



# THE KATHMANDU POST

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

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33.5° C 4.0° C  
Janakpur Jumla



A boy plays on a swing at sunset at Changunarayan in Bhaktapur with a sparkling Manohara River in the background, Monday.

POST PHOTO: DIPENDRA ROKKA

## Public holiday today to mourn Satya Mohan Joshi

POST REPORT  
KATHMANDU, OCT 17

The government has announced national mourning and a public holiday for Tuesday and decided to fly the national flag at half-mast in government offices and Nepali missions abroad to mourn the demise of historian and polymath Satya Mohan Joshi.

Joshi passed away on Sunday at the age of 103 while undergoing treatment at the KIST Medical College and Teaching Hospital.

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday decided to declare a public holiday for Tuesday to honour the distinguished historian.

Joshi was undergoing treatment for prostate and heart-related ailments since September 23.

On Sunday, Joshi's mortal remains were kept on the premises of the Lalitpur Metropolitan City where hundreds of people from diverse backgrounds including political leaders, cultural conservationists, literature lovers, art enthusiasts, teachers and students paid their tributes to the late historian. Also, a contingent of Nepal Police presented a guard of honour to Joshi.

Last year Joshi pledged to donate his body to the hospital for medical research.

## Kinship to be decisive in Sudurpaschim elections

Political parties have picked candidates who appeal to voters from their ancestral districts.

TUFAN NEUPANE  
SUDURPASCHIM, OCT 17

When the entire country was gripped by a heated debate on the delineation of federal provinces during the constitution-making process, a sizable constituency in the then Far Western Development Region demanded that the entire region be made a single federal province. They took to the streets protesting the proposal to include Kailali and Kanchanpur districts in another province that was to be carved out of the region's southern plains. The people mainly of hill origin claimed that Kanchanpur and Kailali districts should be inseparable parts of an 'undivided far-west'.

On the other hand, people from the Tharu community who are historically dominant in the southern plains of the region launched protests demanding a Tharuhat province composed mainly of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.

Owing to the influence of powerful leaders of hill districts like Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress, Bhim Rawal of the CPN-



UML, and Lekhraj Bhatta of then UCPN (Maoist), the entire far-western development region was named Province 7, which was later renamed Sudurpaschim Province by the provincial assembly.

Though the leaders succeeded in keeping the entire region in a single province while federating the country, local politics continues to be riddled with factional infightings.

>> Continued on page 2

## Xi came, Xi saw but Xi couldn't conquer hurdles in bilateral ties

Three years since the Chinese President's historic Nepal visit, there is not much to show for it.

ANIL GIRI  
KATHMANDU, OCT 17

It has been three years since Chinese President Xi Jinping's October 2019 Nepal visit, which was described as a "watershed" in Nepal-China relations.

Xi, who is all set to be elected president for another five-year term at the ongoing 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, had vowed to transform 'landlocked' Nepal into a 'land-linked' country and the two sides signed a slew of agreements during his Kathmandu visit in October, 2019.

At the visit's end, a 14-point joint statement was issued and a 20-point list of instruments was signed and exchanged.

Separately, during delegation-level talks with President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Xi had announced an aid worth Rs56 billion to Nepal. Although the money was to be provided over the next two years, negotiations for it still continue between Kathmandu and Beijing. Interestingly, the joint statement did not mention the Rs56 billion promised by Xi.

"We plan to discuss with Chinese authorities matters including the aid promised by Xi as well as the recent Chinese announcement to provide Nepal 800 million RMB [Rs15 billion] for 2022," said Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, Nepali ambassador to China, over the phone from Beijing.

During a meeting between Foreign Minister Narayan

Khadka and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in the Chinese city of Qingdao on August 10, the Chinese government had pledged a new aid worth 800 million RMB.

Shrestha said he is waiting for Kathmandu's nod to start talking with the Chinese authorities.

A Beijing-based Nepali diplomat, meanwhile, said Chinese officials have been saying they have already provided some of the Rs56 billion aid in the form of Covid supplies including vaccines and other assistance. "We will learn the details once we sit for talks with them," the diplomat said.

