

Coldest: Jumla: 16.1°C Hottest: Dipayal: 36.8°C

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LING ENGLISH DAILY

AGE 12  
SPORTS

an United rally to 3-1  
n over Liverpool



## money

FinMin Mahat China-bound  
with extensive agenda



# Rain halts search op

## Army team fails to cut bigger outlet to drain dammed water

WEENA PUN  
KATHMANDU, AUG 5

A heavy downpour on Tuesday halted the search and rescue mission in Sindhupalchok district where a massive landslide struck on Saturday, rescuers said.

Because of rain, a Nepal Army team postponed a planned explosion to clear the debris and drain the blocked Sunkoshi River, said Senior Superintendent of Police Subodh Ghimire, who was at the disaster site. After creating a channel with two explosions on the riverside on Saturday, the army team used a water canon on Sunday at the landslide site to widen the channel.

"But this outlet was unable to decrease the level of water," said Ghimire. "We are instead worried that this outlet will push along the debris as it flows through and cause more landslides."

Meanwhile, a team of experts from Disaster Preparedness Network, an association of organisations that work on disaster management, visited the site on Tuesday. The team observed the landslide and the dammed lake and are still investigating



■ Nepal Army soldiers return from a search operation at the landslide-hit area in Mankha VDC, Sindhupalchok district.

POST PHOTO: NIMESH JANG RAI

## landslide victims

the chances of an outburst.

"We are not yet sure about whether the lake might give away or not. We need to study the lake more," said Arun Bhakta Shrestha, an earth scientist at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

The landslide, however, could have been managed, said Shrestha. "There are way too many landslides in Nepal to map them all out. But we could conduct a national pre-

liminary study to figure out the hotspots, places where large-scale landslides could occur and destroy lives and infrastructure, with or without blocking rivers. Then we could work on managing them just like we did with Krishnabhir and Jogimara landslides," said Shrestha.

The landslide on Saturday has already claimed 33 lives. Over 120 are feared missing and presumed dead. The search for the bodies will

resume on Wednesday, said Ghimire.

According to the Home Ministry, Mankha, Ramche, Tekanpur and Dhuskun are the most affected VDCs. Sixty-nine houses in these VDCs were destroyed by the landslide; 18 were inundated; and 58 houses, one school and two hydropower houses are in danger of being washed away, said the Ministry.

**Unscientific dev  
pattern blamed Pg 2**

# the Kathma

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NEPAL'S LARGEST



**PAGE 9**  
**LIFE & STYLE**

Zoey splits from boyfriend



**PAGE 8**  
**ET CETERA**

BFA SHOW  
AT ART COUNCIL

## NEWS DIGEST

### PM Koirala's secretary booted

**KATHMANDU:** Laxman Dhakal, secretary at Prime Minister Sushil Koirala's private secretariat, was sacked on Tuesday. A statement issued by the secretariat later in the evening was silent on the reason for his expulsion but said the dismissal would be effective from Tuesday itself. According to sources at the PM's official residence, differences with the PM had cost Dhakal his job. (PR)

### Chinese premier condoles landslide victims

**KATHMANDU:** Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has said his government is willing to extend full support and every possible help to aid the relief of the people victimised by the Sunkoshi disaster. In a note of sympathy sent to Prime Minister Sushil Koirala on Monday over Saturday's landslide in Sindhupalchok that killed three dozen people and left scores missing, Li offered condolences to the bereaved families. In the message issued by the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu, he voiced concerns about the huge barrier lake that threatens to flood downstream settlements. Li expressed his hope that the Nepali government and the people

## Stranded pilgrims keep chopper operators busy



• A helicopter used to rescue the injured from the landslide site in Sindhupalchok on Saturday.

returned from the tour of Kailash-Mansarovar, a famous Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimage site in Tibet, there were some European travellers returning to Kathmandu after hiking in Tibet. Operators said the number of pilgrims bound for Kailash-Mansarovar from Kathmandu saw a rise on Tuesday.

In the May-August season of moderate climate, the Mansarovar Yatra draws more pilgrims. Travel trade entrepreneurs cited the 2014 Chinese Year of the Horse that occurs every twelve years for the upcoming rush to the holy site.

