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WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

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36.0° C 15.0° C
Nepalgunj Jomsom



A participant of a barbers' protest in Kathmandu on Tuesday, demanding relief as their business had been severely affected by the restrictions enforced to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Rukum murder of youths was result of caste discrimination, House probe finds

Study finds sheer lapses on the part of local government, local administration and police in handling the incident.

BINOD GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, JULY 14

The killings of six youths in Soti village of Chaurjahari Municipality in Rukum (West) were a result of caste-based discrimination prevalent in the society and a crime against humanity, an investigation by a parliamentary committee has concluded.

The report submitted to Speaker Agni Sapkota says the incident was premeditated and conspired by the family of a 17-year-old girl that was not happy about their daughter having an affair with Nabaraj BK, 21, from Bheri Municipality in Jajarkot district because he belonged to a so-called lower caste.

"It was a pre-planned and well-choreographed mass murder," Parbati Bishunkhe, a member of the study team, told the Post.

"The youths were first taken under control and then killed before they were thrown into the river."

The House of Representatives, following pressure from the opposition parties, on June 8 formed the nine-member probe team led by Devendra Poudel, a Nepal Communist Party (NCP) lawmaker.

On May 23, dozens of locals from Soti in Chaurjahari Municipality of Rukum (West) district had chased away Nabaraj and 18 of his friends



POST FILE PHOTO: BHIM BAHADUR SINGH
Family members and relatives of the victims at the Jajarkot District Police Office.

who had accompanied the former to the village to help him elope with his girlfriend, who belonged to the so-called upper caste.

After knowing that Nabaraj was coming to take her daughter, the mother of the girl called villagers including Dambar Bahadur Malla, chairperson of the Ward No 8 of Chaurjahari Municipality, who attacked the youths with household tools like sickles and axes in addition to wooden sticks and stones that took six lives, leaving 12 others seriously injured.

Besides Nabaraj, the other deceased are Ganesh Budha Magar, Tikaram Nepali, Lokendra Sunar, Govinda Shahi and Sanju BK whose bodies were recovered from the Bheri River.

>> Continued on page 5

Amid soured Nepal-India ties, Oli is threatening relations between peoples of two countries, leaders and experts say

Foreign Ministry scrambles for damage control after prime minister made unfounded claims about Lord Ram's birthplace and accused India of creating a 'fake' Ayodhya.



PHOTO: PM'S SECRETARIAT
Prime Minister Oli talks at a Bhanu Jayanti ceremony in Kathmandu on Monday.

ANIL GIRI

KATHMANDU, JULY 14

At a time when Nepal-India ties have hit an all time low over boundary issues, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's remarks on Monday regarding the birthplace of Lord Ram have done more harm than good, as he has stoked a controversy that could affect people-to-people ties, leaders and foreign affairs analysts said on Tuesday.

While addressing a function to mark the 207th birth anniversary of poet Bhanubhakta Acharya, Oli accused India of cultural aggression and distorting historical facts. Oli said that Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya, which was near Thori in Nepal's Birgunj—not in India—and that he was a Nepali.

Oli, however, stopped short of providing any concrete evidence to back his claim.

"Our historical facts were distorted. We thought Sita got married to Prince Ram of India. But this is not true. Sita was married to Ram of an Ayodhya that is in Nepal, not in India," said Oli. "And that Ayodhya is a village situated west of Birgunj. India created a fake Ayodhya."

Oli's statement garnered quite a response, with leaders from his own ruling party describing it as "uncalled for" and ludicrous. Some leaders from

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, too, were quick to rebut his arguments.

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was scrambling for damage control.

"Attention of the government of Nepal has been drawn to the various interpretations of the remarks made by Prime Minister Oli," said the ministry in a statement. "The remarks made by the prime minister are not linked to any political subject and have no intention at all to hurt the feeling and sentiment of anyone [sic]."

Leaders of Oli's Nepal Communist Party (NCP) as well as the opposition, former ministers and diplomats, however, said that the damage had already been done.

According to them, Oli's remarks were insensitive and that they could even lead to the souring of ties between the two countries at the people's level.

Raghuji Pant, a Standing Committee member of the ruling party, told the Post that the prime minister should refrain from making statements on issues related to religious sentiments.