There has not been a single meeting between Nepali and Chinese officials in the past three years to discuss the agreements signed three years ago during Xi's Nepal visit.

But several other matters agreed back then including the joint announcement of the height of Mt Everest, agreements on setting up the Confucius Centre at the Tribhuvan University, developing protocols for export items to China and Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) on Criminal Matters, high-level exchanges, and holding meetings of bilateral mechanisms have already been implemented, say officials.

"Some projects are making good progress and some are in the initial stages of implementation," a foreign ministry official said. "Despite being priority issues, we failed to implement some agreements, partly because of the parlaying Covid pandemic."

>> Continued on page 2

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## Fuel still expensive despite fall in international prices

Nepal Oil Corporation says it cannot slash prices because of massive accumulated losses.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Costly fuel has added to the pain of Nepalis struggling under high inflation.

KRISHANA PRASAIN  
KATHMANDU, OCT 17

Nepal Oil Corporation continues to charge high prices even when the cost of oil on the international market has tumbled, analysts say.

Inflation-stricken consumers com-

plain they are hit with a price hike every time rates on the international market go up, but the state-owned oil monopoly does not respond with the same quickness when it is the other way around.

Nepal Oil Corporation says it cannot slash prices because of massive

losses, but insiders point out that it is making a profit for the first time in 20 months.

Costly fuel has added to the pain of Nepalis struggling under high inflation. There is growing public furore that even though world prices have been falling for the last two months, this has not been reflected in the domestic market.

The government company has said that prices may not come down because of its negative balance sheet, adding that if there is pressure to cut prices, the supply system may be disrupted.

Nepal Oil Corporation has revealed it is currently making a monthly profit of Rs790.87 million, thanks to a fall in crude prices in August and September.

According to international media reports, the average price of Brent crude oil dropped to \$86.27 a barrel in September before climbing to \$91.63 in mid-October.

Birendra Goit, director of Nepal Oil Corporation, said the corporation was back in the black after 20 months. "Prices have been going down for the last two months, but the mid-October period looks uncertain as the price of crude has started increasing."

>> Continued on page 5















FOREX

US Dollar	132.07
Euro	128.81
Pound Sterling	149.03
Japanese Yen (10)	8.87
Chinese Yuan	18.34
Qatari Riyal	36.27
Australian Dollar	82.52
Malaysian Ringit	28.00
Saudi Arab Riyal	35.14

Exchange rates fixed by Nepal Rastra Bank

Shares									
Nepse									
1,858.33pts -0.14%									
HIGHEST LOSERS									
PPL -9.97	BHL -5.1	RLFL -4.72	SCB -4.43	BHDC -4.23	SMATA -3.49				
MODERATE LOSERS									
UHEWA -3.31	GRDCL -3.16	NMBHF -2.89	NHDL -2.87	NRN -2.81	RPPL -2.78				
MODERATE GAINERS									
GIBF1 2.1	GVL 2.38	SANIMA 2.4	MBL 2.53	WNLB 3.09	SBFC 3.19				
HIGHEST GAINERS									
PRVU 3.55	NIBLFF 3.65	ILBS 3.8	KDBY 3.85	SPHL 9.96	AVPAN 9.99				

BULLION

PRICE PER TOLA	
Fine Gold	Rs 93,300
Silver	Rs 1,160
SOURCE: FENEGOSIDA	

GASOLINE WATCH

# Consumers continue to pay through the nose for fuel despite global prices dropping

>> Continued from page 1

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its latest report that as the cost of living continues to rise, policymakers around the world will need to protect the most vulnerable members of society from the impact of higher prices.

Poorer households often spend relatively more than others on food, heating and fuel; categories that have seen particularly steep price increases. Moreover, households cannot easily adjust consumption to minimise spending on these products; everyone must eat and use heating, and transportation (whose price is often determined largely by fuel costs) is often essential to get to work, the report said.

In countries with well-developed social safety nets, targeted cash transfers to those particularly exposed to higher energy and food prices (such as children and older people) and existing automatic stabilisers (for example, unemployment insurance) are the best ways to limit the impact on those least able to bear it.

