

CCD Media Monitoring

Compiled on 04 August, 2010 Wednesday



SN	Newspaper/ Online	Type	Page	Title	Synopsis
News					
1.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	4	<u>The Issues of Indigenous Nationalities Must be Incorporated in the Mainstream</u>	<p>Leaders of the indigenous communities have said that the indigenous movement should be considered as the mainstream issue rather than a movement. At an interaction program organized by the NEFIN they demanded that the new constitution must ensure the rights of the indigenous nationalities including the political rights. NEFIN President Raj Kumar Lekhi said that implementation of the rights enshrined in the constitution must also be ensured.</p> <p>Annapurna Post: Rights Over Natural Resources Sought, page 3</p>
2.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	4	3-State Federalism Model (Newline)	<p>Sanghyiya Rajya Punarsamrachana Rastriya Abhiyan Samiti (Federal State Restructuring National Campaign Committee) has proposed three-state structure of federalism-Karnali, Gandaki and Koshi. Samiti says this model will suit the country.</p>
3.	Annapurna Post	Vernacular Daily	3	President Worried About Democracy and Parties	<p>President Dr Ram Baran Yadav expressed serious concern about failure to elect a prime minister even from the third round of parliamentary election. During a meeting with CA Chairman Subas Chandra Nembang, the president expressed</p>

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				<p>dissatisfaction at the failure of political parties to elect a prime minister. “This might create frustration against the entire political system if the situation is prolonged,” Nembang said quoting Dr. Yadav. “He wants this situation to end as soon as possible.” Dr Yadav had given political parties seven days to choose a consensus prime minister as per Article 38(1) of the Interim Constitution. This was on July 30 when Madhav Kumar Nepal resigned. He later extended the time by another seven days on the request of parties. But repeated failure to elect the prime minister even after the time extension, caused the president to ask the parliament to invoke Article 38(2) to choose the prime minister on majority basis. Dr Yadav and Nembang also discussed the political impasse caused by failure to elect the prime minister as it has been creating problems in the constitution writing process.</p> <p>Kantipur: President Urges Electing the Prime Minister As Soon As possible, page 3</p> <p>The Himalayan Times: President, CA Chairman Discuss PM Election, page 3</p> <p>Gorkhapatra: President Urges to End the Deadlock, page 1</p>
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4.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	3	We Supported UCPN-M Because We Listened to Our Conscience	11 CA members of the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum have clarified that they voted UCPN-M President Prachanda as the candidate listening to their conscience. Issuing a press statement on Tuesday, they claimed that crossing the floor was precisely to put pressure on the UDMF to take a concrete decision. They have also stated that since UCPN-M was more positive to the issues of Madhes, compared to other parties, it should be allowed to form a government. They have also urged the UDMF to vote for the UCPN-M candidate in the next round to preclude the nation from being the hostage of indecisiveness.
5.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	3	Congress to Seek Alternative After the Fourth Round	Nepali Congress (NC) on Tuesday stated the party will seek “other alternatives” if the fourth round of prime ministerial election scheduled for Aug. 6 also fails to fill up the post. The party, however, said searching for other alternatives does not mean withdrawing its candidacy in the poll. The meeting of NC office bearers held at NC Acting President, Sushil Koirala’s residence in Maharajgunj, decided to look for alternatives claiming that a “dirty game” has been initiated in the process. “We have decided to hold meetings with other parties if the fourth round of election also fails to fill up the post,” said Arjun Nursing K.C., NC spokesperson. Meanwhile, leader KC clarified that talk about NC’s withdrawal from the prime

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6.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	MJF to Call Floor Crossers on Carpet	<p>Monday’s incident of “floor crossing” by Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum (MJF) lawmakers during the prime ministerial poll has rattled the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM), an alliance of four Madhes-based parties. Madhesi leaders are “confused” by this unexpected turn. On Monday, 11 MJF lawmakers voted for the Maoists, defying the SLMM’s decision to stay neutral, in the third round of prime ministerial election. They claimed that crossing the floor was precisely to put pressure on the Morcha to take a concrete decision. In reaction, members of the Sadbhava Party in Sunsari district burnt effigies of these 11 MJF lawmakers. “We cannot stay neutral all the time,” said Nandan Kumar Datta, an MJF lawmaker, who voted for the Maoists. He ruled out any possibility of a split in the MJF adding that they would abide by the decision of SLMM in the upcoming election. Talking to the Post on Tuesday, MJF Chairman Upendra Yadav said he has asked the 11 lawmakers to submit written clarifications. “The party meeting will decide their fate,” said Yadav.</p>
7.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	UML Pushes For New Course	<p>After the House thrice failed to elect a prime minister, CPN-UML Chairman Jhala Nath Khanal urged the Nepali Congress (NC) and UCPN (Maoist) to withdraw their candidacy and</p>