According to Pant, by stoking controversy over the birthplace of Ram, Oli has touched a raw nerve, as Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party came to power on the plank of Ram's birthplace and with the promise to build a temple in Ayodhya.

"As Pashupatinath and Lumbini evoke emotions among Nepalis, it's similar with millions of people of India when it comes to Ayodhya," Pant told the Post. "Debate and discussions on such historical facts should be left to intellectuals and researchers. The prime minister should keep out of such issues. After the prime minister's statement, I am afraid our bilateral relations will

take a further dip."

Oli, who came to power on his nationalist plank in the wake of an Indian border blockade in 2015, has upped the ante against India once again of late, accusing it of encroaching upon the Nepali territory and even sending a more lethal coronavirus than China. After his government decided to publish a new political map depicting Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as parts of Nepal, Oli had even taken a jibe at India's national emblem.

The decision to publish a new map, and its subsequent adoption from Parliament, has made the Indian media, which itself is accused of toeing Modi's line, hostile to Oli.

Oli, who is facing a tough time in his party for his poor governance, recently received a sudden support from across the spectrum after a section of the Indian media broadcast "news reports" about how he had fallen into Beijing's trap and his relationship with Chinese Ambassador Hou Yanqi.

There was a vocal outcry against the "news report" in the Nepali public sphere, with politicians, civil society and social media condemning the allegations.

Some say Oli seems to have misinterpreted the widespread condemnation of the Indian media as a support for him and went a step ahead to talk about Ram's birthplace in a bid to needle India.

"At a time when our ties with India have hit an all-time low since 1947, remarks made by the prime minister are very unfortunate," Ramesh Nath Pandey, a former foreign minister, told the Post. "This is actually a cause for concern."

Pandey said since Nepal and India entered a state of cartographic war, there has been a deadlock with dialogue not forthcoming in the near future.

"We are not talking with each other. This has never happened in the history of Nepal-India relations," said Pandey. "If we fail to bring our ties back on track, or if our relationship further deteriorates, it will seriously impact the geopolitical positioning in South Asia. We have to find a remedy before it's too late."

Some foreign policy experts suspect that Oli's remarks on Ayodhya could dilute the agenda of boundary dispute with India.

"The timing is very important and a statement coming from the prime minister on such sensitive issues could divert the main agenda of holding talks with India," Durga Prasad Bhattarai, a former foreign secretary and ambassador, told the Post. "Such remarks can become a distraction at a time when the boundary row is an important issue and both the countries need to sit down and talk."

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Multiple landslides in Syangja displace people, disrupt highways

Three persons were buried and one went missing in a landslide at Kaligandaki on Tuesday.

PRATIKSHA KAFLE
SYANGJA, JULY 14

Three persons were buried to death and one went missing in a landslide that occurred at Khahare in Kaligandaki Rural Municipality Ward 4, Syangja, on Tuesday morning.

According to the District Police Office in Syangja, six people got buried in landslide debris while on their way to repair a drinking water pipe near a water spring in Khahare.

“Among them, three were rescued from the incident site. But one among the three rescued died while undergoing treatment at Birgha Health Post,” said Rajendra Adhikari, deputy superintendent of police in Syangja. “Two bodies were found buried in the landslide debris while one person is still missing in the incident site.”

The two persons rescued from the site are receiving treatment at Palpa Mission Hospital, said police. According to Adhikari, security personnel have been deployed to the incident site for rescue operation.

Twenty seven individuals from Ward 4 have been displaced by the landslide that was triggered by incessant rainfall.

“For the time being, the displaced families are taking shelter at their relatives’ houses. We will move them to a safer location soon,” said Khim Bahadur Thapa, chairman at the rural municipality.

In Morang, a 58-year-old woman



POST PHOTO: NABIN PAUDEL

Vehicular movement along the East-West Highway remained closed for 10 hours on Tuesday.

died when her house collapsed in a landslide at Singhadevi Chisangkhol of Kerabari Rural Municipality Ward 2 on Saturday night.

Man Bahadur Rai, deputy superintendent of police in Morang, said the difficult terrains of the incident site made it difficult to retrieve the victim’s body and hand it over to her family.

Likewise, a 23-year-old man from Rautwamai Municipality Ward No. 7 was swept away by the rain-swollen Ratuwa stream on Sunday.

