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Sunrise 06:31 Sunset 17:10

# The Himalayan

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## Die's cast: War's past, peace to last

• Koirala, Prachanda ink historic deal • Say Nepal has set example for world on ways to end conflict

Arjun Bhandari  
Kathmandu, November 21

The decade-old People's War came to an end today with the signing of the Comprehensive National Peace Treaty by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Maoist chairman Prachanda at the Birendra International Convention Centre.

After the signing of the much-awaited peace treaty, which took place at 8:29 pm, PM Koirala said the country would move through reconciliation process. "I specially thank Maoist leader Prachandaji, Madhav Nepalji, Sher Bahadurji, other leaders and diplomats who played a significant role to materialise this."

"Many used to warn me that my effort of bringing the Maoists into mainstream would be futile," Koirala recalled. "But it was the responsibility of a democrat to

bring even the non-democrat into democratic polity for which we have become successful," he said.

"I see many diplomats in this ceremony. They must have been surprised by this historic event. They used to give us instances of other countries. We have set an example how peace can be restored through talks," a delighted Koirala said amidst the applause of the audience. He said the next mission of his life was to conduct an election to a constituent assembly.

Speaking at the ceremony, Prachanda said, "It is an end of the People's War the Nepali people had waged in 1996 against the autocracy." He said though Nepal is poor and backward, people of the land of Buddha had once again proved that they still had capacity to give message to the world about the ways of finding peace.



PARTY TO PEACE: Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Maoist supremo Prachanda shaking hands after signing the Comprehensive National Peace Treaty at the Birendra International Convention Centre in Kathmandu on Tuesday.

"We have managed to come to this stage despite prejudices of some developed nations who always opposed the idea of parties tying up with us," Prachanda said without naming any country.

He said he was even ready to talk to those who hated them in the past. "We can defeat the reactionary elements who still want to disrupt the peace process if we move together for nation building process," he said, adding, "Let's go together to build a prosperous nation."

The treaty was read out by convener of the government talks team Krishna Prasad Sitaula while Maoist talks team leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara made a vote of thanks. Maoist leaders Dr Baburam Bhattarai, Ram Bahadur Thapa (Badal), Dev Gurung, Dinanath Sharma and others were also present during the ceremony.

### The big deal

- Ceasefire to be permanent. Armed struggle ends
- The state and the Maoists won't resort to recruitment
- Maoist fighters will be confined to Kailali, Surkhet, Rolpa, Nawalparasi, Chitwan, Sindhuli and Ilam districts to be monitored by UN team
- Nepali Army will be confined to their barracks in proportion to the number of the Maoist fighters
- Both sides will inform each other about location of landmines planted during the war within 30 days and remove them within 60 days.
- Both to return private, public and govt property seized during war in 30 days
- Extortion and illegal taxation will be prohibited
- Both sides to make public the status of persons under their control and set them free within 15 days
- Both sides to abide by values of multiparty democracy



# THE KATHMANDU POST

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Lara cuts loose in Multan Test Pg 8

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Johansson blasts Bush's sex stance City Pg III

