawalpur, Apr. 6

The District Coordination Committee of the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), Nawalpur, is set to organise the Third Nawalpur Festival on the occasion of the Nepali New Year.

The organisers said that the Third Nawalpur Indigenous Nationalities Cultural, Tourism, Food and Trade Festival will take place from April 9 to April 20 at Nawadurga Rangashala, Bhattola, and Kawasoti-2.

According to District Chairperson Ram Kumar Shrestha, the main objective of the festival is to promote the culture, traditional attire, lifestyle and cuisine of indigenous nationalities.

Shrestha said the festival is also expected to help revive economic activities that had slowed down following the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 200 commercial, hotel and awareness stalls are expected to be featured at the event.

The festival will showcase traditional indigenous houses, ritual and cultural exhibits, as well as food stalls linked to various communities.

Organisers are expecting more than 250,000 visitors to attend. A 20 per cent discount on entry fees for students and free admission for senior citizens has also been arranged.

The organisers further added that the festival will include performances by national and local artists, along with various sports and entertainment attractions.

Although the event is being coordinated by the District Coordination Council of the Federation, it is being jointly organised with the participation of all indigenous communities within the district and 10 ethnic organisations based in the area.



5th edition of NERUFF to be held in Sarlahi



BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr. 6

The 5th edition of the Nepal Rural Film Festival (NERUFF) is set to take place from April 28 to 30 in Sarlahi.

The festival, intending to promote films based on original Nepali rural narratives, will this time be held in Chandranagar Rural Municipality of Madhesh Province.

The organiser stated that while previous editions were successfully held in hilly regions, this year the festival is being expanded to the Tarai.

More than 50 applications have been received in the categories of feature films, short films, and films in various languages, all based on original Nepali rural storylines, informed the organiser.

Among them, the films selected by the jury panel will be screened at the festival, while the best ones will be awarded in different categories.

At the festival, short films, documentaries, feature films, and films in various languages reflecting rural life will be screened free of charge for village audiences.

According to President of Celebrity Nepal Ragunath Sapkota, the main objectives of the festival are to increase audience attraction toward original Nepali films, develop a regular culture of film viewing, take rural story-based cinema to the international level, and promote local languages, art, culture, and tourism.

Previously, the festival has already been successfully held in Laprak of Gorkha, Bhakundebesi of Kavrepalanchok, Ramechhap, and Rasuwa.

The festival will be organised in collaboration with the Film Development Board and Chandranagar Rural Municipality.

Rato Machhindranath chariot construction begins in Lalitpur

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Lalitpur, Apr. 6

The Guthi Sansthan of Lalitpur has begun assembling and structuring the chariot of Rato Machhindranath at Pulchowk, Lalitpur, from Saturday, April 4.

This year, the chariot procession of the Rato Machhindranath festival will fall on April 21, four days after the idol of Rato Machhindranath is placed on the 48-foot chariot on April 18.

Construction of the chariot for Patan's famous Rato Machhindranath Jatra is in full swing at the shrine in Pulchowk, Lalitpur.

The chariot, made entirely of wood, is built to stand 48 feet tall on four wheels representing the four Bhairavs of the city: Kundi, Harisiddhi, Lubhu, and Tika Bhairav.

Construction of the holy carriage usually begins in mid-April after the idol of the god of rain and good harvest receives a ritual bathing ceremony. This year, the ritual took place on April 3, said Dil Kumar Barahi, leader of the Barahi Da Guthi.

Different castes of the Newar community are involved in the chariot-building process. In total, 32 castes from the Newar community take part in the process. The Barahis craft the Dhamma, and Chitrakars (traditional artists) paint images and icons of various divinities on it.



FILE PHOTO: TRN

The construction of the four wheels of the Rato Machhindranath chariot was completed on March 13. The new wheels were built in the traditional style to replace the damaged ones.

Two wheels of the chariot were completely destroyed by fire during the Gen-Z protest. As per tradition, all four wheels must be rebuilt if even one becomes damaged or non-functional, said Barahi.

The four new wheels will be pulled to Pulchowk from Gahachhe near the Banglamukhi Temple on March 11 and attached to the chariot the following day, he added.