“It has been learnt that the man was on the way to Jhapa from Ratuwamai.

We have mobilised a police team to search for the missing person,” said DSP Rai.

Meanwhile, vehicular movement along the Nawalparasi (East)-Daunne road section of the East-West highway, which had remained closed for almost 10 hours since Tuesday morning due to a landslide, resumed from Tuesday noon. Two vehicles were trapped in landslide debris and felled trees along the road section.

Deo Narayan Sah in Morang and Nabin Paudel in Nawalpur contributed reporting.

Rukum murder of youths was result of caste discrimination, House probe finds...

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The incident had drawn international attention, with the United Nations, the Human Rights Watch and the European Union Delegation to Nepal condemning the Dalit killings, saying that caste-based discriminations and crimes were still rife in Nepal and calling for a fair probe into the incident.

The parliamentary study has said it found sheer lapses on the part of the local administration and the local government in the investigation into the incident.

The local police, according to the report, took the injured into control, instead of the attackers, suggesting that the entire investigation process was flawed. Those accused of the murder were arrested only the next day after widespread criticism.

Though the 12 injured reported that their six friends, who were found dead later, were missing, the police showed no promptness in searching for them, the probe has found.

The report prepared after a month of study says the police failed to accurately report the crime scene and the places where the victims’ bodies were found.

The lawmakers found that the police hadn’t taken statements from those who recovered bodies from the river.

The report says Sub-inspector Santosh Lamichhane and senior constable Ramesh Basnet, from the Chaurjahari area police post, did not

make an earnest and professional effort to prevent the situation.

There were several lapses in the criminal investigation process adopted by the local administration, the team noted, calling for further study. The panel has suggested that the government form a special team to look into the incident.

Report says there were lapses in investigation by the local administration.

The parliamentary committee has viewed with suspicion the autopsy report that mentions drowning as the cause of the deaths.

“The fact that the autopsy was carried out by Dr Bhupendra Malla, son of Bhakta Bahadur, the lawyer of the accused, also gives ample room to doubt the authenticity of the autopsy report,” says the report.

Mareshwor Raj Gahatraj, another member of the probe committee, expressed surprise that the investigation process didn’t accord the attention that the incident deserved.

“The incident is a blot on human civilisation and challenges our existing legal and constitutional provisions,” Gahatraj told the Post. As the case is sub-judice in the district court,

he said, they did not look into legal aspects during their investigation.

The police had filed a charge sheet against 34 people in connection with the case and had arrested 29 of them. The district court has released five after recording their statements while two, including Nabaraj’s girlfriend, have been sent to juvenile correction centre.

The lawmakers involved in the investigation say the girl was drawn towards Nabaraj after she saw him perform during an inter-school sports competition and in due course they got closer and started to have an affair.

But when it came to a situation that the boy wanted to marry the girl, it became an issue of social pride for the family, which resulted in the heinous crime, said Bishunkhe.

The Poudel-led team has also drawn the government’s attention to the need to give full shape to the Dalit Commission.

Nearly five years since the promulgation of the constitution, the commission, along with other inclusion commissions, does not even have a proper office.

The Poudel-led team has also said that the traditional criminal investigation process, which is still in practice, needs improvement.

While receiving the report, Sapkota said he will take initiatives for an immediate implementation of the report. As Parliament has been prorogued, the report will be sent to the government for implementation.

Two employees of Melamchi water supply project go missing in tunnel accident

Workers were swept away by high-velocity water released in one of the tunnels.

ANISH TIWARI
SINDHUPALCHOK, JULY 14

Two workers at a construction site of Melamchi Water Supply Project in Sindhupalchok went missing when they were swept away by a high-velocity water released through one of the tunnels as part of a routine test on Tuesday.

Police said search was underway for Satish Goit, one of the project engineers, and Pemba Lama, a driver, who went missing in the accident.

Shekhar Khanal, site engineer, and Pemba Lama, a project helper, were rescued and taken to Kathmandu for treatment.

“The two men have sustained deep injuries in their heads and legs,” said Superintendent of Police Prajwal Maharjan.

The water released to the main tunnel in the intake area at Helambu Rural Municipality-1 had swept away the four men who were at the site.

The incident occurred at around noon at Gate No 17, some 800 metres inside the tunnel, a project employee said on condition of anonymity since he was not authorised to speak to the media.

