

CCD Media Monitoring

Compiled on 06 June, 2010 Sunday



SN	Newspaper/ Online	Type	Page	Title	Synopsis
News					
1.	Nepal Samacharpatra	Vernacular Daily	1	Constitution Writing in Standstill	The constitution writing process has not been able to move ahead even after the political consensus among the big three parties. The situation has arisen due to the different interpretation of the consensus by the parties.
2.	My Republica	English Daily	1&3	Talks Have Hit Snag: Poudel	<p>Nepali Congress (NC) Vice-president Ram Chandra Poudel has said that ongoing inter-party negotiations hit a roadblock as the UCPN (Maoist) continued demanding that the prime minister be given a 'caretaker' status. Addressing an interaction organized by the NC Central Working Committee (CWC) with party sister organizations and civil society members to discuss the party's stance in the ongoing three-party negotiations and the party's future course of action, Poudel said the three-party negotiation became blocked as NC and the UML refused to give in to the Maoist demand to secure the resignation of the prime minister without first settling issues related to the peace process. Poudel argued that it was not the NC but the Maoists who were responsible for bringing about a situation requiring an extension for the Constituent Assembly (CA) whose term expired on May 28. He alleged that constitution drafting was delayed as the Maoists, in the name of 'a new system' and 'change', made proposals on various issues against the norms of democracy.</p> <p>Kantipur: No Compromise in Democratic Constitution, page 3 Annapurna Post : Caretaker Government After Consensus, page</p>

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					1 The Himalayan Times: No Compromise with Maoists:NC , page 1
3.					
4.	Rajdhani	Vernacular Daily	1	There is no Alternative to Consensus: CA Chair	Constituent Assembly chairman Subhash Nembang on Saturday stressed the need for consensus among the political parties to draft the constitution by accelerating the CA business. Speaking at a programme organized on the occasion of Utsarga Publication's 10th anniversary in the capital, Nembang said that the constitution-writing process has been hampered due to differences among the parties. Stating that the parties were divided over the formation of the new government and in the name of the next prime minister, Nembang said that the party that implements the three point agreement on May 28 should be the one to lead the national unity government. He said that people have grown frustrated over the never ending disputes of the parties after the three point agreement was signed. He, however, expressed his confidence that the parties would come together to promulgate the new constitution.
Opinions, Editorials and Interviews					
5.	Nagarik	Vernacular Daily	6	Word 'Consensus' Becomes Destitute	Kishore Nepal writes: People had aspired that the county would move into the path of prosperity through the Constituent Assembly. However, the leaders have hurt the sentiments of the people by taking down the consensus to the number game.

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6.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	Hell No, I Won't Go (Editorial)	<p>If the government decides to stay on in power despite all opposition, it is almost guaranteed that the peace process will make no progress over the following months. The nation will continue to be consumed by the battles between the parties, these will swallow the energies of all the political leaders, and there will be no movement towards the establishment of stability or focus on development. And, of course, the constitution will not be drafted in the next year. With these implications, the prime minister would do well to reconsider the move that he is currently planning.</p>
7.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	Credibility at Stake	<p>Dr. Bipin Adhikari writes:</p> <p>The major issue is whether there is a guarantee that that Constituent Assembly is going to produce a “democratic” constitution based on civilized parameters, and whether such a constitution is designed to protect Nepal’s independence and its national interest. This concern must not be evaded in the process. Yet, that is not the concern anymore. The term of the CA has been extended for one additional year without really putting this issue on the table, and making it a significant item on the agenda. There was not even a debate whether it needs a one-year extension, or a three-month or six-month extension. While the Maoists did not have any particular proposal, the Nepali Congress had proposed only a six-month extension. The fact, however, remains that even the government had no position in this matter. When CA Chairperson Subas C. Nembang strongly pressured the prime minister to lodge the constitutional amendment bill by May 16, the government agreed to do it. The</p>

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					<p>move was intended to allow sufficient time for in-house procedures, should there be a decision to extend the life of the CA, based on any forthcoming consensus between the parties. The one-year extension was just the proposition of the legal draftsmen who worked on the draft bill, knowing that there could be pressure to reduce the term. Not even the UML had cleared it as proposed.</p>
8.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	4	Restructuring of the State: Conflicting Views and Perspectives	<p>Mukti Rijal writes:</p> <p>The controversial issues like state restructuring should not be decided only by resorting to political expediency as this will drive an unbridgeable wedge and fuel conflict among the political and citizen stakeholders in the country. A dispassionate and objective assessment of the situation keeping the long term interest of the nation in view is a must while taking decision on such critical subject as federalization of the state . A small flaw committed in the process can trigger off conflagration of social and territorial disintegration of the country. It is expected that the political parties will heed to it.</p>
9.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	4	Critical Uncertainty	<p>Ritu Raj Subedi writes:</p> <p>The thumping victory in the CA was a high point for the Maoists to transform them into a democratic force. But heir unwillingness to relinquish violent habits, attitude and activities hardly corresponds to the popular mandate that wants to see the Maoists as a total peace-abiding force. They should not hesitate in implementing the past agreements signed with the government and other political parties. The early vacation of the cantonments,</p>

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					disbanding YCL's paramilitary structure and the return of the seized property will enhance the Maoist democratic credentials. At the same time, the parliamentary parties must take the Maoist into confidence by demonstrating that they will in no way return back from the agenda of progressive socio-economic transformations in the society. The Maoists have been continuously accusing them of being regressive and status quoists. The parliamentary parties must be able to deconstruct this negative prototype levelled against them by the former rebels. Both sides need to take bold steps to remove the deeply rooted mistrust and eventually overcome the current crisis.
10.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	4	Parties Strike Discordant Notes (Editorial)	looks like the possibility of rapport among the parties has diminished sharply at least for the time being as they are digging in on their positions despite their accord on extension of the tenure of the CA emitting all the signals of hope. When one looks at the ongoing stalemate among the major parties, it appears that they are equally responsible for the tangle. However, what is beyond ordinary comprehension is the Maoist's resistance to discuss the issues relating to the adjustment of the Maoist combatants who are in fact languishing in the ramshackle cantonments spread across the countries. The critical issue that calls for the earliest resolution is the adjustment and integration of the Maoist combatants for which intensive discussions and understanding among the parties was needed the soonest. The technical committee formed to sort out the issues on the subject has not worked to settle the matter as necessary cooperation is not forthcoming from the Maoists in particular.

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11.	Republica	English Daily	7	Crisis Averted What Next?	While a crisis was averted on May 28, it is unclear how quickly the political parties will end their bickering and focus on the purpose for which they were elected – the drafting of the new constitution. The ink had barely dried on presidential approval for the extension before the three parties began quibbling over the last-minute, three-point political agreement.
12.	Annapurna Sabha	Vernacular Weekly	1-8	In Search of Constitutional Principles	<p>This week's issue focuses on constitutional principles. It includes different features, interviews and opinions on the bi-lateral and multi-lateral consultations being held among parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No alternative to constitutional principles by Raj Kumar Regmi. He writes: Political parties inactive about making new CA calendar, efforts underway for making common understanding for constitution making, parties have not improved • Excerpts from model constitution of Narahari Acharya • Constitutional principle is indispensable • Coming days of the CA in the eyes of astrologers. • Need for constitutional principle by Hom Prasad Lamsal • Views of legal experts on constitutional principles • We can accomplish tasks within 8-9 months, says CA Chair Subash Nembang