AOAN spokesman Ghanashyam Acharya said more than 1,400 pilgrims are still stranded in Tatopani. He added that the needy had got efficient and affordable services in such a troubled time due to the availability of choppers and the charging of fares as per the rule.

According to Shree Airlines, the cost of chartering a six-seater AS350 B3e ranges from \$1,300 to \$1,500 per flight in the sector. Shree is operating six flights daily.

Given the volume of travellers, helicopters are likely to be busy until next week

### POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, AUG 5

Choppers are doing a brisk business after Saturday's landslide in Sindhupalchok blocked Araniko Highway, leaving hundreds of pilgrims returning from Kailash-Mansarovar in Tibet stranded on the Nepal-China border.

The landslide has destroyed a 2-km section of the highway between Lamosanghu and Barhabishe. Helicopter operators report more than 35 flights to and from the Tatopani area—125 km east of Kathmandu—daily to pick up and drop pilgrims, 90 percent of them Indian.

Simrik Airlines, Manang Air, Mountain Helicopters and Shree Airlines are seizing the opportunity. Per passenger charge for the 25-minute flight ranges from 215 to 250 US dollars. Many choppers use Dhulikhel as their base while some are flying out of the airport in Kathmandu.

According to the Airlines Operators' Association of Nepal, helicopters transported 618 tourists between Kathmandu and Tatopani in a total of 108 flights since Sunday.

Anil Manandhar, general manager of Shree Airlines, said that besides the large number of Indian and Chinese pilgrims who

Commissioner's Office in Ranipokhari. The cadres of Hindu organisation have been staging a demonstration nearby demanding a Hindu state for over a month. Kalpana Viswanath, co-founder of India-based Safetipin, which works to make communities and cities safer by providing safety-related information, was to speak on women's access to public space.

The event was conducted in nearby The City Museum after the incident. (PR)

the decision. The faction has also announced the continuation of parallel structures within the party, signalling the widening gap between the two rival factions.

Other hand, say Bhattacharya wants to split the party by projecting the former as anti-peace and anti-constitution.

Responding to Bhattacharya faction's demand, Dahal

close to Bhattarai, blamed Dahal of trying to imbalance the party as the constitution writing process is seen to be running smoothly under

## sindhupalchok landslide

# Unscientific dev pattern behind recent disasters



POST PHOTO

**POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, AUG 5

Floods and landslides cause a huge loss of lives and properties across the country during monsoon season. Given the instances of disasters and the damage they cause every year, the government lags far behind when it comes to preparedness, prevention and response.

Haphazard and unscientific development pattern, including expansion of human settlements and infrastructure, along one of the geographically unstable regions is believed to have triggered the massive landslide in Jure in Sindupalchowk district in the early morning of Saturday, killing at least 33 people and leaving over 150 missing.

A report prepared by the experts associated with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (Icimod) on the Jure landslide mentions that like many places in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, weak geological formation and steep topography combined with frequent intense rainfall make the area prone to various water-induced hazards, including landslide.

The landslide created a high dam across the Sun

Koshi River and led to the formation of an artificial lake, thus threatening the downstream villages. Within few hours of the landslide dam formation in the river, a gauging station of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology at Pachuwarghat downstream had registered a rapid decline in water flow. The flow of water had completely stopped for approximately 12 hours.

According to the Icimod report, an inflow of about 160 m<sup>3</sup>/sec of water quickly created a large lake behind the dam and within 13 hours the newly formed lake- which rapidly grew to a volume of an estimated 7 million cubic metres- extended about 3 km upstream.

The Saturday's event is not the first of its kind to occur in the region. In 1982, a similar disaster had hit Balefi village, along the Sun Koshi river, killing 97 persons. Similarly, the landslides that struck in the region in 1987 and 1996 had killed at least 152 people.

The Icimod report says: "If there had been an appropriate monitoring mechanism in place, measures could have been taken to raise awareness about the potential of a larger land slip that fell off on Saturday following intense rainfall."

# 'Modi vis relations

**POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, AUG 5

Minister for Information and Communications Minendra Rijal has said that the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has further strengthened Nepal-India relations by bringing in a new dynamism in the bilateral relations.

Speaking at the Reporters' Club in the Capital on Tuesday, Rijal said the Indian prime minister's visit was fruitful in taking the relations between the two countries to a new height.