However, measures to limit the inflationary impact should offset any increase in new spending. In countries lacking well-developed safety nets, governments should look to extend any already active programmes, according to the IMF report.

While Nepal's caretaker government cannot make crucial decisions ahead of the November 20 elections, Nepal Oil Corporation is adamant about not slashing fuel prices because of its ballooning debt. It says its outstanding dues currently stand at more than Rs43 billion.

The government company owes Rs33.60 billion to its sole supplier Indian Oil Corporation. It has borrowed Rs7 billion from the government and Rs3 billion from Rastriya Banijya Bank against its property as collateral to pay for fuel imports.

"The global oil market is still unpredictable. We cannot immediately cut fuel prices," Goit said.

"We are receiving letters from Indian Oil Corporation to clear our



PHOTO COURTESY: NOC

Nepal imported fuel worth Rs50.88 billion in the first two months of the fiscal year, compared to imports worth Rs37.95 billion in the same period in the last fiscal year.

outstanding dues. If we fail to pay them, fuel supply might be halted," Goit said. "So, we don't have a plan to cut prices."

According to Nepal Oil Corporation, its estimated fortnightly profit on petrol sales stands at Rs360.04 million. The corporation has been making a fortnightly profit of Rs110.15 million and Rs470.70 million on the aviation fuel sold to domestic and international airlines respectively.

The corporation incurs a loss of Rs180.51 on the sale of diesel fortnightly. The fortnightly loss in the LPG business is Rs370.60 million.

Diesel accounts for a large share of its sales. Goit says that diesel makes up 60 percent of the total fuel consumption. "So it does not make much sense to make a profit from petrol and aviation fuel. Even a Rs1 profit on diesel makes a big difference."

With the rise in oil prices as shown in the revised price list sent by Indian Oil Corporation on Sunday, the corporation incurs a loss of Rs6.34 on every litre of diesel sold.

"We are in a difficult situation to manage supply because the price of crude oil has been increasing in the

international market again. On top of that, a stronger United States dollar has added to the burden," the corporation said in a press statement issued on Sunday.

"As the diesel price is on the high side, the corporation may go into a loss again," Goit said.

Nepal Oil has been cross-subsidising petroleum products. It makes a big profit from the sale of aviation fuel and uses it to subsidise diesel.

"If the corporation decreases the price of petrol or aviation fuel, it will have to increase the price of diesel and LPG," Goit said. "Increasing the price of diesel obviously will impact everything—from the cost of food to clothes."

The price of petrol has swelled by 28.17 percent to Rs181 per litre in the past year, while diesel and kerosene prices rose by 36.51 percent to Rs178 per litre. The price of LPG or cooking gas has increased by 19.44 percent to Rs1,800 per cylinder in the same period.

Indian Oil Corporation reviews export prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene every fortnight, and of other products such as aviation fuel and

cooking gas on a monthly basis.

The last time Nepal Oil reduced the prices of petroleum products was on June 25.

The price of petrol was cut by Rs20 per litre to Rs179; and the prices of diesel and kerosene were reduced by Rs29 per litre each to Rs163.

Again, on July 4, Nepal Oil increased the price of petrol by Rs2 per litre to Rs181 and diesel and kerosene by Rs9 to Rs172 per litre.

Earlier, at least two parliamentary committees had directed the government to slash various taxes imposed on petroleum products, but it is not clear what taxes were to be reduced.

On June 2, Nepal Oil lowered gasoline prices by Rs10 per litre. On both occasions, the government made no tax cuts.

Fuel imports soared by 34 percent year-on-year in the first two months of the current fiscal year ended mid-September, according to the Department of Customs.

Nepal imported fuel worth Rs50.88 billion in the first two months of the fiscal year, compared to imports worth Rs37.95 billion in the same period in the last fiscal year.

