

CCD Media Monitoring

Compiled on 29 July, 2010 Thursday



SN	Newspaper/ Online	Type	Page	Title	Synopsis
News					
1.	Republica	English Daily	3	Speaker Sounds Out Parties Over PM Vote	Speaker of the Legislature-Parliament Subas Chandra Nembang has initiated informal discussions with the chief whips of the two parties fielding candidates for prime minister on ways to move ahead should both prime ministerial candidates in the race fail to garner a majority in the third round of voting slated for August 2. Speaker Nembang held informal meetings with the chief whips of the Nepali Congress (NC) and UCPN (Maoist) Laxman Ghimire and Post Bahadur Bogati respectively at his office on Wednesday as chances are neither candidate -- Pushpa Kamal Dahal of the UCPN (Maoist) or Ram Chandra Poudel of NC - will secure enough votes in parliament. According to NC Chief Whip Ghimire, Speaker Nembang expressed concern over the course of politics should neither candidate garnered a majority in parliament even in the next round of voting.
2.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	Rivals Set for Fresh Fiasco	Barring some last-minute surprises, it is almost certain that UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Nepali Congress (NC) Parliamentary Party leader Ram Chandra Poudel will set an unenviable record on Aug. 2: Theirs will be a hat-trick of defeat in the prime ministerial poll. The drama began on July 21. Both failed to secure 300 votes to form a majority government and ended up doing so again on July 23. Two decisive forces who will tilt the vote one way or the other— CPN-UML and the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM)—are likely to abstain on Monday, according to insiders. The vote of UML and SLMM is a must for Poudel to

CCD Media Monitoring

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					form a majority government while 82 votes of SLMM would take Dahal to the hot seat. Both UML and SLMM had not voted for the two contestants in the previous two elections. UML has been a deeply divided house after its Chairman Jhala Nath Khanal had to withdraw his candidacy in the first round election. Khanal wants both Dahal and Poudel to withdraw to prepare ground for a national unity government while his bete noire KP Oli, alongside Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, want the continuation of a “democratic alliance” under the NC leadership.
3.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	4	Bhattarai Bats for Unity Government	With less than a week left for the third round of the prime ministerial race, UCPN (Maoist) Vice Chairman Babu Ram Bhattarai on Wednesday said efforts should be made to form a national consensus government before Aug 2. He said if the Aug. 2 election fails to yield any result, the parties should stop the ongoing electoral race and start a fresh process to make a consensus government. Bhattarai’s statement comes at a time when Maoist party Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal is girding up for the Aug. 2 contest against Nepali Congress Vice President and Parliamentary Party leader Ram Chandra Poudel to form a majority government. Both candidates are busy persuading Madhes-based and fringe parties to give them the 300 votes required. However, Bhattarai has stressed that a majority government will further polarize the country and lead the already-tottering peace process to a stalemate. During his meeting on Wednesday with the outgoing British Ambassador, Andrew Hall, Bhattarai said that only a consensus government could complete the peace and constitution writing processes.

CCD Media Monitoring

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4.	Nagarik	Vernacular Daily	2	Maoists to Respond to the Front Today	<p>The Maoists will respond in writing to the demands raised by the United Democratic Madhes Front (UDMF) -- an alliance of four Madhes-based parties --in return for its support to form a Maoist-led government. “We are holding a meeting of top office-bearers on Thursday to present our views on the UDMF concept paper,” said Maoist Vice-chairman Narayankaji Shrestha. The Maoists have already responded to the UDMF demands verbally, but the latter has been demanding that the Maoists respond in writing. UDMF comprises Madhesi People’s Rights Forum, Madhesi People’s Rights Forum-Democratic, Tarai Madhes Democratic Party and Sadbhawana Party, which together hold 82 seats in parliament. Their support to the Maoists will be enough for forming a Maoist-led government. Shrestha said the Maoists will prepare their views without violating the party’s official policy.</p> <p>Republica: Maoists to Respond to UDMF in Writing, page 3</p>
5.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily		Yadav Again Flexes Stir Muscles	<p>Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) Chairman Upendra Yadav seems like running round in circles. On Wednesday, he again warned of launching a fresh agitation. “If the major political parties fail to come up with a clear stand on the demands of Madhesi parties, we will resort to protests,” he said at Reporters’ Club in the Capital. “The party eyeing the prime minister’s post should meet our demands to garner support.” Dispelling rumours that the four Madhesi parties are not taking part in the upcoming prime ministerial election on Aug. 2, he said that they have decided to vote in the election. “But only if the parties assure us to fulfill our demands.”</p> <p>Annapura Post: Madhesi Morcha Would Not Go For ‘No</p>