The Indian PM's address to the Parliament, his meeting with the president, prime minister, political party leaders and industrialists should be deemed highly significant, Rijal added.

The minister further said that the address to the

# New Lalitpur

**NIRMALA ADHIKARI**  
LALITPUR, AUG 5

The government has appointed a new executive chief at the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City Office (LSMC) on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) on Tuesday appointed Tara Bahadur Karki the Chief Executive Officer at LSMC.

Karki will replace Mohan Nath Maskey, who had stopped attending the office following the agitation launched by the staff.

In January, the government had announced allowance equal to a month's salary to the LSMC employees who do not take their 30 days leave at the end of the

## NEWS DIGEST

### BKA donates flood victims

**KATHMANDU:** The Bhoopalman Kari Academy has decided to donate Rs 200,000 to the Prime Minister Relief Fund on Tuesday. The academy also offered condolence to the kin of the victims in Sindhupalchok floods, said a statement issued by the BKA. (PR)

### Supplementary SLC tests begin

**KATHMANDU:** The supplementary exams of the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) started peacefully across the country on Tuesday. Around 120,600 students who failed in maximum of two subjects are taking their examination conducted by the Office of the Controller of the Examination. (PR)

### Five Limbuwan parties unite

**DHARAN:** The five Limbuwan parties currently active in the eastern hills have unified on Tuesday. Sanghiya Limbuwan State Council, Federal Limbuwan State Council led, Limbuwan Mukti Morcha, Sanghiya Democratic Party and Limbuwan Mukti Morcha announced the unification during a press meet. (PR)



Some of the landslide victims have been sheltered at the Armed Police Force's Border Security Office in Mankha VDC of Sindhupalchowk district. At least 33 people have been confirmed dead while 117 are still missing in Saturday's massive landslide that blocked the Sunkoshi River forming an over 4 km long lake. The army has blasted outlets for the trapped water. **DHRUBA DANGAL/REPUBLICA**

## Visit laid foundation for new ties: Modi



**REPUBLICA**  
KATHMANDU, Aug 5

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who wrapped up his two-day official visit to Nepal Monday, has said that the visit has laid the foundation for a new relationship between Nepal and India.

Issuing a statement upon his return to New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi said he will leave no stone unturned to translate the shared vision of Nepal and India into reality and *See page 4: Visit...*

# Rain hampers NA effort to unclog Sunkoshi

**DHRUBA DANGAL**  
SINDHUPALCHOWK, Aug 5

Despite relentless efforts for the past few days, the Nepal Army (NA) has not been able to completely clear the huge amount of landslide debris piled up across the Sunkoshi River following the massive landslide Saturday morning. Heavy rain kept hampering the army's efforts throughout Tuesday also.

Earlier in the afternoon, the NA used explosives in an attempt to remove the obstruction to the river flow, but it could not restore the flow as desired.

"For the past few days, an army team has been tirelessly engaged in blasting the debris in a controlled manner so that an artificial dam caused by the landslide could be gradually removed. The last explosion was set off in the middle of a five-meter barrier across the river," said Sindhupalchowk Chief District Officer Gopal Prasad Parajuli.

More than 33 people lost their lives when Kanle hill gave way in the landslide and blocked the river below.

Around 12 hours after the landslide, the army had carried out two controlled explosions, releasing 75 percent of the locked-in water. Although two more explosions were carried out on Monday, further efforts were thwarted by torrential downpour.

According to an army officer, they are waiting for the right moment to clear away the barrier. "If the rain stops early, we believe the rest of the trapped water will get released by Wednesday," said the army officer.

Currently, the flow of water from the barrier is around 205 cusecs. "If we maintain the flow at 240-250 cusecs, the reservoir formed by the debris will be cleared by the end of this week," said CDO Parajuli.

With its regular path blocked, the river is now *See page 4: Rain...*

## Lawmakers flay govt for poor response to disasters

**KATHMANDU (REPUBLICA):** Speaker Subas Chandra Nembang on Tuesday directed the government to inform parliament by Wednesday regarding landslides and floods across the country.

The government has also been asked to inform the House about its rescue and relief efforts in the affected areas.

Earlier in the meeting, lawmakers cutting across party lines had criticized the government for failing to pay enough attention to the crisis.