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					<p>chart a new course for the formation of a consensus government. The party believes the “new course” can be started either through amendment to the Parliamentary regulations allowing the House to break free from the protracted prime ministerial poll or by any other means. “The experience that we have gained until now has inspired us to go ahead with consensus. A new consensus course will begin if the two candidates withdraw their candidacy,” said Khanal. In a statement on Tuesday, Khanal asked the parties to sort out contentious issues — integration and rehabilitation of Maoist combatants, return of property seized by the Maoists and state restructuring — before the formation of a new consensus government. However, Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal rejected Khanal’s proposal. Khanal had met Dahal and requested him to recall his candidacy. The NC, which wants to take a shot at things once more, also rejected Khanal’s proposal. NC asked Khanal to back the “democratic alliance” and form a majority government under its leadership.</p>
8.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	1	<p>Maoists Open Recruitment in PLA</p>	<p>A day after the Nepal Army (NA) announced vacancies for 3,464 personnel in its infantry division, the UCPN (Maoist) invited applications for vacant posts in the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) on Tuesday. However, it was not clear how many personnel they are recruiting. PLA Deputy Commander and Spokesperson Chandra Prakash Khanal told a press conference: “According to provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies signed between the government and the Maoists in 2006, both the Army and the</p>

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					<p>Maoists are not allowed to recruit additional personnel. However, NA violated all the agreements, which also led us to start the recruitment process.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML on Tuesday dubbed the PLA recruitment move a “breach of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement” and a “dishonesty” towards the peace process. NC leader, Narayan Khadka, said the PLA announcement is against the spirit of the CPA. UML leader, Pradeep Gyawali, said that the Maoist move is “ridiculous.” He added that the NA recruitment drive is just and it does not breach the CPA.</p> <p>The Kathmandu Post: Now, PLA in Recruitment Drive, page 1 The Kathmandu Post: Breach of Pact:UNMIN, page 1 The Himalayan Times: PLA to Enlist Fresh Fighters, page 1</p>
9.	Republica	English Daily	2	Small Parties Press UML to Change Stance	<p>Small parties have demanded that the UML change its stance in order to give an outlet to the current political stalemate. At a meeting with top UML brass, leaders from small parties urged the former to mend their fences with NC. “We also agree that Maoist leadership can’t be acceptable until the party completely detaches itself from its arms and armies but NC and UML should be able to give an alternative,” Chandra Dev Joshi of CPN (Samyukta), who was present in the meeting, told Republica</p>
Opinions, Editorials and Interviews					
10.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	1	Enough is Enough (Special Editorial)	<p>It seems that the leaders have forgotten the people’s mandate to establish a republic, federalism, secularism and state</p>

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					restructuring. The major tasks of taking the peace process to a logical end and writing the constitution have been ignored. The issues of peace and constitution have remained within the academic discussion and newsprints. If this situation remains Nepal would be pushed back. Thus, the parties must form a consensual government and accomplish the tasks given by the people.
11.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	1	Enough is Enough (Special Editorial)	Nepalis are deeply frustrated with their political parties. The 601-member Constituent Assembly they elected with great expectations two years ago first failed to deliver on its original mandate of drafting the constitution by May 28. Now the parties have forgotten why the people put them there in the first place. The centrality of the peace process in the ongoing transition seems to have been lost on them, as they get increasingly caught up in power-hungry politics. For the third unfortunate occasion on Monday, the prime ministerial race turned into an ugly charade. Factional politics and the parties' monumental failure to work together have stopped the formation of a new government - more than a month after Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal resigned.
12.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	Politics in a Mess	Abhi Subedi writes: The NC proved itself to be a prestigious old democratic party when its acting president Sushil Koirala intervened to stop the formation of a militant NC youth organisation. By doing so, he frustrated the attempts of his party hawks who were trying to make a detour to make the old feudal structure led by the erstwhile monarch active again. The Nepali Congress will