According to religious and cultural beliefs, the wheels of the Rato Machhindranath chariot are generally constructed once every 12 years. However, there is also a tradition of rebuilding them mid-cycle in case of accidental damage or disasters.

He further said that a completely new chariot of Rato Machhindranath will be built next year, as a new one is constructed every 12 years. In other years, the chariot is built at Pulchowk, but during the 12-year cycle, it is constructed at Rato Machhindranath temple premises of Bungamati, he added.

The bathing ritual of Rato Machhindranath was performed on April 3, and the following day, the process of assembling and structuring the chariot began at Pulchowk.

Machhindranath, the deity of good harvest and prosperity, will be placed on the 48-foot chariot at Pulchowk, Lalitpur, on April 18 and the chariot-pulling procession will begin on April 21.

Lachhuna Sharma Kafle, Chief of the Lalitpur Guthi Sansthan, said that Rs. 10 million has been allocated for the repair and maintenance of both the Rato Machhindranath and Minnath chariots. The construction of the Minnath chariot will begin in a few days, even though work on the Rato Machhindranath chariot has already started.

HOROSCOPE

tarot.com

ARIES: Start by trusting your instincts. The Moon in your ninth house of higher learning trines the Sun in your sign, boosting confidence. Focus drive, pace yourself, sustain momentum, and avoid burnout after the first push.

CANCER: Your effort can earn respect in various ways. Your 6th House of Routines benefits when the empathetic Moon trines the powerful Sun in your 10th House of Reputation. You can streamline a routine so work flows better.

LIBRA: Bridge-building begins with the desire to connect. Conversations should flow well (even if you haven't spoken to this person in some time) while the Moon in your verbose 3rd house trines the Sun in your connected 7th house.

CAPRICORN: Quiet comforts help you restore strength. The Moon trines the Sun, softening your twelfth house of solitude and encouraging rest. Cancel nonessential plans, cook a soothing meal, and give yourself space to calm lingering nerves.

TAURUS: "Predictable" is not the word to describe today. Your 8th House of Sharing tightens as the kind Moon squares cerebral Mercury in your 11th House of Connections, producing mix-ups about money or time.

LEO: Creativity craves room to run wild! Self-expression takes center stage as the spontaneous Moon energizes your 5th House of Excitement and trines the Sun in your exploration zone. You might share a draft of creative work and start a lively debate.

SCORPIO: Money matters call for courage and clarity. A Moon-Mercury square may challenge finances and creativity. Inspiration could feel blocked, and funding scarce, but patience and practical thinking can help you navigate obstacles and regain momentum.

AQUARIUS: Friends pull you in two directions today. Group plans can clash with budgets as the moody Moon activates your 11th House of Socializing and squares mischievous Mercury in your 2nd House of Resources.

GEMINI: Conversations open doors you once couldn't see. Your community will be key to success -- if not today, then very soon. The Moon and the Sun are trining, uniting your 7th and 11th houses.

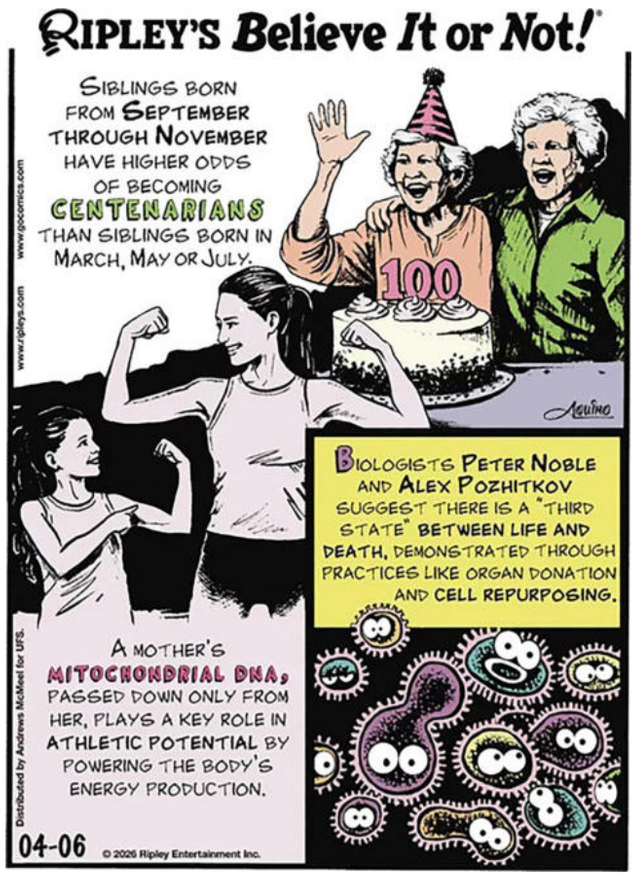
VIRGO: Home concerns ask for honest, thoughtful words. No matter how much you love someone, living with them can be a chore. Not to worry -- today's Moon-Sun trine can help you smooth things over. Focus on the facts to avoid conflict.