*See page 4: Poor...*

# Mankha area saw massive landslide 60 years ago also

**RAMESH KHATIWADA**  
LAMOSANGHU,  
Sindhupalchowk, Aug 5

without any warning emitting off a cloud of dust. "I don't know the exact

Elderly of

longer with us."

According to locals, the

# Bahadur reunites family in Nawalparasi



Jeet Bahadur (second from left), godson of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with his family members at their home in Nawalparasi.

KB RANA/REPUBLICA

Jeet Bahadur Saru Magar had taken him to work as a laborer. He was only 10 years old then.

condition of the family, Jeet Bahadur's elder brother Dashrath Saru Magar had taken him to work as a laborer. He was only 10 years old then.

Modi before arriving in Nepal had wrote on twitter that reuniting Jeet Bahadur with his family was one of his priorities during Nepal visit. Jeet Bahadur while staying with Modi learnt Gujarati language and joined school. He is currently pursuing BBA in India and plans to study MBA.

Family and relatives of Jeet Bahadur are happy to learn that the Indian PM is looking after him. Jit Bahadur's visit to his birthplace

has not only brought joy to his relatives but the entire Nawalparasi district.

Jeet Bahadur told Republica that he never experienced homesickness as Modi was always kind to him and treated him as his own son.

Jeet Bahadur says he does not want to get involved in politics as he has seen the difficult life of a politician living with the Prime Minister of India himself. "My elder brother (Modi) always advices me not to get involved in politics. He wants me to complete my studies first," he added.

Indian PM had turned emotional when Jeet Bahadur's mother told him that

she had only given birth to her son but Modi had given her son all he wanted.

Back in 2011, Indian PM Modi had asked Binod Chaudhary to look for Jeet Bahadur's family in Nepal. Chaudhary's men found that Jeet Bahadur's family, who lived in Nagardanda of Naram VDC, had migrated to Kawasoti, Laukaha in Nawalparasi district.

Jeet Bahadur is planning to return to India after a week. Meanwhile, he is busy meeting with his family and relatives. Nepal Police and Armed Police Force personnel have been providing him security during his stay in Nawalparasi district.

Lawmakers representing Sindhupalchowk and Sankhuwasabha flayed the

NC lawmaker Basnet claimed that the government didn't even take into

Similarly, Upendra Yadav, chairman of Madhesi People's Rights Forum,

## Rain...

flowing out sideways. In view of this, the army personnel have been planning to broaden the river area to 50 meters wide. As per the technicians involved, a total of 15 million cubic meters of water had accumulated before the blasting was carried out.

### RELIEF FUND FOR SUNKOSHI FLOOD VICTIMS

Meanwhile, Lions Clubs International, District 325 B 1, Nepal has collected relief funds from its different chapters in Kathmandu in aid of the affected families of Sindhupalchowk district. Hari Prasad Marhattha, district advisor of the club, told Republica that he handed over Rs 90,000 to Kedar Nyaupane, chief district officer of Kavre, who is also president of the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC).

Likewise, Kavre Chamber of Commerce and Industry has collected relief materials including cash and food items.

CDO Nyaupane informed that the relief support collected by both organizations would be provided to the flood victims in coordination with Sindhupalchowk District Administration Office.

Similarly, the Bhoopalman Singh Karki Academy, Kathmandu, issuing a press release on Tuesday informed that it has provided Rs 20,000 to the flood victims through the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

## Libya...

(IOM) regional office in Egypt will be bearing the cost of the tickets, the transit visa fees from Libya to Tunisia, and food and accommodation for all 130 Nepalis workers stranded in Libya. The embassy estimates that US dollars 4,000 to 5,000 will be needed for their transportation from Libya to Tunisia.