According to some of the technicians, who have been working on the site, a high pressure water was released, which led to excessive water flow through the gate pushing the water back to the mouth of the tunnel.

“We used to measure the water pressure every hour. There was no reason for this to happen but we don’t know the technical aspect,” said Krishna Tamang, a project worker.

The Post tried to contact Triresh Prasad Khatri, the project chief, for a comment, but his mobile phone was switched off throughout the day.

The high-velocity water also destroyed the majority of infrastructure, including the main audit and head box area.

“The infrastructure inside the tunnel has been damaged. We haven’t been able to reach the incident site to determine the cause of the incident,” said Shiva Kumar Sharma, an engineer at the project.

He said a technical team had been formed at the ministerial level to probe the incident.

Another project official said it would take around three weeks to repair the damaged tunnel gate.

Works were underway at the main tunnel and Gate No 17 to channelise water to Sundarijal of Kathmandu from Melamchi River in Helambu.

Some witnesses reported a torrent of water gushing out from the tunnel and sweeping away a project vehicle.

The incident has raised concern among the locals. They questioned the quality of the much-awaited national pride project.

“Our settlement can be swept away at any time due to the poorly-built infrastructure of the project. We don’t know how technically sound the infrastructure is,” said Mingmar Hyalmo of Helambu. “The government should inspect the incident site immediately and find out where the problem lies.”

Amid soured Nepal-India ...

>> Continued from page 1

According to Bhattarai, such uncalled for remarks can also weaken Nepal’s position during talks.

“I wonder if our prime minister deliberately wants that,” said Bhattarai.

Bhattarai’s suspicions emanate from the fact that Oli has tried to use a bad press he has got in India to his advantage at home turf.

Meanwhile, a scrambling Foreign Ministry, which is headed by Pradeep Gyawali, who is Oli’s trusted lieutenant, however, has made an all-out effort to avoid any further damage.

“As there have been several myths and references about Shri Ram and the places associated with him, the prime minister was simply highlighting the importance of further studies and research of the vast cultural geography the Ramayana represents to obtain facts about Shri Ram, Ramayana and the various places linked to this rich civilization, the statement added after huge uproar from various quarters,” said the ministry.

“The remarks were not meant to debase the significance of Ayodhya and the cultural value it bears. It may be underlined that the tradition of celebrating Bibaha Panchami where a marriage procession coming from Ayodhya, India to Janakpur, Nepal takes place every year.”

Oli, who is facing a crisis in his own party, is currently also in a diplomatic quagmire given his government’s relationships with India, China and the United States, say foreign affairs analysts. And it would have been prudent on his part if he thought before he spoke, according to them.

“Oli himself has served as a foreign minister in the past so he should know how timing is of paramount importance in diplomacy,” said Bhattarai, the former diplomat.

“If there are issues, there are diplomatic channels at his government’s disposal. He does not need to always comment on all issues of international relations. Such actions can damage our ties with our friendly nations.”



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय राजदूतावास, काठमाडौं

सार्वजनिक सूचना

अतिरिक्त सामग्री सहितका चार पुराना डिजी (डिजेल जेनेरेटर) सेटको सार्वजनिक लिलामी यही **साउन २** गते (17th July, 2020) दिउसो १२ बजेदेखि १ बजे सम्म काठमाडौं स्थित भारतीय राजदूतावास परिसरमा हुनेछ। यी सामानहरुको निरीक्षण बिहान १० बजेदेखि १२ बजेसम्म सोही दिन गर्न सकिनेछ।

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४. मालसामान विक्री गर्ने अधिकार दूतावासमा निहित रहनेछ।

चान्सरी प्रमुख



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport
Department of Roads
Development Cooperation Implementation Division
Strategic Road Connectivity & Trade Improvement Project (SRCTIP)

Notice No. SRCTIP/02/076-77

Amendment on REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) (2)


Date of first publication: **11 June, 2020**

In reference to REOI Notice published for Consultancy Service of Environment and Social Impact Assessment Study (ESIA) of the Kamala-Dhalkebar-Pathlaiya Section with associated Bridges of the Mahendra Highway, following Amendment has been made;

Notice No	Contract Identification Number	Amendment on
SRCTIP/02/076-77	SRCTIP-DoR- KDP-CS-QCBS- 03	The Expression of Interest submission deadline is extended up to 10 th August 2020.