SAGITTARIUS: Your mood may lift as possibilities look bigger. With the temperamental Moon in your sign encouraging the dynamic Sun in your 5th House of Creativity, your spark can return after internal cloudiness.

PISCES: Your words shape how authority perceives you. Mercury in your sign squares the Moon in your tenth house of status, testing clarity under pressure. Prepare key talking points, stay focused, and stick to them despite emotional surges.

CARTOON

gocomics.com





Arjun ton guides Army to top

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Apr 6

Arjun Saud's ton guided Tribhuwan Army Club to a comprehensive 138-run victory over Karnali Province and remained unbeaten while Sudur Paschim Province suffered their second defeat with a 45-run defeat to APF Club at the PM Cup on Monday.

The fifth win in a row send Army to top of the table with 11 points from six matches while Sudur Paschim failed to maintain their one point lead after conceding their second defeat. Sudur Paschim have 10 points from seven matches. The third win lifted APF to sixth with 7 points from seven matches.

Batting first at Narayani Cricket Ground in Birgunj, Army overcame the top order collapse to score 268 runs before being all out in the 48 overs. Karnali, in chase, collapsed in 42.1 over adding just 130 runs.

Karnali were nowhere in the contest as they lost wickets in regular interval. Bipin Shahi (40), Arjun Gharti (32) and Dipendra Rawat (25) provided some resistance with two digit score but remaining batter failed against the discipline bowling of Army.

Shahab Alam (3-18) and Basir Ahamad (3-15) shared six wickets to destroy Karnali's batting. Aakash Chand also dismissed two wickets from his seven over spell.

Earlier, Army did not have the start they wanted. Their top four batters returned to pavilion for single digit with Opener Trit Raj Das falling for duck. Saud and Ahamad catapult the Army's innings from 38/4 to 137 with 99-run stand for the fifth wicket. Ahamad added 45 off 70 balls. Santosh Karki (29), Naren Saud (20) and Shahab Alam (17) then returned to pavilion contributing two-digit score.

Arjun was the last batter to be out. He smacked 10 boundaries and three sixes in his 120 runs off 121 balls.

Dinesh Adhikari was the pick of the bowler for Karnali with a figure of 23-4 while Prakash Jaishi also had three-wicket haul.

APF secure third win

Powered by Yuvraj Khatri's outstanding bowling, AFP stunned second-placed Sudur Paschim to secure their third win at Ramjanki Multipurpose Stadium in Janakpur.

Chasing a target of 260, Sudurpaschim were bowled out for 214 in 46.3 overs. Opener Abhishek Pal scored 44, but the rest of the top order failed to settle. Ashok Dhami, batting at number six, struck 50 off 43 balls with seven fours and a six, becoming his side's highest scorer.



PHOTO: CAN

Tribhuwan Army Club's Arjun Saud after scoring hundred runs against Karnali Province at PM Cup in Birgunj, Monday.

Other contributions came from Dipak Bohara (24), Milan Bohara (23), Khadak Bohora (16), and Naren Bhatta (15), while captain Sher Malla remained unbeaten on 17.

For APF, Khatri was the star, taking 5 wickets for 34 runs in his 10 overs. Avishek Gautam added 2 wickets, while Kamal Airee and Rohit Paudel chipped in with one apiece.