**WEATHER RECORDS**

Max. Temp. (°C)	Min. Temp. (°C)	24 hrs Rainfall (mm)
25.5	16.8	7.6
36.8	24.0	0.0
34.5	25.2	0.6
33.0	24.0	Traces
35.4	26.7	0.0
25.8	16.1	0.8
33.5	23.0	1.2
33.2	24.0	0.0
35.3	35.3	0.0
34.2	27.0	0.0
31.2	22.0	0.0
25.7	18.5	0.2
26.8	18.9	6.4
29.4	22.5	0.0
33.6	27.3	0.0
25.0	18.5	3.6*
33.6	27.5	0.0*
27.1	19.0	3.7*

Source: Meteorological Forecasting Division, Govt of Nepal

**Victims**

**KATHMANDU (REPUBLICA):** Chinese premier Li Keqiang has extended condolences to the families of victims who lost their lives in the recent Sunkoshi landslide. According to a statement issued by the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu, Li has said his government is willing to extend full support and every possible help for disaster relief works. He has also expressed serious concerns over the barrier lake created by the landslide which is posing a threat to the surrounding areas. Monsoon-triggered landslide at Jure of Mankha VDC in Sindhupalchok has killed at least 33 people and displaced scores as it clogged major course of the Sunkoshi River.

**Poor...**

More than three dozen individuals have died and as many as 150 are reportedly missing after a huge landslide hit Jure of Sindhupalchok district on Saturday Morning. Similarly, six died and four others have been missing in another landslide at Syabun of Sankhuwasabha on Monday morning. "It is the government's duty to keep the House updated about such huge tragedies. I direct the government to furnish details of losses in landslides and floods across the country by Wednesday," said Nembang.

**Lawmakers**

representing Sindhupalchok and Sankhuwasabha flayed the government during the meeting for failing to provide relief to the victims. Speaking in parliament on Tuesday, Nepali Congress lawmaker Mohan Bahadur Basnet, CPN-UML lawmaker Amrit Kumar Bohara and UCPN (Maoist) lawmaker Agni Sapkota urged the government to immediately unveil relief packages for the victims' families. "The victims are not getting proper relief packages and the government response has been limited to observation of the incident," said Sapkota.

**NC lawmaker**

Basnet claimed that the government didn't even take initiatives to bring the injured to hospitals and did not manage shelters for the displaced. "Thousands of people who have lost their homes along the Sunkoshi and Koshi banks are still living in fear of floods," said Basnet. "The government should also take initiatives for allowing blocked water to flow gradually." UML leader Bohara stressed on minimizing imminent danger by lowering the water level of the artificial lake formed after a massive landslide blocked the Sunkoshi River.

**Armed Police Force**

personnel have been providing him security during his stay in Nawalparasi district. Similarly, Upendra Yadav, chairman of Madhesi People's Rights Forum, Nepal; Ashok Rai, chairman of Sanghiya Samajwadi Party; and Prem Suwal of Nepal Workers Suwal of Party also drew the attention of the government to the risk posed by obstructed flow of the river in Sindhupalchok. Other lawmakers drew the attention of parliament to natural calamities in different parts of the country. Dilnath Giri of Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal urged the government to expedite the rescue and relief efforts for the victims of the Sankhuwasabha landslide.

**Libya to**

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# declares UML chair Oli

Addressing a programme organised by the Congress health sub-committee here Tuesday, he vowed to an end to groupism in the party on his behalf. The culture of division in the party must get an end for running the party unitedly, he stressed.

UML new chairman and parliamentary party leader Oli claimed that party's main priority of the hour was to draft a democratic and pro-people constitution which could guarantee the rights of all people and unite the country.

Some state activities have been disturbed due to the government, accusing the Nepali

See Page 6



Chairman KP as argued that the party has party's recent congress.



The Armed Police Force (APF) personnel working round the clock to find the dead bodies of the Sunkoshi landslide victims. The landslide swept away a settlement at Mankha in Sindhupalchok. (Photo: APF)

# HOUSE ABANDONED

By A Staff Reporter Kathmandu, Aug. 5

Speaker of the Legislature Parliament Subas Chandra Nembang Tuesday asked the Government of Nepal to inform the House about the details of the damages caused by floods and landslides across the nation and rescue efforts carried out by the government.

He directed the government to inform the House about the factual details in Wednesday's meeting of the Legislature Parliament.

Speaker Nembang issued the ruling after the lawmakers drew the attention of the government about landslides and floods and subsequent damages and

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# Over 500 security men mobilised in search of missing bodies

By A Staff Reporter Kathmandu, Aug. 5

Nearly 500 security personnel of the three security bodies deployed to carry out rescue and search operation after landslide in the Sunkoshi River at Mankha VDC in Sindhupalchowk district are toiling on the fourth consecutive day on Tuesday.