## BRIEFING

### Europe's largest home appliances brand Bosch makes foray into Nepal



**KATHMANDU:** BSH Home Appliances, the largest manufacturer of home appliances in Europe joins hands with Laxmi Electro Tech P Ltd, an entity of Laxmi Group, Nepal to launch Nepal's first-ever Bosch brand store in Kathmandu. Located at IT Plaza in Kamaladi, this state-of-the-art store displays Bosch's high-quality, German engineered home appliances including refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, mixer grinders and more. Through this store BSH Home Appliances aims to cater to Nepal's growing base of quality-conscious consumers who are looking for high-performance products that can add comfort and convenience to their everyday life. **(PR)**

### Apple freezes plans to use China's YMTC chips, Nikkei reports

**CALIFORNIA:** US tech giant Apple Inc has put on hold plans to use memory chips from China's Yangtze Memory Technologies Co (YMTC) in its products, after Washington imposed tighter export controls against Chinese technology companies, the Nikkei reported on Monday. Apple had originally planned to start using state-funded YMTC's NAND flash memory chips as early as this year, Nikkei said, citing people familiar with the matter. The chips were initially planned to be used only for iPhones sold in the Chinese market. It was considering eventually purchasing up to 40 percent of the chips needed for all iPhones from YMTC, the newspaper said. The United States last week added China's top memory chipmaker YMTC and 30 other Chinese entities to a list of companies that US officials have been unable to inspect, ratcheting up tensions with Beijing, starting a 60 day clock that could trigger much tougher penalties. YMTC is also being investigated by the US Commerce Department over whether it violated Washington's export controls by selling chips to blacklisted Chinese telecommunications company Huawei Technologies Co Ltd. **(REUTERS)**



A coconut vendor waits for customers at Dhulabari Chowk, Jhapa.

## World Cup boom pushes some Qatar residents out of homes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DOHA, OCT 17

Qatari landlords eyeing profit from the looming World Cup have been kicking out a growing number of mostly foreign tenants, sometimes with just a few days' notice.

More than one million football fans are expected to descend on the capital Doha during the November-December tournament, putting a strain on the tiny Gulf nation.

Landlords who have spotted an opening to increase rents "show no pity" and the market is dominated by "greed", said a representative of a real estate company, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Reem, a foreigner working for a major Qatari company, was told she had a week to leave her apartment.

The woman, using a pseudonym to avoid reprisals from her employer, told AFP the owner of the block wanted the dozens of apartments rented to her employers emptied so they could earn more during the World Cup.

"We felt humiliated," Reem said.

The company has moved Reem and other employees into a hotel, but they

can only stay there until just before the tournament kicks off. They will then move into "temporary" apartments, she said.

"Leaving home with all our belongings in bags and boxes to go into a hotel room was a disaster."

Other tenants in Doha told AFP they were similarly forced to choose between paying more on rent or leaving. Properties in the tower where Reem used to live are advertised on booking.com for \$1,700 a night during the World Cup with a minimum stay of 14 nights.

In the two years she had been in the apartment, Reem said rent was \$2,500 a month.

Most fans will be staying in hotels, apartments, cruise ships and desert camps booked through the official World Cup portal.

Organisers have insisted there will be enough accommodation for all fans in the emirate of just 2.8 million people. The Qatar government acknowledged there was "increased demand" for accommodation during the World Cup but did not comment on individual cases. A government official said any tenant "may file a complaint with

the Rental Disputes Settlements Committee Office".

To ease the crunch, FIFA recently released thousands of hotel rooms it had reserved, which experts have said could push World Cup prices down.

Some fans are turning to the open market for luxury apartments or better locations near stadiums, and the prices advertised for some Doha prop-

erties highlight owners' sky-high hopes. On Airbnb, apartments for two people go for \$2,500 a night.

A villa for the full 29 days of the World Cup will cost fans booking through the online platform at least \$13,000—but prices can go into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Some Doha residents are putting their flats up for rent and fleeing Qatar



AFP/RSS

More than one million football fans are expected to descend on the capital Doha during the November-December tournament, putting a strain on the tiny Gulf nation.

## UK Treasury chief scraps nearly all government tax cut plans

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, OCT 17

The UK's new Treasury chief ripped up the government's economic plan on Monday, dramatically reversing most of the tax cuts and spending plans that Prime Minister Liz Truss announced less than a month ago.

In a televised address, Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt said he was scrapping "almost all" of Truss tax cuts, along with her flagship energy policy and her promise—repeated just last week—that there will be no public spending cuts.