The other terms and condition remain the same.

Deputy Director General



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Water Supply
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project
PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Panipokhari, Kathmandu

Invitation for Bids

Date : 15 July 2020 (First date of Publication)

Loan No. and Title : 3711- NEP, Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project

Contract No. and Title : UWSSP/OCB/18/Tikapur_Kailali, Tikapur Storm Drainage and FSM Project, Kailali

Deadline for Submission of Bids : 30 August 2020, 12:00 Noon, Nepal Standard Time (NST)

- Nepal has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of **Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project (UWSSP)**. Part of this financing will be used payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- The **Project Management Office, Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project (UWSSP), Department of Water Supply and Sewerage management, Ministry of Water Supply** (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders, based on post-qualification criteria, for the scope of works described hereunder:
 - Storm Drainage Component:** Construction of Works consisting of construction of storm water drain about 29 Km length and outfall and Dismantling and reinstatement of existing municipal road. The construction period is two years from the date of issuing of the work order.
 - FSM Component:**

Stage- 1: Construction of Works consisting of Construction of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) comprising of screen chamber, anaerobic digester, sludge drying beds, anaerobic baffle reactor & anaerobic filter, horizontal flow constructed wet land, polishing pond, composting yards, valve chamber, boundary wall & fencing and Supply and laying of necessary valves, pipes & fittings etc. The construction period is one year from the date of issuing of the work order

Stage- 2: Operations and Maintenance of the FSTP for two years.

- Open Competitive Bidding (OCB)** will be conducted in accordance with ADB’s Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders as described in the bidding document.
- Only experienced and eligible bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
 - Minimum average annual construction turnover of NRs. 840.00 million or equivalent calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed within the last five (5) years.
 - Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last 7 (seven) years that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds NRs. 672.0 million or equivalent. The similarity of the Bidder’s participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6, Employer’s Requirements of the bidding document.
- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

The Project Director
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project
Project Management Office
DWSS Building, Top floor
Panipokhari, Kathmandu.
Ph: 0977- 1 - 4006647, 0977- 1 – 4423186
Fax: 0977-1-4413280
Website: www.uwssp.gov.np; Email: info@uwssp.gov.np
- To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should on or before 28 August 2020:
 - Write to above address requesting the bidding documents for UWSSP/OCB/18/ Tikapur_Kailali.
 - pay a non-refundable fee of NRs. 20,000 (in words Nepali Rupees twenty thousand only) (or USD 190.00 equivalent) deposited in Government of Nepal’s revenue account as follows:

Name of Bank: Rastriya Banijya Bank, Kathmandu
Bank Account No: 1000200010000
Office Code: 3-1-3-0-1-3-5-0-5
Name of Office: Project Management Office
Revenue Account No: 1-4-2-2-9

- The document may be collected in person or may be sent by express airmail for an additional fee of NRs. 2,000 (or USD 20) for domestic delivery or USD 100.00 for overseas delivery. No liability will be accepted for loss in transit or late delivery.

- A pre-bid meeting shall be held at 13:00 Hrs. (NST) on 17 August 2020 at PMO Office at Panipokhari.
 - Deliver your bid to the address below
The Project Director
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project
Project Management Office
DWSS Building, Top floor
Panipokhari, Kathmandu.
 - On or before 30 August 2020; 12:00 Hrs. (NST). Late Bids will not be accepted.
 - Together with a Bid Security in the amount as specified in the Bidding Document (Section 2: Bid Data Sheet Clause ITB 19.1)

Technical bids will be opened immediately after bid submission deadline in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend, whereas the Financial Bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Financial Bids of only Technically Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after Technical Bid Evaluation, whereas, the Financial Bids of those Bidders whose Technical Bids are not responsive and qualified shall be returned unopened after the contract is awarded.

- When comparing Bids, ADB’s Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.

BRIEFING

Japan: US military coronavirus policy has multiple problems

TOKYO: Japan's defence minister said Tuesday that officials have discovered "a number of problems" with US military measures to guard against the coronavirus among service members stationed in Japan after 95 Marines tested positive at several bases on the southern island of Okinawa. Okinawan officials on Sunday said most of the cases since early July were at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which is at the center of a relocation dispute. Others were at Camp Hansen, Camp Kinser and Camp McTureous. On Tuesday, Kadena Air Base reported two positive cases. Combined with three cases at Kadena in March, the total among the US service members on Okinawa is 100, officials said. "We have discovered a number of problems," Defence Minister Taro Kono said.