So far 34 people have been found dead buried inside the devastating mudslide in the district, told Director General and Chief of Natural Disaster Management Division at the Ministry of Home Affairs Yadav Prasad Koirala to the Rising Nepal. More than a hundred are still missing.

In an attempt to speed up the outflow of water from the dam created after the

landslide in the Sunkoshi River, security personnel on Tuesday carried out a controlled explosion.

A temporary dam was formed in the river in Jure of Sindhupalchowk district

after a massive landslide early on Saturday morning, stoking fears in the human settlements downstream.

Chief District Officer Gopal Prasad Parajuli said an attempt was made to

# Doctors with medicines deployed

By A Staff Reporter Kathmandu, Aug. 5

The Ministry of Health and Population has deployed teams of doctors with necessary medicines to Jure in Sindhupalchowk district presuming the possible outbreak of epidemics in the area hit by a massive landslide Saturday morning that claimed dozens with scores still missing.

Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) under the Department of Health Services sent two teams today to the landslide affected area.

The massive landslide has destroyed all the sources of water and the villagers are compelled to consume the murky water from the river.

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drain out the water, according to the suggestions of geologists, meteorologists and other experts, after the water level in the dam did not decrease even four days after the landslide.

"A low intensity blast was carried out because powerful bombs will be risky," said Parajuli.

Security personnel have been mobilised to search for the missing. One excavator and bulldozer each is used in the search operation.

The government has announced a relief of Rs 40,000 to each family of the deceased and Rs 5,000 for each damaged house.

The landslide has blocked the Araniko Highway thereby compelling

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# The Rising Nepal

# MISCELLA

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## Doctors with...

As a number of people are still missing and dead livestock have also contaminated the river water there is a high chance of an outbreak of diarrhoea, viral infection, jaundice and food poison, Dr. Senendra Raj Upreti, Director General of the Department of Health Services, said. The doctors have been sent with nine types of necessary medicines, Dr. Upreti added. A team will serve the victims directly while another will be deployed for awareness campaign, Dr. Upreti said. Additional medicines and teams will be sent immediately if necessary, he said.

## Modi visit catapults...

He said that the political parties should forge a consensus to duly utilise \$1 billion soft loan India announced during Modi's visit for the overall development of the country.

"From now onward, Nepal needs to devise potential development projects and implement them in the support of neighbouring nations – India and China- to push the nation on the path of economic prosperity," said Dr Rijal.

Minister Dr. Rijal further said that the visit also clarified the need for timely review of the 1950 treaty and other controversial issues.

Minister Rijal also praised Prime Minister Sushil Koirala's efforts to make Modi's visit fruitful.

On a different note, Minister Dr Rijal expressed his regret over 'an exaggeration of the scene' in which Dr Rijal was seen supporting the shoulder of PM Koirala while the latter was receiving Indian PM Modi at the Tribhuvan International Airport on Sunday.

"I gave a prop to the PM as he was unwell," he said.

"The news was blown up out of proportion to the event. It was very unfortunate to link this case with the Prime Minister," he said.

## Nembang ask...

and Sankhuwasabha districts.

The government's present effort is not sufficient to address the situations including providing relief package and rescuing the victims in the districts, they said and demanded with the concerned authorities to expedite the rescue works, arrangement of power, opening alternative roads, necessary logistics and medical treatment in the landslide-affected areas.

Lawmaker Agni Sapkota said that the government was not found serious to address the problems that surfaced after the landslide occurred in Jure area of Ramche VDC in Sindhupalchowk.

Lawmaker Mohan Bahadur Basnet said that the



ROAD EXPANSION WOES- Expansion works during the rainy season have been pai

## Community schools in charging fees under vari

By Our Correspondent  
Banke, Aug. 5

Although the government has declared education up to secondary level free and compulsory, some community schools of Chisapani Village Development Committee of Banke district are found charging fee from the students under various titles.

enrollment period, the VDCs had declared them as an area where free and compulsory basic education was available to the students. But after the two months of such declaration, the schools started charging fees for admission, school development and examination.

Aasha Gurung, secretary of the subcommittee,

children to school because she was not capable to pay the fees as asked by school. Sunar appealed with stakeholders to manage enrollment of her child at community schools.