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					<p>harbour its old anti-communist animus, but it will not allow this to affect its entire politics. As the past experience of this party, especially after Girija-babu played a decisive role in the peace process, shows that the NC will remain an important force in the days to come also. The Madhesi parties may continue to spend more time on developing dialogic strategies with other major parties than focusing on the politics of Madhes itself, which would address the interests of the groups and regions and decide what would be the realistic and important thing to do. But the above observations are entirely based on what has happened over the years, especially at the present juncture of time when writing the constitution and consensus have become secondary issues. That is precisely the irony of the present situation. But all of what is happening is political process. The CA, though revived with great efforts and public pressure, still remains a very strong, historical and powerful people's House. Whoever attempts to undermine the strength of this House is either an enemy of the people or of the democratic process which is underway. But to create a healthy political culture tomorrow, we should not take the present fluid context lightly. What we practice today may become the norm tomorrow.</p>
13.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	All is Well	<p>Pramod Mishra writes:</p> <p>Now, UML and Madhesi parties have a noble goal to pursue in insisting that Nepal have a consensus rather than a majority government in order to write the constitution. The way the stalemate has been building up shows that the constitution that</p>

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					will be written and ratified will be a compromise document. Everyone will get something in it but nobody will have all their dreams fulfilled. Therefore, instead of insisting on their rigid demands, such as Mohan Baidya's opposition to Bahulbad (I don't know if it translates into pluralism) or the Madhesi parties' insistence on one Madhes, one Pradesh, what they should think is fulfilling their basic demands, such as class justice for the Maoist hardliners or abolition of all forms of discrimination for the Madhesi parties. Only when they become flexible in their demands and begin to accommodate the others will the stalemate end and consensus emerge. So, there is no need to repeat the worthless exercise the fourth time as well without adequate homework on comprise for consensus.
14.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	7	Failed State Syndrome	The international community believes that Nepal cannot make decisions on important issues (i.e. economic policy, development, hydro-power) nor can they implement these decisions due to political instability and insecurity. The government lost its credibility due to failure to make a timely and transparent decision relating to controversial MRP deal. A report recently released by Oxford University has revealed that economic indicators are equally poor. And our economy is heavily dependent on foreign assistance and remittances while the trade deficit is increasing constantly so that we are becoming dependent economically as well. All these are the indicators of a failed state. Most of the African failed states that relapsed into violent conflict after domestic conflict passed through the same state in which Nepal is at this very moment. The negotiations with donors used to be focused on diplomatic

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					<p>relations and economic prosperity. Now their concern is more towards ‘security’ which is not a positive sign for a sovereign country. According to the theory of political science, politics, economy, social, security and the rule of law are the five indicators of the success or failure of a state. Western donors have increasingly focused on security as the political, economic, social and legal status of Nepal has weakened. Neighbors have similarly prioritized security to minimize the implications of Nepal’s insecurity in their territory. Security challenges are getting more and more intricate, but Nepal does not have agencies that can analyze these challenges and make appropriate policy. Taking into consideration national interest and concerns of its neighbors, Nepal should maintain diplomatic and strategic relations, but it should never compromise on national interests.</p>
15.	Republica	English Daily	7	<p>No Change in CC Decision: Khanal (Interview)</p>	<p>CPN-UML President Jhalanath Khanal says:</p> <p>Even the fourth round of election of the prime minister slated for Aug 6 is almost certain to lead the country’s politics to nowhere unless the CPN-UML and Madhesi parties change their decisions to remain neutral.</p> <p>Now all eyes are on the UML, the third largest party, which has been battling for a consensus government. In this context, myrepublica.com talked to UML Chairman Jhalanath Khanal to know whether his party will change the July 20 decision to remain neutral in the election and on the likely solution to the present political deadlock.</p>

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					<p>After how many more rounds of election, will the country get a new prime minister? Jhalanath Khanal: It will be unfortunate for the country if we continue to walk on the present path [forming a majority government] rather than the one that would allow for the completion of the peace process and constitution writing. Now all the political parties should review their stances and take a new one.</p> <p>What do you mean by ‘review of stances’? Khanal: First of all, to form a government for the sake of forming a new government will be meaningless. A new government should be in place for specific reasons – to complete the constitution-writing process and conclude the peace process. As the nation needs a consensus government, the parliament should abide by the national aspirations.</p>
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