Earlier, APF posted 259 for 9 in their 50 overs. Opener Aasif Sheikh fell for just 1, and captain Rohit Paudel managed 11.

Sundeep Jora top-scored with 55 off 45 balls, hitting nine fours and a six. Opener Deepak Bohara made 46, Sumit Maharjan 41, and Lokesh Bam 47. Maharjan and Bam paired for 77 runs for the sixth wicket.

Sudur Paschim's bowling was led by Sher Malla, who claimed 3 wickets, while Ashok Dhami and Bikash Aagri took 2 each.

CAN assembly in Biratnagar

The Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) has decided to host its annual general assembly on 10–11 May in Biratnagar, Koshi Province. The decision was taken at the board meeting held on Monday.

The meeting also endorsed the annual cricket calendar and budget, according to a press release issued by CAN. The income–expenditure report of the second Nepal Premier League (NPL), submitted by the NPL Governing Council, was approved.

According to the report, the second edition of the NPL generated a total gross revenue of Rs 473,600,559.

Tournament expenses amounted to Rs 219,605,123, leaving a gross income of Rs 253,995,435 before revenue sharing. CAN distributed 50 percent of the revenue — Rs 161,873,500 — to the eight franchise teams, while the cricket body retained Rs 92,121,935.

In line with ICC funding directives, USD 500,000 will be allocated to women's cricket development from this year. The executive board also decided to request the government to renew the contract of TU Cricket Ground, which is nearing expiry, and to hand over the Lower Mulpani Cricket Ground, currently under the National Sports Council.

Furthermore, CAN resolved to extend the tenure of 20 district associations, whose four-year terms have ended, by two months.

Leeds reach FA Cup semis for first time since 1987



PHOTO: AP

Leeds United's Dominic Calvert-Lewin celebrates scoring their side's second goal from a penalty during the English FA Cup quarterfinal soccer match against West Ham United in London.

AP
London, Apr. 6

Leeds threw away a two-goal lead in second-half injury time and had a double scare in extra time before going on to beat West Ham in a penalty shootout on Sunday and reach the FA Cup semifinals for the first time since 1987.

Mateus Fernandes and Axel Disasi struck in the 93rd and 96th minutes as West Ham leveled the score at 2-2 at London Stadium and forced extra time — where two goals for West Ham were chalked off for offside — before Leeds won the quarterfinal shootout 4-2.

West Ham debutant Finlay Herrick saved a penalty from Joel Piroe but Leeds eventually prevailed with Pascal Struijk scoring the winning penalty.

"At least I'm old enough that I was already born when there was the last semifinal for Leeds United in the FA Cup in the '80s," Leeds manager Daniel Farke said. "It was a crazy game."

The thousands of West Ham fans who had left early were trying, and failing, to get back in when Taty Castellanos thought he had put the Hammers ahead in the opening seconds of extra time after a bad error from Leeds goalkeeper Lucas Perri, only for VAR to rule Castellanos offside.

Then Jarrod Bowen crashed a shot against the crossbar, with Pablo offside when he rolled in the rebound.

The 20-year-old Herrick came on as a replacement for Alphonse Areola, who left the field to receive treatment with five minutes of extra time remaining.

Ao Tanaka and Dominic Calvert-Lewin's penalty had previously built a 2-0 lead for Leeds in a classic FA Cup game between two relegation-threatened teams in the Premier League.

Leeds will play Chelsea in the semifinals in a repeat of the 1970 FA Cup final, which Chelsea won after a replay.

Manchester City and second-tier Southampton meet in the other semifinal match with games to be played April 25-26 at Wembley. The draw was held after Leeds' victory.

Shootout controversy

West Ham averted some controversy after it backed down on a decision, reportedly taken by the safety officer before the match, that a penalty shootout would not be taken in front of the end housing 9,000 Leeds fans because of "safety concerns."

As it was, the coin toss went West Ham's way.

Farke said: "You could imagine what I think about such a situation."

Stoppage time, extra time and the shootout were played in front of a half-empty stadium after the exodus of home fans.

