

NATIONAL

DISTRICT DIGEST

Two youths killed in motorcycle accident in Pokhara

POKHARA: Two young men, both aged 21, died in a motorcycle accident at Lakeside of Pokhara in the wee hours on Sunday. Police identified the deceased as motorcyclist Saphal Ranabhat of Kaskikot and pillion rider Sujal Adhikari of Simlichaur. According to Police Inspector Abinash Deep GC, the speeding motorcycle heading to Sahidchowk lost its control and hit a solar lamp post near Street No 3. The accident happened at around 1 am. The critically injured duo were rushed to Gandaki Medical College where they died in the course of treatment.

Fire destroys two-storey house in Doti

DOTI: A fire destroyed a two-storey house in Jhiga settlement in ward 3 of KI Singh Rural Municipality, Doti, at around 9:30 am on Sunday. According to police, the fire broke out during cooking hours, engulfing both floors of Baji Bhul's stone-and-mud house. The blaze destroyed 100 sacks of paddy, clothes, carpentry tools, and utensils, causing an estimated loss of Rs250,000. No injuries were reported. A six-member police team, led by Police Inspector Kulbir Bohara, worked with locals to douse the flames. Bhul's family is now sheltering at a neighbour's home. Local organisations are coordinating relief efforts.

Army removes illegal structures from its property in Dolakha

DOLAKHA: The Nepal Army has demolished 39 illegally built structures occupying its land in ward 6 of Melung Rural Municipality in Dolakha. The structures, built over a long period, were cleared by a joint team comprising personnel from the Nepal Army's Gurud Dal Battalion, Nepal Police, and Armed Forces. According to Chief District Officer Shivaram Gelal, Authorities had issued a notice before launching the drive as part of an ongoing effort to remove illegal structures from public land. Gelal said similar violations across the district would be cleared. Melung, which served as the district headquarters of Dolakha and Ramechhap until 1894, housed a Nepal Army unit at the time. The Gurud Dal Battalion had requested the administration to remove the structures to conduct training on its 69-ropani (35,102.56 square metres) land.

Nine years on, Bahrakilo-Barpak road upgrade remains stalled. Locals suffer

Frustrated residents demand urgent completion blaming contractors and government for continued inaction.



A winding dirt road on the hill side connecting Barpak and Bahrakilo in Gorkha district. In this undated photo.

HARIRAM UPRETI GORKHA, FEB 9

Road upgrade work from Bahrakilo to Barpak, the epicentre of the Gorkha earthquake in 2015, began nearly nine years ago. But the 46-kilometre stretch from Bahrakilo in ward 11 of Gorkha Municipality to Barpak in ward 1 of the Barpak-Sulikit Rural Municipality has not yet been completed, leaving the local people in hardship. "ICPN-UML chief and current prime minister KP Sharma Oli visited Barpak a few months after the devastating earthquake and assured that the road would be widened and blacktopped by 2018. Villagers were quite

hopeful since the project contract had already been signed," said Jit Bahadur Ghale, a local resident of Barpak. "The road is in terrible condition. Locals suffer from the dust during the dry season. It is unfortunate that a project that should have been completed years ago is still unfinished," he said, expressing his frustration over the delay. The Bahrakilo-Barpak section is a crucial road that connects several rural settlements of Gorkha. Residents of some wards of Gorkha Municipality, all wards of Barpak-Sulikit Rural Municipality, as well as Laprak and Gunda villages of Dharche Rural Municipality rely on this road. The upgrade of the Bahrakilo-

Barpak road began in 2015 by dividing the 46.6-kilometre stretch into four sections. Work on two sections has been completed while blacktopping work on the remaining two sections has stalled due to negligence of the contractors. Asphalting work on an eight kilometres section—from Arkul to Dhodeni—and a 16 kilometres section—from Baluwa to Barpak—which should have been completed by mid-July 2018 remains incomplete. The 12-km long Masanethanti-Nibel section of the Bahrakilo-Barpak road is part of the Mid-Hill Highway Project. The road section was blacktopped three years ago. Blacktopping work of a total of 10 kilometres of road of the first two sections was also

completed. According to the Gorkha Road Project, overall physical progress on the Bahrakilo-Barpak upgrade stands at around 90 percent. Lohani and Brothers Construction Company had signed an agreement to upgrade the eight-kilometre Arkul-Dhodeni section on July 16, 2015. The project was supposed to be completed by July 2017, but the project remains far from completion. "The construction company has not shown up at the project site in the current fiscal year of 2024-25. We wrote to the construction company several times but the contractor has not resumed work," said Amindra Khadka, head of the Gorkha Road Project. According to him, the physical progress on the eight kilometres Arkul to Dhodeni is only 80 percent. "The contractor blacktopped six kilometres of the road, but the surface is already coming off and needs repair," said Khadka. According to Khadka, the project deadline has been extended seven times. "Preparation is on to terminate the contract if the construction company does not resume work immediately," he added. Similarly, work on the 16-kilometre Baluwa-Barpak section remains incomplete. The contract for this section was awarded to Rasawa/Elite Surya JV on July 10, 2016, for Rs330 million. The work was supposed to be completed within two years of signing of the contract. But even after eight years, it remains incomplete. "The project deadline has been extended six times. The latest extension runs until mid-July. Work is currently underway, and we hope the contractor will complete the project by the end of the current fiscal year," said Khadka. According to him, around 90 percent of the work on the 16-kilometre section has been completed. Frustrated by prolonged delays, local residents have demanded the immediate completion of the upgrade work along the Bahrakilo-Barpak road. "The government should take strong action against contractors who do not complete projects on time. Locals are suffering due to the negligence of contractors and government's inaction," said Ghale.