CCD Media Monitoring

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					Vote':Yadav, page 3
6.	Republica	English Daily	2	All Options Open, Says Bhattarai	Maoist Vice-president Dr Baburam Bhattarai on Wednesday said that the ongoing process to elect the new prime minister would turn into a fiasco if the legislature-parliament failed to elect one even in the third round of voting slated for August 2. Bhattarai said this during his meeting with outgoing British ambassador to Nepal Dr Andrew Hall at his private residence at New Baneshwar. According to Bhattarai's aide Bishwadeep Pandey, Bhattarai said that the protracted political deadlock would end if the political parties reached an agreement in principle to form a national consensus government by August 2.
7.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	1&6	UML Leaders Divided Over Role Shift in PM's Election	CPN-UML which is facing blame that its neutral position has taken national politics hostage, is deeply divided over whether it should arrange central committee meeting to assert its role in the change scenario. The party's establishment thinks it is not necessary to call an immediate meeting of the central committee, arguing that its earlier decision governs it in the third round of election to the post of Prime Minister. However, non-establishment group of the party is for organizing the meeting got renew its position.
8.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	1	The Write Against Army Recruitment Scrapped	The Supreme Court has scrapped all cases concerning the row over recruitments to the Nepal Army citing that delivering any verdict on the issue was "beyond its jurisdiction". With this ruling, the controversy over fresh recruitment in both the Army and the Maoist PLA has reverted to the purview of the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). "A joint bench of Justices Bala Ram KC and Gauri Dhakal concluded that this is related to the CPA and not to be dealt with by the judiciary," SC

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Opinions, Editorials and Interviews					
9.	Nagarik	Vernacular Daily	6	Unconstitutional Consensus (Editorial)	The agreement between the UCPN-M and Madhesi Front about not forming the State Restructuring Commission is against the norms and spirit of the interim constitution as the it has provisioned for the CA to decide on the issue. It means that the issue of SRC could not be decided outside the CA.
10.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	7	Fresh Mandate is the Alternative	Som Bahadur Thapa writes:

CCD Media Monitoring

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					Keeping the parliament hostage of indecisiveness for a longer period will raise question over the efficiency of the leaders of this generation. To avoid this a proposal should be brought at the parliament with the agreement of all parties to go for the fresh polls.
11.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	7	Boundaries of Madhesi Front	Chandra Kishore writes: The United Democratic Madhesi Front should not engage in appointing a new prime minister through a number game. It should rather be proactive in reaching a national consensus based on democratic framework.
12.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	A Fine Kettle of Fish	Dr. Bipin Adhikari writes: Finally, the simple rule that where the house is not able to produce a government at all, it should be dissolved and fresh elections called has also not been stated in the constitution in the spirit of the Westminster tradition. Given the responsibility to adopt a new constitution for the country, the Constituent Assembly, or the country's parliament, was not provided this option. There is logic in this argument. But the net effect of all these constitutional defects is that this country cannot produce a government on the basis of the constitution. What is there as a direction, then? There are two possible options. The first direction is another lot of compromises on Nepal and its institutions. The Interim Constitution created an elephant without providing a mahout. The mahout is operating from outside the constitutional regime—defeating the purpose of democracy and the rule of law. Or, as stated in the beginning, a new Damodar

CCD Media Monitoring

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					Pande will have to emerge who will proclaim himself the new protector for the transition. Suffice here to pinpoint what led to the rise of Jung Bahadur. The history of the world shows that a constitution does not become democratic simply because it has been drafted by a popular leadership. One must not be oblivious of the requirements of the law of the constitution in a democratic framework.
13.	Nayapatrika	Vernacular Daily	15	State Restructuring and Madhes	<p>Deepak Chaudhari writes:</p> <p>The issues of Madhesh including the demand for the dissolving the SRC, Madhesh Autonomous Province has emerged once again as the United Democratic Madhesi Front's role has become vital for the formation of a new government. From the very beginning, the issue of economic capacity is linked with the natural resources. The social and political issues remained overshadowed. Madhesi and some indigenous nationalities allege that the same old concept of development region is being revived in the name of economic viability.</p>
14.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	4	What Cost Political Uncertainty?	<p>Shyam KC writes:</p> <p>Given the present attitude of the parties, it is inconceivable that they will forego party ideologies and interests and work to ease the hardship of the people by adopting a more pragmatic approach to solve this country's unique problems but specifically those relating to the immediate needs of the people so that their sorry plight can be eased as much as possible. The political uncertainty and the virtual high handedness of the three major political parties have extracted a high price from the people, and</p>

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					it is time that they did a little soul searching of their own to find out just where they have erred and just how long the people must go on suffering their political antics.
15.	Gorkhapatra	Vernacular Daily	7	Role of Madhesi Front	<p>Birendra Prasad Yadav writes:</p> <p>The Front has proved that it is not serious about writing the new constitution by putting unseasonal conditions. Rather than supporting the majority government, the front should make efforts for national consensus in the present situation.</p>