Hari Bikram Shrestha, principal of Dahit Lov Secondary School, said school has been charging Rs. 690 for class enrollment of a student and Rs. 1,440 for



He demanded with the government to manage proper outlet of the water of the dam, provide compensation to the victims and settle the displaced persons.

Lawmaker Amrit Kumar Bohara demanded with the government to declare Jure as crisis-hit area, open alternative roads and establish temporary health camps to resolve the problems.

Lawmakers Dipak Khadka and Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Dilnath Giri, Upendra Yadav, Prem Suwal, MP Ashok Kumar Rai, and Aindra Sundar Nembang, among others, put their views.

Likewise, lawmaker Sher Bahadur Tamang announced to donate his one month's salary to the natural calamity relief fund of Sindhupalchowk and appealed to others to contribute.

Meanwhile, the meeting of the Legislature Parliament directed the Government of Nepal to table the Social Security Act during the ongoing session of the parliament. The Parliament issued the directive after holding discussions on a commitment proposal in this regard tabled by lawmaker Surendra Pandey. The meeting passed the proposal.

"In the situation that works are underway by forming a taskforce to implement social security working plans from the fiscal year 2067/2068 BS to guarantee the social security of the workers/employees by implementing one per cent tax scheme, the proposal directs the government to table the proposal in the ongoing session of the House," the proposal tabled by Pandey stated.

Meanwhile, RSS adds: Minister for Foreign Affairs Mahendra Bahadur Pandey today informed the Legislature-Parliament about the two-day official visit to Nepal by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi that concluded on Monday.

On the occasion, Minister Pandey said during the Indian PM's visit, both sides agreed to work in a cordial way for the interests of both countries.

Indian Prime Minister's Nepal visit that took place after a hiatus of 17 years has been successful in consolidating the mutual ties, said the Foreign Minister.

Indian PM Modi's address in the Legislature-Parliament on Sunday was a historic one, he said.

The Parliament was also informed that India would provide the soft loan of one billion US dollars to Nepal, discuss in series about the border problems, and assist in tourism development, including religious sites such as Pashupati, Lumbini and Barahachhetra.

Similarly, the government informed the Parliament that Nepal and India would review and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, direct the concerned bodies of both sides to manage border disputes, further strengthen the relations between the two countries and not use the border against each other.

## No more ...

Congress of inviting ongoing strike at Bir Hospital.

Similarly, party General Secretary Ishwor Pokhrel assured that the new leadership would run the party through a new angle.

A total of 8,686 people including Congress representatives, volunteers, journalists and security personnel received free health checkup facilities from the camp operated by the subcommittee during the Congress period, according to the subcommittee report. Rs. 6 million was spent for conducting the camp.

On the occasion, leader Oli honoured 250 health workers including Dr Ganesh Gurung and Dr Gopal Gurung for their contributions to making the health camp successful.

Protection and Promotion Subcommittee by the guardians, the schools including Suryodaya Higher Secondary School, Dahit Lower Secondary School, Chyama and Janajagaran Primary School, Kareli have been charging fees from the students.

During the school

dropped out from schools as they were unable to pay the fees charged by the schools. According to Gurung, out of 27 children 12 are from the dalit community.

Kaushila Sunar of Chisapani-1, who used to live at her maternal home with her three children said she failed to send her three

## Over 500 security...

the commuters to choose alternative routes.

Likewise, five hydropower plants generating 67MW power in the region have been halted.

Nepali Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and the locals are working on the ground to search for those trapped in the landslide.

Joint Secretary Koirala said that the government was sending some necessary relief package to mudslide victims and gradually preparing to shift the displaced villagers.

Meanwhile, the government team and Indian technical team that visited the site on Tuesday said that the working procedure adopted by the Nepali Army in regulating the current of Sunkoshi River was appropriate. The technical team reached there upon the request of the Home Ministry.

The Indian technical team along with Tribhuvan University Prof Dr Ranjan Kumar Dahal and senior technicians from the Water-induced Calamity Control Department, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Department of Mines and Geology, on Monday inspected the work being carried out by the Nepalese Army in Sindhupalchowk.

Similarly, Directorate of Public Relations of the Nepalese Army said that their security team is planning to work quickly to expand the water flow from the lake and bring Kodari Highway in operation as soon as possible.