Gangalal heart centre demands immediate funding to continue free surgeries

>> Continued from page 1 The free cardiac care scheme for children was introduced by the then health minister Gagan Kumar Thapa during his tenure in 2016-2017. At the time of the programme's launch, Rs120 million was enough to cover the cost. During the Covid pandemic, the hospital performed fewer surgeries, which allowed them to save funds and extend the scheme. But those savings have now been depleted. "When we asked for reimbursement for services provided free in the past, we were told that no additional funds could be given beyond the ceiling," another staffer at the hospital said, asking not to be named. "Without reimbursement, the hospital cannot do anything. We are forced to ask parents of ailing children to arrange money upfront before they can undergo surgery." Officials also complained that the government had not reimbursed millions of rupees of services provided under the health insurance programme. Meanwhile, Minister for Health and Population Prapti Paudel said he is aware of the difficulties faced by parents of children with cardiac problems. "The problem didn't start after I became minister. When it was brought to my attention, I tried to arrange the funds but have not been able to do so yet," said Paudel. "I am working to remove the cap so that all children with heart disease can get free treatment." Paudel also stated that he was informed that the hospital has been providing free treatment to poor and needy children through its charity fund. Along with free treatment of children under 15 years of age, the government also provides free treatment to those suffering from rheumatic heart disease, for valvuloplasty (a procedure to open narrowed heart valves), free treatment for those above 75 years of age, and free service worth Rs100,000 to poor people.

Britain navigates rough transatlantic waters as Trump roils the 'special relationship'

>> Continued from page 1 It's rare for a politician, rather than a career civil servant, to be given a key UK ambassadorial post. The center-left former lawmaker is not an obvious emissary to the Trump administration. Mandelson once called Trump a "danger to the world"—words he now says were "ill-judged and wrong." But some analysts see Mandelson as a canny choice. A controversial figure who twice resigned from government over allegations of financial or ethical impropriety, he has—like Trump—repeatedly bounced back. His mastery of political intrigue brought him the nickname "Prince of Darkness." Jill Rutter, a senior fellow at the Institute for Government, said Mandelson is "a considerable political

talent" with economic expertise from his time as the EU's trade commissioner between 2004 and 2008. "He's also very comfortable with very rich people," Rutter said. "He's very well connected. He will give very classy parties." In addition to diplomatic clout, Britain plans to deploy another key asset: the royal family. Trump, whose mother was born on Scotland's remote Isle of Lewis, owns two Scottish golf courses and is a fan of the royals. He praised the late Queen Elizabeth II, who hosted him at Buckingham Palace during a 2019 state visit, and said he had a "great talk" with Prince William when the two men met in December. A return visit to the UK for Trump, replete with pomp and pageantry,

seems likely. Stuck in the middle with EU Some politicians on the right of UK politics see Trump's return as an opportunity for deeper UK-US trade ties, maybe even a long-elusive free trade agreement. Talks on a trade deal started after Britain left the European Union in 2020 but foundered on issues including agriculture, with strong opposition in Britain to importing chlorine-rinsed chicken or hormone-treated beef. A further complication is Starmer's desire for closer trade with the EU as part of a "reset" with the bloc after years of acrimony over Brexit. Sandwiched between the US and the EU, Britain could face pressure to pick

a side. "Surely the choice is obvious," Conservative Party lawmaker John Cooper said during a recent debate in Parliament. "Under President Trump, the American eagle is starting to spread its wings... Europe is fading, with sclerotic growth amid political turmoil." But Leslie Vinjamuri, director of the US and the Americas program at the international affairs think-tank Chatham House, said choosing between Europe and America was a "ridiculous proposition." While the US is Britain's biggest individual trading partner, half of Britain's trade is with the 27 EU members. "They can't choose," Vinjamuri said. "At the end of the day, Europe, the US and the UK are in this together, and so they have to find different ways of working" together.