"What I saw on the pitch was more important than anything," West Ham manager Nuno Espirito Santo said.

"What I saw was a group of players, a group of boys that didn't give up. This is the major lesson that we have to take from today."

Inter close in on Serie A title



PHOTO: AP

AFP
Milan, Apr. 6

Inter Milan took a big step towards winning the Serie A title by thrashing sorry Roma 5-2 on Sunday, ending a late-season wobble and moving nine points clear at the top of the table.

Closest challengers AC Milan travel to champions Napoli on Monday with both bidding to see who might stop Inter from securing a 21st league crown.

But the return of Lautaro Martinez, who scored twice after nearly two months out injured, and a first club goal since early February from Marcus Thuram helped Inter emphatically end a mini-slump.

Inter had collected eight points from their five league matches played since Martinez suffered a calf injury against Bodo/Glimt in the Champions League.

"Tonight was a big match for us... we had to come out with the right attitude and personality," said Martinez "I'm happy for my teammates, because it was the win we deserved."

Hakan Calhanoglu's swerving rocket on the stroke of half-time and a second league goal of the season from Nicolo Barella made sure of a win which was also another blow to Roma's Champions League hopes.

Roma sit sixth, three points behind Como who are fourth and visit Udinese in Monday's early match, and level with fifth-placed Juventus ahead of the Turin giants' home fixture with Genoa.

"It was game of two halves, in the first I saw a lot of good things, even if the final result makes everything look different," said Roma coach Gian Piero Gasperini.

Inter are a different team with captain Martinez, and the Argentina striker smashed Inter ahead from Marcus Thuram's neat pass with barely a minute on the clock at the San Siro.

Calhanoglu's ferocious strike from more than 30 metres put Inter back ahead on the stroke of half-time, just as Roma seemed to be heading into the tunnel level following Gianluca Mancini's header in the 40th minute.

That goal galvanised Inter who came out for the second half as fast as they did for the first, and the match was as good as over 10 minutes after the restart thanks to Martinez and Thuram.

Martinez calmly stroked home his 16th league goal of the season in the 52nd minute from another Thuram pass, who moments later glanced in a perfect header from Calhanoglu's corner.

Barella made the most of more sloppy Roma defending just after the hour, bundling through before firing home the fifth which made Lorenzo Pellegrini's smart low finish for Roma in the 70th minute a mere consolation effort.

At the other end of the table Cremonese slipped into the relegation zone after being beaten 2-1 by Bologna while Pisa slid closer to the drop with a 1-0 home defeat against Torino.

SNIPPETS

Nirmala, Binod claim Mundum Trail titles

Khotang (RSS): Nirmala Rai of Khotang and Binod Thapa Magar have won the titles of the Mundum Trail Ultra Race–2082. Nirmala completed the 60-kilometer ultra race in the women's category in 8 hours and 20 minutes, while Binod finished the race in 6 hours and 50 minutes to secure the men's title. Similarly, Ashma Bishwakarma from Rolpa became the first runner-up in the women's category, completing the race in 9 hours and 21 minutes, while Angphurba Sherpa of Solukhumbu stood third with a time of 10 hours and 56 minutes. In the men's category, Arjun Kulung from Solukhumbu secured second place, completing the race in 6 hours and 56 minutes, while Milan Kulung from the same district finished third in 7 hours and 6 minutes. The winners received cash prizes of Rs 80,000, Rs 60,000 and Rs 40,000 for the first, second and third places respectively. In the 45-kilometer open men's category, Amit Gurung of Kathmandu won the title, while Ramesh Limbu of Taplejung secured second place and Umesh Rai of Bhojpur finished third. In the women's category, Pushpa Limbu of Panchthar became first, followed by Roshani Budha of Jumla the second and Rushma Rai of Bhojpur the third.

14th Kantipur Half Marathon on April 18

Kathmandu (TRN): The 14th edition of Kantipur Half Marathon will take place in Kathmandu on 18 April. Organising a press meet on Monday host Kantipur Media Group informed that from this year, runners' timings will be recorded using marathon technology to ensure accuracy. The event will feature four race categories: the main 21.1 km Half Marathon, a 5 km Corporate Race, a 7 km College Race, and a 3 km Wheelchair Race. The men's and women's half marathon winners will each receive a cash prize of Rs 100,000, with prizes also awarded to those finishing second to sixth. The wheelchair race winner will take home Rs 35,000.