Catalan separatist leader says was target of political spying

BARCELONA: The pro-independence speaker of Catalonia's regional parliament Roger Torrent said on Tuesday that he had been the target of political espionage via phone tapping, accusing the Spanish government of being either complicit or negligent. Tensions between Catalonia's separatist regional leaders and the Madrid government have been high for years, and a report in the Guardian and El Pais newspapers that Torrent's phone was tapped is unlikely to help. "In Spain, political espionage is being carried out against political adversaries," Torrent said. "If the Spanish government had knowledge of this, it would have been complicit in a crime. If it had no knowledge of it, it would be a very worrisome symptom of political negligence and lack of awareness of alleged illegal practices."

(AGENCIES)

Asia ramps up coronavirus curbs as new clusters erupt

The pandemic has now killed more than half a million people in six-and-a-half months.



Municipal health workers are disinfected after a swab sample collecting session to test for Covid-19 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday.

REUTERS

SYDNEY/TOKYO, JULY 14

Australian states tightened borders and restricted pub visits on Tuesday, while Disney prepared to close its Hong Kong theme park and Japan stepped up tracing as a jump in novel coronavirus cases across Asia fanned fears of a second wave of infections.

Many parts of Asia, the region first hit by the coronavirus that emerged in central China late last year, are finding cause to pause the reopening of their economies, some after winning praise for their initial responses to the outbreak.

Australia largely avoided the high numbers of cases and casualties seen in other countries with swift and strict measures, but a spike in community-transmitted cases in Victoria state and a rise in new cases in New South Wales has worried authorities.

South Australia cancelled plans to reopen its border to New South Wales

on July 20, while Queensland introduced a mandatory two-week quarantine for people who have visited two areas in Sydney's western suburbs.

New South Wales, which has seen several dozen cases linked to the outbreak in Victoria, said pubs will be limited to 300 people, responding to an outbreak centred at a large hotel in southwestern Sydney.

"Indoor activity, where people aren't seated is a huge health risk. It increases the chance of transmission," state Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters.

Australia's second largest city, Melbourne, is in the second week of a six-week lockdown

The number of coronavirus infections around the world hit 13 million on Monday, according to a Reuters tally, climbing by a million in just five days. The pandemic has now killed more than half a million people in six-and-a-half months.

The World Health Organization

(WHO) warned that the pandemic would worsen if countries failed to adhere to strict precautions.

"Let me be blunt, too many countries are headed in the wrong direction, the virus remains public enemy number one," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing on Monday.

In the Northern Hemisphere, countries are racing to get a handle on outbreaks before winter, which could bring a renewed surge. A second wave of infections in Britain this winter could kill up to 120,000 people over nine months in a worst-case scenario, according to health experts.

Hong Kong, which suffered remarkably few cases in the first wave of the pandemic, will impose strict social distancing measures from midnight on Tuesday, the most stringent yet in the Asian financial hub.

Hong Kong recorded 52 new cases on Monday, including 41 that were locally transmitted, health authorities said. Since late January, Hong Kong has reported 1,522 cases and media reported an eighth death on Monday.

"The recent emergence of local cases of unknown infection source indicates the existence of sustained silent transmission in the community," the Hong Kong government said.

China, which has contained a cluster in Beijing in recent weeks, loosened border restrictions between Macau and the neighbouring province of Guangdong, sending shares of Macau casino operators surging.

In Tokyo, health officials were trying to locate more than 800 members of an theatre audience after 20 people including cast members of a recent performance tested positive for the coronavirus.

US rejects China's claims in South China Sea, adding to tensions

REUTERS

WASHINGTON/BEIJING, JULY 14

The United States has rejected China's claims to offshore resources in most of the South China Sea, drawing criticism from China which said the US position raised tension in the region, highlighting an increasingly testy relationship.

China has offered no coherent legal basis for its ambitions in the South China Sea and for years has been using intimidation against other Southeast Asian coastal states, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.

