

CCD Media Monitoring

Compiled on 18 June, 2010 Friday



SN	Newspaper/ Online	Type	Page	Title	Synopsis
News					
1.	Annapurna Post	Vernacular Daily	3	CA Extension Legitimate	<p>The Supreme Court on Thursday said there was no need to issue an interim order against the extension of the Constituent Assembly (CA) term by a year. A three-member full bench of Chief Justice Ram Prasad Shrestha, Justices Rana Bahadur Bam and Mohan Prakash Sitoula said this in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) jointly filed by advocates Bijaya Raj Shakya and Kamalesh Dwebedi on June 1. Stating that the issue should be settled after conducting a final hearing, the apex court said there was no need to issue an interim order as demanded. The bench also said the apex court would settle the issue along with a similar petition lodged by Bharat Jangum earlier.</p> <p>The Himalayan Times: SC Denies Interim Order Against CA Extension, page 2</p>
2.	The Himalayan Times	English Daily	5	Young CA Members Want Consensus in 10 Days	<p>Young Turks of the Constituent Assembly (CA) on Thursday urged the major political parties to end the festering political deadlock within 10 days. They called top leaders of the major parties in the parliament secretariat and asked them to sort out differences on power-sharing, peace and constitution within ten days. They lamented that the peace and constitution-drafting processes had remained in the dormant as they failed to execute</p>

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					<p>the three-point agreement reached among them on May 28, which led to further crisis of political confidence. Addressing the function, UCPN-Maoist chairman Prachanda said that relations among the parties had become more complicated than it had been during the conflict. NC vice-chairman Ramchandra Poudel opined that the political deadlock remained unresolved as the Maoists gave emphasis only on forming the government under their own leadership and did not bother about peace and constitution. UML leader Pradip Gyawali lamented that they were often humiliated in the public due to inactions of top-level leaders of the major parties as they were trying to use the CA as a platform for "gambling."</p> <p>The Kathmandu Post: Inter-Party Talks on to Resolve Impasse, page 3</p> <p>Rajhdhani: Youth CA Members Pressure for Consensus Within 10 Days, page 3</p> <p>The Rising Nepal: Youth Lawmakers Press Top Brass for Consensus , page 1</p>
3.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	1&15	Maoists Must Lead the Government: Bhattarai	Vice-Chairman Baburam Bhattarai on Thursday decided not to lay claim on the prime minister's post "by putting the party integrity at stake." According to a highly-placed Maoist source, in a "secret meeting" with his close politburo members on

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					Thursday, Bhattarai said “no one should link his or her personal ambition and intra-party problems with the national problem”. During the confidential meeting, Bhattarai stressed on the need to form a national government, irrespective of who leads it — be it Dahal or any other leader, for completion of the peace and statute-drafting processes. “The point of right working guidelines and ideology is more important than who holds the prime minister’s post,” a politburo member quoted Bhattarai as saying. According to another Maoist politburo member, Bhattarai pointed out the need to call the party’s general convention at the earliest to formulate a new working strategy. Bhattarai said there is no alternative to taking the peace process to a logical end and promulgating a “people-oriented constitution.”
4.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	Most Members Want Party at Helm	A majority of Standing Committee members of the UCPN (Maoist) on Thursday laid stress on initiatives to lead a national consensus government rather than sitting in the opposition or resuming a “people’s revolt”. Commenting on Pushpa Kamal Dahal’s political document in the ongoing politburo meeting, the members said the party should lead the government to complete the statute writing and peace processes. In the meeting on Thursday, Standing Committee members Barshaman Pun, Amik Sherchan and Top Bahadur Rayamajhi suggested Dahal lead the government. They said taking other decisions rather than leading the unity government will be “suicidal” for the party.
5.	Janadisha	Vernacular Daily	2	Indigenous CA Members	Indigenous CA members are preparing to make public their official views on the thematic committees report of the CA. The IP Caucus has organized a workshop in Jawalakhel for the same. CA members, activists, intellectuals and experts are taking part

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					in the workshop.
6.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	PM Will Resign: Pokharel	CPN-UML General Secretary Ishwor Pokharel said on Thursday that Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal would resign soon to end the political crisis even though parties fail to forge a consensus as committed on May 28. “UML is ready to take up any measures to ease the political situation and the party has already taken a decision in this regard,” said Pokharel at an interaction in the Capital. Pokharel’s remark has come at a time when the ruling allies have asked the prime minister not to step down unless the Maoist arms and armies are managed and past pacts are implemented. On May 28, three major parties had agreed to form a national consensus government resolving the contentious issues through consensus.
Opinions, Editorials and Interviews					
7.	Nepali Times	English Weekly	3	Hollow State	Prashant Jha writes: The debate on restructuring the state will have to address the gap between state aspirations and to delivery capacity.
8.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	Just Do Your Job	Given the present mistrust among the parties, particularly among the three major parties, it is not likely that the expected spirit of consensus will emerge easily. There are still some issues of state restructuring that will need more attentive deliberations. For example, the case of dividing the nation into viable units of federation is the most contentious issue. The formation of the State Restructuring Commission will be of help if it is not delayed like in the past. The issue of distribution of resources between the centre and the federal units is equally contentious.

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					<p>All these issues require the undivided attention of the major components of the CA. It is hoped that the leaders of the parties who are members of the CA will start giving it the expected weight and attend its sessions regularly. Most of the top leaders may also be involved in the government. If they avoid diversion from the expected path, they can sort out their differences through mutual consultation. If a lesson can be learnt from past mistakes, it is that the government cannot afford to neglect the task of writing the constitution any more.</p>
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