While the reversal of policy calmed financial markets, it further undermined the prime minister's rapidly crumbling authority and fuelled calls for her to step down before her despairing Conservative Party forces her out.

Scrapping Truss' plan to reduce the basic rate of income tax by 1 percentage point, Hunt said "it is a deeply held Conservative value—a value that I share—that people should keep more of the money that they earn."

"But at a time when markets are rightly demanding commitments to sustainable public finances, it is not right to borrow to fund this tax cut."

Such major policy announcements are normally made first in the House of Commons. However, after an agreement with the speaker of the House, it was left to Hunt—rather than Truss—to deliver the calming message to the markets, weeks earlier than he had planned.

## Move further undermines the prime minister's rapidly crumbling authority.

Hunt was appointed on Friday after Truss fired his predecessor Kwasi Kwarteng, who spent less than six weeks in the Treasury job.

Truss and Kwarteng jointly came up with a September 23 announcement of 45 billion pounds (\$50 billion) in unfunded tax cuts that spooked financial markets, sent the pound to record lows and forced the Bank of England to take emergency action.

Over the weekend, Hunt has been dismantling that economic plan. The government had already ditched parts of its tax-cutting plan and announced it would make a medium-term fiscal statement on October 31.

On Monday he went further. He scaled back a cap on energy prices designed to help households pay their bills. It will now be reviewed in April rather than lasting two years—sweeping away one of Truss' signature plans.

Hunt's moves are aimed at restoring the government's credibility for sound fiscal policy after Truss and Kwarteng rushed out a plan for tax cuts without detailing how they would pay for them.

He spent the weekend in crisis talks with Truss, and also met with Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey and the head of the government's Debt Management Office.

The unfunded tax cuts fuelled investor concerns about unsustainable levels of government borrowing, which pushed up government borrowing costs, raised home mortgage costs and sent the pound plummeting to an all-time low against the dollar.

The Bank of England was forced to intervene to protect pension funds, which were squeezed by volatility in the bond market.

for the month. Adel, who listed his small apartment on Airbnb for \$900 a night, said "demand was very high" when he first advertised it. But he had to cancel the reservations after Airbnb asked him to provide a landlord's statement approving the sublet.

Rents have also risen sharply for tenants coming to the end of their leases in recent months.

While Qatari law allows for an increase of up to 10 percent for a lease renewal, average rents in some Doha districts have risen by 40 percent over the past year, according to Anum Hassan, head of research in Qatar at international consultancy firm Valustrat.

A Western diplomat in Doha said embassy staff have demanded increased salaries to meet their rent payments.

"Rents ... will stay high for a while," said Nabil Ghorra, a 59-year-old Lebanese-American who lives in Doha's upscale Pearl district.

"I feel that there are people taking advantage of the situation, but this happens all over the world when there's an event" like the World Cup.







# Budha and Tharu set new national records in athletics

Indian Army Budha from Karnali sets record in the men’s 3,000m steeplechase. Army’s Tharu achieves her second milestone at the Games with a new best in the women’s 100m hurdles.



POST PHOTOS: HEMANTA SHRESTHA

Durga Bahadur Budha (left picture) competes in the men’s 3,000 metres steeplechase at the Ninth National Games in Pokhara on Monday. Jayarani Tharu races in the women’s 100m hurdles.

## SPORTS BUREAU

KATHMANDU, OCT 17

Durga Bahadur Budha of Karnali Province and Jayarani Tharu of Tribhuvan Army Club set new national records in athletics during the Ninth National Games in Pokhara on Monday.

Budha secured 3000 metres steeplechase gold with a record time of 8 minute 55.19 second to secure first gold for Karnali. He broke Rajendra Bhandari’s 18-year-old record of 8:57.30 set at Islamabad South Asian Games (SAG) in 2004.

Ajit Kumar Yadav of Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) Club finished with silver clocking 9:21.10 and Subash Karki of Army walked away with bronze at 9:22.14.

Budha, who is enrolled at Indian Army, however, drew controversy as four teams, including departmental sides—Army, APF and Nepal Police Club—and Gandaki Province, registered their protest before the kickoff on Monday claiming his participation as illegitimate. The protest by four teams also delayed the kickoff.