"We are making clear: Beijing's claims to offshore resources across most of the South China Sea are completely unlawful, as is its campaign of bullying to control them," said Pompeo, a prominent China hawk within the Trump administration.

The United States has long opposed China's expansive territorial claims on the South China Sea, sending warships regularly through the strategic waterway to demonstrate freedom of navigation there. Monday's comments reflect a harsher tone.

"The world will not allow Beijing to treat the South China Sea as its maritime empire," Pompeo said. The US statement supports a ruling four years ago under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that invalidated most of China's claims for maritime rights in the South China Sea.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian condemned the US rejection of China's claim.

"It intentionally stirs up controversy over maritime sovereignty claims, destroys regional peace and stability and is an irresponsible act," he said at

China has built bases atop atolls in the region but says its intentions are peaceful.

a regular briefing. "The US has repeatedly sent large fleets of sophisticated military planes and ships to the South China Sea ... The US is the trouble-maker and destroyer of regional peace and stability." China claims 90 percent of the potentially energy-rich South China Sea, but Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also lay claim to parts of it.

About \$3 trillion (2.40 trillion pounds) worth of trade passes through the waterway each year. China has built bases atop atolls in the region but says its intentions are peaceful.

Analysts said it would be important to see if other countries adopted the US stance and what, if anything, Washington might do to reinforce its position and prevent Beijing from creating "facts on the water" to buttress its claims.

"The Southeast Asian claimants, especially Vietnam, will feel more confident in asserting their jurisdictional rights under UNCLOS," said Ian Storey, senior fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

The Philippines strongly supported a rules-based order in the South China Sea and urged China to comply with the four-year-old arbitration ruling, its defense minister, Delfin Lorenzana, said.

Modi's virus fund won't disclose donors

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI, JULY 14

Bejon Misra responded quickly to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal in March for donations to a new fund to strengthen the country's fight against the coronavirus.

The next day, the 69-year-old retired management professor made a donation.

"It was a generous contribution because Modi is the face of it," Misra said. Such trust in Modi is common in India, with the prime minister enjoying an 82 percent public approval rating, according to US-based pollster Morning Consult.

So when the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund, or PM CARES, was launched days after India started a countrywide virus lockdown, donations began pouring in and haven't stopped.

Retirees like Misra, industrialists, Bollywood stars and foreign companies have all pitched in. But the fund, now valued at more than



AP/RS

Narendra Modi

\$1 billion, has run into controversy over issues of transparency and accountability. The Associated Press requested a list of donors and payments from Modi's office under the Right to Information Law, which gives citizens access to information from India's often opaque bureaucracy. The request was denied.

Modi's office, which manages PM CARES, has refused to disclose the information, arguing that even though it is administered by the Indian government, it is not a public authority,

and therefore not subject to right-to-information laws.

As a result, there is little transparency about the money the fund is receiving and spending in the middle of India's still-raging virus outbreak.

"It's not a state secret and the government must answer the questions that are being raised," said Saket Gokhale, an independent activist who was one of the first to question the fund. "They are stonewalling."

Legal experts are challenging the response of Modi's office.

Surender Singh Hooda, a lawyer at India's top court, filed a petition on June 5 arguing that the fund's website must display details of the money received and the way it is used. The Delhi high court told Hooda to withdraw his petition and contact Modi's office first, as is required by law.

Modi's office denied Hooda's request for information.

"The money has been collected under the name of the prime minister and millions of ordinary citizens have donated to it. The least we expect is some transparency," Hooda said.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(Re-advertised for the previously published vacancy for Advocacy and Communications Expert on 17th June 2020)



Children-Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH), a non-profit organization, established in 1993 with an aim to ensure social justice, protection and promotion of human rights especially the rights of children, invites applications for the post of **Advocacy Expert** from interested eligible candidates (Nepali citizens only) who are reliable, accountable, and have ability to deliver results with highest level of integrity.

Position: Advocacy Expert for *Child Labour: Action-Research-Innovation in South and South-Eastern Asia (CLARISSA) Project*

Post Type: Full time (40 hours per week)

Work Station: Kathmandu

Contract Type: Two and a half years with 3 months probationary period

Required Education and Training:

- Master's degree in law, human rights, social studies, child rights/protection or similar qualification. Master's degree in human rights law and training in rights-based advocacy desirable

Experience and Skills:

- At least five years of dedicated work experience in the field of evidence based advocacy and multi-stakeholder communication.
- Experience of advocacy/policy advocacy to multiple stakeholders at local and national level.
- Experience of working directly with highly vulnerable and marginalised children, adults and communities in particular child labourers.