Pressure over trade and defense Trump has already ratcheted up pressure on longstanding allies, announcing he would impose tariffs on all goods from Canada and Mexico, then postponing them after getting pledges from the two countries to beef up border security. Trump has suggested Britain could escape similar tariffs. "I think that

one can be helped out," he said. Britain is worked out by the fact that, according to official US statistics, the US sells more goods to the UK than it imports. Britain is also facing pressure from Trump to increase defense spending. Trump has long questioned the value of NATO and threatened not to defend members of the alliance that fail to meet defense-spending goals. The president has said NATO countries should spend at least 5% of their income on defense, up from the current 2% target. Britain spends 2.3% of GDP on defense and says it will increase that figure to 2.5%. "The one thing that the Americans will pay attention to is the defense budget, because Britain started losing leverage with the US when its army and its navy started going down in the 1950s," Burk said. Britain is one of the biggest supporters of Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion—a war Trump wants to end, on terms that remain unclear. Starmer and his officials hope to press the US government not to abandon Ukraine or back a deal favorable to Russian President Vladimir Putin. British diplomats and spies are also

Expect the unexpected It's impossible to predict everything the next four years could bring. Rutter said ministers and civil servants need to think about the unthinkable. For instance, what happens if deep cuts to regulation and the machinery of government mean parts of the US start falling? "When do you start having to give people warnings not to fly to the US because we don't trust your aviation regulation anymore?" she said.

HETAUDA SUB-METROPOLITAN CITY  
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE  
HETAUDA, MAKAWANPUR  
BAGMATI PROVINCE, NEPAL

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
Date of Publication: 2081/10/28 (10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2025)

Name of Project: Consulting Services for Conducting Level II (1696 hrs.) training under Training with OJT Program

- Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City has allocated fund toward the cost of Consulting Services for Conducting Level II (1696 hrs.) training under Training with OJT Program and intends to apply a portion of this fund to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Expression of Interest is invited for National Consulting service.
- The Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan, Office of the Municipal Executive, Hetauda, Makawanpur now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible consulting firms ("consultant") to provide the following consulting services: Conducting Level II (1696 hrs.) training under Training with OJT Program.

S.N.	EOI No.:	Consulting Service Name
1.	HSMC/CS/EOI/01/081/82	Consulting Services for Conducting Level II (1696 hrs.) training under Training with OJT Program (Professional Cook)

- Interested eligible consultants may obtain further information and EOI document free of cost on or before 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2025, 12:00 Hours at e-GP system [www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp](http://www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp).
- Expressions of interest shall be delivered online through e-GP system [www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp](http://www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp) on or before 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2025, 12:00 Hours. (Manual submission is not applicable)
- In case the last date of obtaining and submission of the EOI documents happens to be a holiday, the next working day will be deemed as the due date but the time will be the same as stipulated.
- EOI will be assessed based on **Qualification 40%, Experience 50%, and Capacity 10%** of consulting firm and key personnel. Based on evaluation of EOI, only shortlisted firms will be invited to submit technical and financial proposal through a request for proposal.
- Minimum score to pass the EOI is 60.

Chief Administrative Officer

**माइग्रेसन हारायो**  
मिति: २०८१/१०/१५ नमो बारावाट  
व्यवस्थापन जेडी मेरो विम्वन व्यबस्था  
भारतमा माइग्रेसन सेटिफिकेट प्राप्तको  
हुना चाहनुहुने माइग्रेसनको योनि नं  
४२०२२२०५४८ टा नमिकाको प्रकुरी  
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गर्दौ  
नाम: अमिता बाघ  
सम्पर्क नं.: ९७५२२८००८  
समावेश नं.: २२५०२४२४  
समय: वि.सं. २०१५  
ठेगाना: बाराज, काठमाडौं।

**POST REPORT**  
KATHMANDU, FEB 9

Two killed in school bus crash in Dakshinkali

A driver and a student were killed when a school bus crashed in Dakshinkali Municipality-3, Bhanjyang, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, on Sunday. The victims are identified as 35-year-old driver of the vehicle Basu Bishnu Thapamagar and eight-year-old student Bipin Gurung, police said. According to Police Superintendent Apilraj Bohara from the District Police Office, Kathmandu, the driver was pronounced dead upon arrival at the municipal hospital in Dakshinkali, while the student passed away during treatment at the National Trauma Centre, Kathmandu. The accident occurred in late afternoon when the bus, carrying students from Jankuri English School, crashed. A total of 32 people aboard the bus were taken to various hospitals for treatment. The bus fell approximately 150 metres off the road, police said.

Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal  
**Pokhara International Airport Civil Aviation Office**  
Pokhara, Kaski  
**Invitation for Bids**  
Date of publication: 10/02/2025

The Pokhara International Airport Civil Aviation Office invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of followings under National Competitive Bidding - Single Stage/Single Envelope procedure: Bidders may obtain further information from the PPMO [www.bolpatra.gov.np](http://www.bolpatra.gov.np) or call office websites: <https://pda.caanepal.gov.np/>.

Bid Notice No.	Types	Description	Bid Document Fee	Bid Security	Bid Submission	Bid Opening
NCB-08-PIACA/O-081-82	Works	Construction of Service post and Shed at PLA	NRs 3,390-	NRs 1,40,000/-	Before 12:00 PM on 12/03/2025	At 01:00 PM on 12/03/2025