In the protest letter they have claimed that he has represented India at international sports meet and he was ineligible to participate in the Games.

“Budha has been registered as an

international player at the database of International Athletics Federation and the proof is attached as well,” reads the protest letter.

Despite complaints against Budha, the technical sub-committee of the Games concluded that the Karnali athlete should not be denied participation in the Games. “Budha has been registered as Karnali player and the Games regulation does not mention if a Nepali player who has represented other countries will be eligible to participate or not. Thus his participation should not be barred,” wrote the technical sub-committee to the athletics organising sub-committee.

Tharu of Army set her second national record at the Games in women’s 100m hurdles heat. She clocked 15.16 seconds to better her own previous record of 15.20. She, however, failed to meet her own heats’ timing in the final but her timing of 15.19 seconds was enough to win gold. Tharu on Sunday had earned 400m hurdles gold with record timing.

Nirmala Thapa of Army took gold clocking 16.25 and Bhagirathi Kumari Tharu of APF walked away with bronze at 19.13.

Army athletes also secured men’s 110m hurdles and men’s discus throw. Jeevan Chaudhary took hurdles gold, clocking 15.03 seconds and finishing

ahead of Chandra Dev Joshi (15.81) of Nepal Police Club. Ram Prasad Tharu took home bronze clocking 16.00.

Chitra Bahadur Woli secured discus throw gold with a haul of 38.48 metres, Puskal Khadka of Police finished runner up with a throw of 32.75m and Hemanta Pal of Sudurpaschim took bronze at 31.10m.

The women’s discus throw gold went to Sangita Adhikari of Lumbini who hurled 35.10m. Jeet Kumari Mahato of APF (33.60m) and Milan Budha Magar of Army (32.35m) clinched silver and bronze medals.

**Police dominate table tennis**

Nepal Police Club has dominated the table tennis gold claiming four among five gold medals on offer by Monday at Rambazar in Pokhara. Table tennis offers a total of seven gold.

Police—who claimed men’s and women’s team event gold on Saturday, the opening day—secured men’s doubles and mixed doubles gold on Monday. The men’s double saw Police pair of Santoo Shrestha and Binesh Khaniya edge Nepal APF Club’s Shiva Sundar Gothe and Amarlal Malla’s pair in straight sets. Province 1 and Tribhuvan Army Club walked away with bronze medals.

The mixed doubles event saw Police pair of Khaniya and Elina Maharjan beat Army’s duo of Narayan

Ghimire and Swechha Nembang in 3-2 sets. Non Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) and Gandaki Province were joint bronze medallists in the event.

APF’s pair of Sikka Suwal Shrestha and Biyanka Rai were the winners of the women’s doubles event. The duo saw off Police’s team of Nabita Shrestha and Elina Maharjan in 3-2 sets. Bagmati Province and Police’s other team composed of Manju Suwal and Yasaswi Awal were joint bronze medallists.

The men’s and women’s singles event kicked off on Monday.

**Thapa Magar wins squash gold for third time**

Amrit Thapa Magar of host Gandaki claimed men’s individual squash gold for the third time in a row at the National Games.

Thapa Magar edged Aarhant Keshar Singh of Bagmati 3-2 set in the men’s open individual final to secure top honours from Seventh to Ninth edition of the Games. The competitive match saw Thapa Magar secure 12-10, 8-11, 12-10, 9-11 and 11-8 win.

Deepak Thapa of Gandaki and Amir Blon of Bagmati walked away with bronze medals. Three events including men’s and women’s singles open and team events are included in the Games.