Karateka Santosh wins bronze

Kathmandu (TRN): Nepali karateka Santosh Rai has secured a bronze medal at the US Open Karate Championship 2026. Competing at the Fort Worth Convention Centre in Texas, Rai claimed the medal in the Kata event. He earned the podium finish in the repechage round, defeating American competitor Carrasquel. Rai began strongly, overcoming America's Vilaro Pierpaolo in his opening bout and Compas Johnny in the second. However, he lost to Osako Hisao in the third match, missing out on a place in the final. Rai also competed in Kumite, winning five bouts, but fell short of a medal. Coach Sunil Lama said Rai gave his best but was unable to hold on at the decisive moment.

विज्ञापन दर सम्बन्धी

सूचना

यस संस्थानका दैनिक प्रकाशन गोरखापत्र तथा दि राइजिङ नेपालको (मिति २०७९ साउन १ गते आइतबार (July 17, 2022) देखि लागू भएको) विज्ञापन दर निम्नानुसार रहेको व्यहोरा सम्बन्धित सबैको जानकारीका लागि यो सूचना प्रकाशित गरिएको छ।

	विवरण	गोरखापत्र	दि राइजिङ नेपाल
१	ज्याकेट प्रथम पृष्ठ (रंगीन)	रु. १८,००,०००।-	रु. ९,००,०००।-
२	भित्री पृष्ठ श्यामश्वेत	रु. १,६००।- प्रति कालम सेमी	रु. १,२००।-
३	भित्री पृष्ठ रंगीन	रु. १,९००।- " " "	रु. १,३००।-
४	तेस्रो पृष्ठ (रंगीन)	रु. २,०००।- " " "	रु. १,४००।-
५	वर्गीकृत (श्याम श्वेत)	रु. १० प्रति शब्द ३० शब्दसम्म	रु. १०।-
६	वर्गीकृत डिस्प्ले (श्याम श्वेत)	रु. १,२००।- (बिही, शुक्र, शनि)	रु. ८००।-
७	इयर प्यानल(काँध)		
	क) प्रथम पृष्ठ श्यामश्वेत	रु. १४,०००।- प्रति दिन	रु. ७,०००।-
	ख) प्रथम पृष्ठ रंगीन	रु. १८,०००।- " "	रु. ८,०००।-
	ग) अन्य पृष्ठ श्यामश्वेत	रु. ७,०००।- " "	रु. ५,६००।-
	घ) अन्य पृष्ठ रंगीन	रु. ११,०००।- " "	रु. ७,०००।-
८	प्रथम पृष्ठ रंगीन	रु. २,५००।- प्रति कालम सेमी	रु. १,८००।-
९	प्रथम पृष्ठ श्यामस्वेत	रु. २,१००।- " "	रु. १,४००।-
१०	अन्तिम पृष्ठ श्यामस्वेत	रु. १,९००।- " "	रु. १,३००।-
११	अन्तिम पृष्ठ रंगीन	रु. २,१००।- " "	रु. १,४००।-
१२	बहुभाषिक पृष्ठमा (श्यामश्वेत)	रु. १,०५०।- " "	-
१३.	विशेषाङ्क/परिशिष्टाङ्क		
	क) श्यामश्वेत	रु. १,६००।- प्रति कालम सेमी	रु. १,२००।-
	ख) रंगीन	रु. १,९००।-	रु. १,३००।-

नोट :- सबै दरहरूमा मूल्य अभिवृद्धि कर (भ्याट) अतिरिक्त लाग्ने छ। साथै माथि उल्लिखित दरमा २५% संस्थागत छुट उपलब्ध हुने व्यहोरा जानकारी गराउँदछौं।

विस्तृत जानकारीका लागि
फोन नं. :- ५३२७४९३, ५३३१३९४
E-mail :- mgorkhapatra@gmail.com

गोरखापत्र संस्थान
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