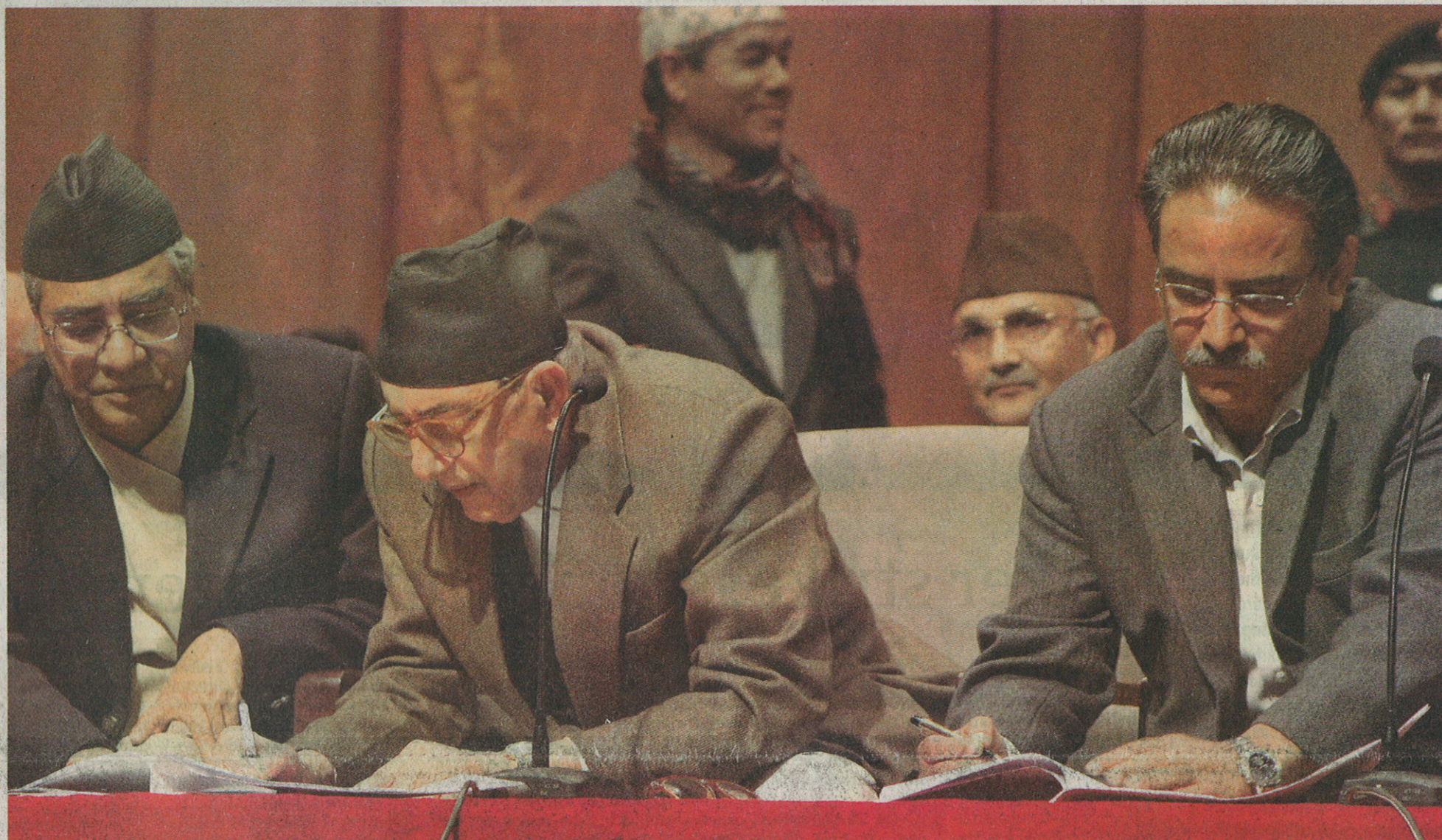
## THE END OF THE WAR

### Government, Maoists sign peace agreement

#### New Nepal

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the government and Maoists has formally ended the 11 long years of conflict and bloodletting, and ushered the eyes of the whole world into a new Nepal. November 21, 2006 will be proudly remembered and celebrated by all Nepalis as a day that transformed the destinies of this great nation. We have set an example in conflict resolution for the whole world. What until recently was an improbable peace has become a reality. A country ravaged and riven by war and teetering on the brink of failed state status has salvaged itself, heralding a new dawn of peace, progress and prosperity.

We should bow our heads respectfully to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to help bring this day. All Nepalis and well-wishers of Nepal should not forget to sincerely thank our venerable, octogenarian leader Girija Prasad Koirala, who has been a real driving force for the achievement that we are so proud of today. The nation is much indebted to him. Koirala's contribution can be adequately recognized only by something of the order of a Nobel Peace Prize. The Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Puspa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda is another personality who deserves the ultimate accolade. Without his flexibility, understanding, vision and love for the nation, the peace accord would not have been possible. He is a true hero. We are defi-



INKING HISTORY: Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala (second from left) and Maoist Chairman Prachanda (right) sign the Comprehensive Peace Agreement at the Birendra International Convention Center on Tuesday evening, ending the 11-year-old conflict. (See photo feature on Pg 2)

POST PHOTO: SHAILENDRA KHAREL

■ BY TILAK P. POKHAREL &  
GHANSHYAM OJHA  
KATHMANDU, NOV 21

At twenty-nine minutes past eight pm, Tuesday, 21st November, 2006, Nepal bade farewell to 11 years of bloodshed and entered a new era of peace.

"The time of 8:29 pm will be remembered in history forever," said Minister Pradeep Gyawali, who was master of ceremony at the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, immediately after Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Maoist Chairman Prachanda exchanged the signed copies of the accord in the jam-packed hall of Birendra International Convention Center. The exchange was greeted with thunderous applause.

The 11-page long accord, which contains 10 sub-headings including a preamble, has conspicuously declared the end of armed conflict that killed over 13,000 people, and left thousands wounded.

"On the basis of a historic agreement reached between the seven political parties and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) on 8 November 2006, the government and Maoists hereby declare that the armed conflict launched in 1996 has ended thereby making the present ceasefire between

the government and the Maoists permanent," said the peace accord, which was read out by Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula, who is also the chief government negotiator. "Armies of both the sides shall not publicize anything against each other and they shall not go against each other. But they shall not be denied their right to vote.

"After the Nepali Army is within its barracks and the Maoist army within temporary camps, it is punishable by law to retain and display weapons, create fear with the use of any kind of weapons, which go against consensus, understanding and law."

Finalization of the peace accord, which was due to be signed on November 16, was postponed on the ground that more homework needed to be done. The United Nations had led the international community in urging the government and Maoists to sign the peace accord at the earliest.

The accord has also said the respective leaderships will send circulars saying that armed personnel of one side will not address the armed personnel of the other side as "enemy". Though both the armies will be confined within barracks and camps, civilian police and armed police force will continue to work

**We have left  
behind the politics  
of violence,  
killings and murder  
and entered  
reconciliation**

- PM Koirala

**It is the victory of  
Nepali people who  
wanted to see a  
new Nepal...**

- Prachanda

in law enforcement and crime investigation.

(Contd on Pg 3)

# Nation enters new era: Leaders

KATHMANDU, Nov 21 - Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and CPN-Maoist Chairman Prachanda, sitting side-by-side, affirmed their commitment to implement the historical Peace Accord and said the nation has entered into a new era.

The leaders also called for national unity to implement the agreement.

"We have left behind the politics of violence, killings and murder and entered reconciliation," Koirala said.

He also said the historical agreement has provided a new model of conflict resolution to the world. "The agreement has surprised everybody," he said. "The diplomats, who are here, also must have been amazed."

While giving a historic reference of how he was successful in bringing the Maoists to the negotiations, he said, "Some people had told me that I wouldn't be successful in bringing the 'terrorists' to the negotiating table. But I put my political career at stake and moved forward in this mission," he said.

Koirala also said it was the duty of democrats to bring non-democrats to a democratic framework. "Finally, it has set an example for terrorists across the world that guns can never settle the conflict...It's the dialogue that reaches to a negotiation."

He also said he has a commitment to hold the Constituent Assembly elections. "I want to fulfill my commitment as soon as possible."

(Contd on Pg 3)