MONDAY’S NATIONAL RECORDS	
SWIMMING	
Nasir Yaha Hussain (men’s 400m freestyle)	
New record:	4: 08.64 seconds
Previous record:	4:33.05 seconds (Own, 13th SAG)
Nasir Yaha Hussain (men’s 100m butterfly)	
New record:	57.86 seconds
Previous record:	59.77 (Anubhav Subba, National Championships 2022)
Nasir Yaha Hussain and Army team (men’s 4X100m relay)	
New record:	3:45.51 seconds
New previous record:	3:46.83 (Heats, Police team, Ninth National Games)
Old record:	3:46.97 (Team Nepal, 13th SAG)
Duana Lama (women’s 200m breaststroke)	
New record:	2:43.23 seconds
New previous record:	2:44.28 seconds (Heats, own, Ninth National Games)
Previous record:	2:44.68 (Own, 13th SAG)
Alexander Shah (men’s 50m backstroke)	
New record:	27.47 seconds
Previous new record:	27.54 seconds (Heats, own, Ninth National Games)
Old record:	28.03 seconds (Own, 13th SAG)
Ashley Sapkota (women’s 100m butterfly)	
New record:	1:07.74 seconds
Previous record:	1:09.97 seconds (Gaurika Singh, Eighth National Games)
Ashish Sapkota (men’s 200m breaststroke)	
New record:	2:26.60
Previous record:	2:31.15 (Subham Shrestha, Eighth National Games)
ATHLETICS	
Durga Bahadur Budha (men’s 3000 metres steeplechase)	
New record:	8:55.19 seconds
Previous record:	8:57.30 seconds (Rajendra Bhandari, 9th SAG)
Jayarani Tharu (women’s 100m hurdles)	
New record:	15.16 seconds
Previous record:	15.20 seconds (Own, National Athletics Championship 2022)

## APF and Police to battle for women’s T20 gold

The departmental sides defeat Lumbini and Bagmati respectively in the semi-final matches.

## SPORTS BUREAU

KATHMANDU, OCT 17

Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) Club and Nepal Police Club will lock horns in the summit clash of the women’s T20 cricket of the Ninth National Games after both the departmental teams advanced following their semi-finals victories in Pokhara on Monday.

APF Club defeated Lumbini Province by 67 runs in the first semi-final match.

Jyoti Pandey scored an unbeaten half-century to guide APF to 129-3 before Nary Thapa’s 4 for 7 helped Sita Rana Magar’s side restrict their opponents to just 62 runs.

Lumbini were patient in the start but APF bowler Thapa showed no mercy as she rattled the Lumbini batting order with her ruthless pace soon after taking charge of the bowling in the seventh over.

The former national team captain quickly got to work, removing opener Laxmi Chaudhary for just 5 runs in the fifth ball of her first over.

Indu Barma clean bowled Chaudhary’s opening partner Ashma Pulami Magar (6) in the next over to cause more damage to Lumbini.

But there was no stopping Thapa on the field. Thapa next sent Madhu DC (5), captain Saraswati Ganga Magar (2) and Jigyasha Thapa (0) as Lumbini were reeling at 5-36 after the 11th over.

Sushmita Bajgain top scored for Lumbini with 12 off 23 balls that also included a boundary but she too fell flat when Rekha Rawal had her caught by Roma Thapa in the 14.4 overs.

Lumbini never recovered and surrendered the game after Sushma Shrestha and Suman Bist polished off the tail.

Earlier, sent to bat first after losing the toss, opener Pandey scored 69 runs facing 61 deliveries to lay the foundation for victory.

Rana Magar contributed 11 before Maneesha Rana had her caught by Laxmi in the first delivery of the fourth over.

Indu Barma (6) was caught behind

off Kritika Marasaini. Mamta Chaudhary (16) also fell victim to Marasaini’s spin. Roma Thapa was not out for 12.

The win also extended APF’s winning streak to five matches in as many games in the tournament.

In the second semi-final, Kajal Shrestha shone with the bat as Police saw off Bagmati Province by 36 runs.

Sent to bat first after losing the toss, opener Shrestha cracked 46 runs off 51 balls that featured five fours as Police posted 123-4 in the stipulated 20 overs.

Shrestha also put on a 70-run stand with her opening partner Kabita Kunwar, who made 26.

But Bagmati’s Khushi Dongol broke the partnership removing Kunwar in the 12.4 overs.

Samjhana Khadka followed for a duck in the next ball before Shrestha too departed, caught behind off Suman Khatiwada in the 16th over. But the opener had already done her part.