## Bill fails to ...

for assent of the parliament, Dilli Prasad Kafle of Nepal Workers and Peasants Party raised an objection alerting the Speaker to the lack of quorum to have the bill endorsed. Then, the Speaker ordered ringing the bell and lawmakers outside the meeting hall called in. When the number of MPs was counted after this, it was found less than the required quorum which the Speaker announced.

The required quorum was 151 lawmakers but only 105 were present at that time and the bill could not be endorsed. One-fourth of the existing members should be present to have any proposal passed by the Parliament.

Responding to lawmakers' queries put forth by MPs during the discussions on the principles of the bill in Parliament, Minister KC said the title of the bill could be amended in course of the clause-by-clause discussions on it.

She made it clear that the bill was brought with the objective of taking stern action against anyone who perpetrates inhuman torture or is an accomplice in such acts alleging a person of practicing witchcraft.

The Legislature-Parliament will next meet at 1.00 pm on Wednesday.

# Desolation at disaster site

• Landslip claims more than 155 lives • Govt least bothered  
• Rescue workers on overdrive • Victims have nowhere else to go

Rajan Pokhrel

Ban Sanghu, August 5

The landslide in Ban Sanghu of Sindhupalchowk district has already claimed the lives of more than 155 people and rescuers believe the death toll could go up with each passing day.

Amidst the household items scattered all around, the area is filled with a stench.

A joint team of police and Nepali Army are struggling to search for bodies buried under debris at the incident site. They said, hard as it has become to find the bodies of missing persons now, finding them alive is next to impossible.

The landslide that occurred at around 2:15 am on Saturday tore down two settlements where majority of Tamang and Shrestha families had been residing for ages, leaving over a hundred families stranded.

Kabita Chalise, 16 was asking rescuers about the fate of her four missing classmates: Salina, Mandira, Manju and Sujana. "We five were very close friends in grade 10, but I lost all four of them in seconds."

Their Ban Sanghu Secondary School now exists only on paper. "Three buildings belonging to the school have been completely destroyed," Durga Shrestha, a local survivor said.

Locals estimated that some 30 school kids along with their parents were still buried under the debris.

The four Tamang girls were among 155 people buried in the debris. Only 30 bodies have been recovered from the area till now and most of the 18 injured are still bedridden. There are hardly four houses that are partly standing there. Almost all the Tamang and Shrestha families were wiped out. A few survivors scramble to search for their neighbours who are still buried. Srilal Parajuli, a local said.

There is a long list. Six members of Meghnath Parajuli's



Rajesh Gurung / THT

Ritu Shrestha's partially damaged house standing near the swollen Sunkoshi River, in Ban Sanghu area of Sindhupalchowk district, on Tuesday.

family, five of Ram Bahadur's family and four each of Mithu Pathak, Ganesh Shrestha and Durga Shrestha's families are buried there.

Locals blamed government authorities of ignoring their repeated calls to protect the area. "It was not a fresh landslide. Small landslips have been occurring in the monsoon season for the past three years," Durga said, accusing the authorities of turning a deaf ear to their requests to do something. "The residents have no other place to shift to," he said, adding that the government had not taken the disasters seriously in the past.

The families of victims also complained they were not getting proper relief and compensation from the government.

The government authorities have not collected exact details of loss and damage to human lives and property yet.

Chairman of Rastriya Prajatantra Party Pashupati SJB Rana, during his visit to the incident site today, demanded that the government address the concerns of the affected community immediately. "The authorities must work promptly to ensure controlled flow of the blocked Sunkoshi river at the earliest," Rana told this daily.

The area also suffered power outage with the landslide blocking the Sunkoshi River and waterlogging a small market called Jure and the nearby Sanima hydropower plant.

More than 300 security personnel have been mobilised to

expedite search and rescue work, SSP Subodh Ghimire, who was coordinating the onsite operation said. "Eighty-six displaced families were given immediate relief today," he informed.

Sudip Acharya, another SSP, said not only Ban Sanghu and Jure area were at risk, but also Lamosanghu and Khadi Chaour areas downstream were under threat.

All shops remained closed and thousands of locals have already left the villages in search of safer places.

Traffic along the Araniko Highway, the only connect to Khasa of Tibet, has been completely halted after the incident, causing a daily loss of millions of rupees to the trading sector.

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