Please follow the link below to see or download the details for the **Job Descriptions and Job Profile for the Advocacy Expert** position:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pgs010YPsxLZxfBtk-yiccc9JASv57L/view?usp=sharing>

Applications and Deadlines:

Applicants who had applied for previous vacancy announcement need not apply again.

- Qualified candidates are requested to email the following documents to CVASH@cwish.org.np
 - A cover letter
 - An updated CV with recent passport size photo
 - A motivation letter mentioning why you think yourself as a potential candidate for the **Advocacy Expert** position.
- The application deadline for this position is 18:00 hrs, Tuesday, 21st July 2020

Interview and Presentations:

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for the further selection process including written examination, presentation and interview.

CWISH reserves all rights to qualify/disqualify applications in any case; all applications will be treated with the highest confidentiality.



KAGESHWORI MANOHARA MUNICIPALITY

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE

DANCHHI, KATHMANDU



Re-invitation for Bid

First date of publication : 31st Ashad , 2077 (15 July, 2020)

- The Kageshwori Manohara Municipality, Office of the Municipal Executive had invited tender for the following construction works in 4th Jestha, 2077. No bid or proposal was found to be substantially responsive eligible. As per PPA-2063 section 10 and sub-section 4(a), it is to notify for the re-invaition of the following bids.
- The Kageshwori Manohara Municipality, Office of the Municipal Executive invites **Electronic bids for S. N. 1 and 2** as indicated in details of work below under **Single Stage single Envelope** procedures from eligible bidders for the construction as indicated in details of work below under procedures as in accordance with **e-GP Procurement Directive 2074**. Eligible bidders with the following key qualifications for **S. N. 1 and 2** should participate in this bidding and may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents through PPMO website www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp or inspect the Bidding Documents at the Kageshwori Manohara Municipality, Office of the Municipal Executive during office hours.

Key qualifications for S. N. 1 and 2 works:

- Minimum Work experience for truss bridge having span greater than 40mbe attested with bid document.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents for **S. N. 1 and 2** may download from PPMO's Web Site www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp by eligible Bidders and submit their bids only electronically through www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as shown in table below 14th Shrawan 2077, (29 July, 2020).
- Information to deposit the cost of bidding document in Bank
- Name of the Bank:** NIC ASIA Bank Limited, Thali branch, Kathmandu
- Name of Office:** Kageshwori Manohara Municipality, Kathmandu
- Account Name:** STHANIYA TAHAKO MUL SANCHIT KOSH
- Account No. :** 18CA051127352406
- Bidder who wishes to submit the Bid Security in the form of Cash, the cash should be deposited in Account Name: STHANIYA TAHA DHARAUTI, Account No. : 18CA051127352401of NIC ASIA Bank Limited, Thali Branch, Kathmandu
 - Bids must be valid for a period of **90 days** after bid opening and must be accompanied by a scanned copy of the Bid security in pdf format amounting as specified in the details of works, which shall be valid up to **30 days** beyond the validity period of Bid.
 - Electronic Bids must be submitted through PPMO website www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp on or before 12:00 hrs of 14th Shrawan, 2077. The **price bid of S. N. 1 and 2** or electronic bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 13.00 hrs. on14th Shrawan, 2077 (29 July, 2020) at Kageshwori Manohara Municipality, Office of the Municipal Executive, Danchhi, Kathmandu.
 - Matters not covered in this notice shall be treated in accordance with PPA-2063 and PPR-2064.

Details of Works

S.No	Contract Identification No.	Name of Project	Name of Project Estimate amount (excluding VAT and contingencies) NRs.	Bid security amount NRs.	Bid document fee (Non – refundable) NRs.
1.	Pedestrian bridge/W/ NCB/104RE/2076-077	Construction of 42m Pedestrian Bridge in Kageshwori Manohara-8	5,240,724.94	175,000.00	3000
2.	Pedestrian bridge/W/ NCB/105RE/2076-077	Construction of 52m Pedestrian Bridge in Kageshwori Manohara-8	5,483,309.94	175,000.00	3000