Captain Rubina Chhetry (not out 17) and Kabita Joshi (not out 15) led the Police batting late in the innings.

In reply, Kunwar returned the match figures of 3-6 as Bagmati were restricted to 87-8. The medium pacer trapped opener Kanchan Shrestha for a duck and bowled out captain Karmacharya (18) and Bipisha Shahi (4). Ishori Bist took 2-20, that included the scalps of opener Ashmita Kharel (3) and Anisha Majhakoti (4).

When Binda Kandel departed for 5, Bagmati were already in trouble for 4-23.

Number five batter Khatiwada fought back with 23-ball 23 that included three fences but could not deal with the Police bowling attack for long as she was bowled by Chhetry in the last ball of the 12th over.

Sony Pakhrin was the next casualty, trapped leg in front by Sangita Rai.

Captain Karmacharya and Shahi also departed as Police made it to the last four in their first appearance at the National Games.

The third-place playoff and the final will take place on Tuesday.

## Records galore in swimming as Hussain sets three new timings

Seven previous records fall in swimming events at the Games on Tuesday.



POST PHOTOS: HEMANTA SHRESTHA

Nasir Yaha Hussain (inset) competes at Fistail Academy’s swimming pool during the Ninth National Games in Pokhara on Sunday.

## SPORTS BUREAU

KATHMANDU, OCT 17

Tribhuvan Army Club swimmer Nasir Yaha Hussain created three new national records on Monday adding to his tally of previous three at the Ninth National Games while a total of seven swimming records were shattered in Pokhara on Monday.

The 16-year-old Hussain—who also finished men’s 200m freestyle, 200m individual medley and 1500m freestyle with a record time during the Games—bettered his own previous record in the 400m freestyle, and set new timing in the 100m butterfly and the 4X100m team relay events.

Duana Lama, Alexander Shah, Ashley Sapkota and Ashish Sapkota also created new national records.

Hussain clocked 4 minute 08.64 seconds to better his own previous record of 4:33.05 to secure gold in men’s 400m freestyle. Ashish (4:22.45) of Non Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) and Irvin Shrestha (4:25.74) of Bagmati earned silver and bronze. Hussain finished 100m butterfly in

57.86 seconds to break Anubhav Subba’s record of 59.77 seconds for gold. Ashish (59.68) was behind him followed by Anubhav Subba (59.73) of Army as they secured silver and bronze medals.

Army’s relay team comprising Hussain, Subba, Dilip Thapa Magar and Alexander Shah also clinched 4X100m freestyle relay in record time of 3:45.51. Earlier, Nepal Police Club team held the record in the event.

Army swimmer Duana Lama set a new record in women’s 200m breaststroke to create her fourth national record in the Games. She clocked 2:43.23 to claim gold finishing ahead of Upasti Maharjan (2:56.97) of the same team and Adipsa Baidhya (3:00.03) of Police.

Army’s Alexander Shah bettered his own 50m backstroke record of 27.54 second clocking 27.47. Earlier, he had bettered his own record of 28.03 set at 13th South Asian Games during heats in morning. Tenzing Namdo Rayan Gurung of Nepal APF Club and Subba of Army bagged silver and bronze.

Ashley Sapkota of NRNA clinched the women’s 100m butterfly with a record time of 1:07.74 to shatter Gaurika Singh’s mark of 1:09.97. Megan Gurung of Police and Rosha Neupane of Bagmati walked away with silver and bronze.

NRNA’s Ashish clinched men’s 200m breaststroke gold with a record time of 2:26.60 to shatter Subham Shrestha’s record of 2:31.15. Bikash Kumal of Province 1 and Seren Singh of Bagmati won silver and bronze.

The women’s 800m freestyle relay saw the Army team of Anusiva Tandukar, Upasti Maharjan, Duana Lama and Gaurika Singh bag gold clocking 9:27.73. Police team came second at 10:01.30 and Bagmati third at 10:09.57.

After the completion of the third day of the swimming event, Army topped the standings, winning 16 gold among contests for 27 held so far. They also earned five silver and six bronze medals. NRNA are behind them with five gold and six silver medals. APF have three gold, four silver and three bronze medals.



