

CCD Media Monitoring

Compiled on 05 August, 2010 Thursday



SN	Newspaper/ Online	Type	Page	Title	Synopsis
News					
1.	Nagarik	Vernacular Daily	3	175 Questions to the CA Members for deciding the Draft Constitution	CA Chair Subash Nembang is preparing to decide the differences regarding the contentious issues through voting. Nembang will discuss the issue with the three major parties on Thursday. As a preparation, the study committee headed by Agni Kharel has prepared 175 questions on the seven thematic committees' reports to take the contentious issues for voting. The questions regarding the remaining four committees are yet to come. Among the 175 questions, six are related to the name of the constitution.
2.	Nagarik	Vernacular Daily	1	Matrika's Writ Petition Quashed	The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday dismissed the writ petition filed by Matrika Yadav and Jagat Prasad Yadav against the Constituent Assembly (CA)'s decision of scrapping their CA membership. CA chairman Subas Nembang had decided to scrap membership of the Yadav duo upon recommendation of the CA Business Advisory Committee on December 28. In the petition filed at the SC, they had argued that they did not defect from the Maoist party and hence the decision to scrap their membership was against the CA regulations. The Yadav duo instead claimed that others who defected from the CPN (Maoist) had formed UCPN (Maoist) after uniting with the CPN-Unity Center (Masal) last year. Both were elected as CPN (Maoist) candidates under the proportional seats. The CA had scrapped their membership following recommendation of UCPN (Maoist).
3.	Nepal	Vernacular	5	Coordination for the	The need for coordination between the CA members, the CA

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	Samacharpatra	Daily		Constitution Stressed	Secretariat and the journalists for constitution making has been pointed out at a programme. At an interaction program organized by the Centre for Constitutional Dialogue, the participants lauded the role played by the journalists for constitution making. They however, added that it is not enough. Presenting a working paper, spokesperson at the CA Secretariat, Mukunda Sharma, said that the secretariat is ready to formulate any plan to make the role of the media more effective. CA members Meena Pandey and Bhaire Kami, journalists Kanak Mani Dixit, Tanka Panta, Laxman Humagain, Arjun Bhandari, Bom Lal Giri and other spoke at the programme.
4.	Rajdhani	Vernacular Daily	2	Media's Cooperation a Must for Constitution Writing	Participants at a program have said that since enough time is remaining for the constitution building, the constitution would be written in time if the media extend cooperation for the same. At an interaction program on "Role of Media in Constitution Building" organized by the Centre for Constitutional Dialogue, the CA members, journalists and representatives of different organizations said that the task of writing the constitution would be accomplished within stipulated time if the work is started right away. The participants also urged the media persons for disseminating news related to the CA in a neutral manner. CA member, Bhaire Kami, said the positive role of the media would contribute a lot to constitution writing.
5.	Nepal Samacharpatra	Vernacular Daily	5	Indigenous Women Seek Identity	Speakers at a symposium have demanded that the state restructuring should ensure the indigenous women's proportional rights along with identity. The speakers including CA members Suresh Ale Magar, Shanti Jirel, Ratna Shercha and others who pointed out the need for considering the concerns of women from

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					different ethnic groups differently.
6.	Republica	English Daily	1	Avoiding Run-Off Vote Possible: Speaker	With three rounds of voting in parliament for electing a new prime minister turning into fiasco, Speaker Subas Nembang has said a legitimate way out can be found to avoid further run-off elections. As repeated voting in the House has yielded no result, serious concern has been raised from various quarters including some political parties that such a situation may give the wrong impression to the public about the entire democratic practice and the political parties. He said party leaders have already held some rounds of talks in a bid to find alternative ways. "A legitimate alternative to voting can be possible provided the candidates who are in the race and the political parties concerned are ready for that," Nembang said. According to leaders involved in the talks, top brass from the major political parties have initiated more serious dialogues in recent days, sensing that parliament may fail to elect a new prime minister even in the fourth round voting as the third largest party, CPN-UML, has remained adamant in its decision to stay neutral while the Madhes-based parties are always unpredictable.

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7.	Nagarik	Vernacular Daily	3	Morcha Urged to Remain Neutral	<p>CPN-UML Chairman Jhala Nath Khanal on Wednesday urged United Democratic Madhesi Front (UDMF) to stay neutral in the fourth round voting for prime minister. At a meeting with UDMF leaders in Singha Durbar, Khanal urged Madhesi parties not to vote for a majority government as such a government would not be able to ensure peace and the new constitution. However, Madhesi parties said they would vote for the party that pledges to meet their demands. Though 11 members of Madhesi People’s Rights Forum (MPRF) voted in favor of Maoist candidate Pushpa Kamal Dahal during the third round voting for prime minister, the alliance of the four Madhesi parties had stayed neutral.</p> <p>Republica: Khanal Urges Madhesi Parties to Stay Neutral, page 3 Kantipur: UML Requests Morcha to Remain Neutral Again, page 2</p>
8.	Nagarik	Vernacular Daily	1	Indian Prime Minister’s Special Envoy in Town	<p>Indian prime minister’s special envoy, Shyam Saran, arrived in Kathmandu on Wednesday to encourage political parties to end the current political stalemate over electing the new prime minister. “The Prime Minister of India has sent me here as an envoy so that I can, along with his excellency ambassador (Rakesh Sood), to have an extensive round of meetings with all the political leaders in the country to see if there is some way in which we can try to build consensus,” Saran told journalists upon his arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport. Saran’s arrival ahead the fourth round voting for the prime minister has been taken meaningfully in the political arena. He is meeting leaders of UCPN (Maoist), NC, UML and Madhesi parties. “We have</p>

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					<p>great interest, as a neighboring country in the political stability of Nepal, and in the economic prosperity of Nepal,” Saran further said.</p> <p>Republica: Saran in Town to Ask Parties to Make Up, page 3 The Kathmandu Post: Delhi Dispatches a Special Envoy, page 1 Kantipur: Saran Meets Parties, page 1 Annapurna Post: Special Envoy Saran in Kathmandu, page 1 Nepal Samacharpatra: Special Envoy of the Indian Prime Minister in Kathmandu, page 1</p>
9.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	1	UCPN-M at War Within	<p>The UCPN (Maoist) has plunged into a serious internal dispute over whether to end the ongoing Prime Minister electoral process or adopt a ‘new course’. Party Vice Chairman Babu Ram Bhattarai’s faction wants to end the poll process and amend Parliamentary regulations to form a unity government. “A majority government can’t draft the statute or complete the peace process,” said Maoist Politburo member Devendra Poudel. For the amendment to the regulations, both Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and NC Parliamentary Party leader Ram Chandra Poduel must withdraw their candidacy.</p> <p>However, Dahal’s supporters are stressing that he stands to win, what with rifts having cropped up in CPN-UML and the Madhes-based parties. In Wednesday’s office bearer meeting, Bhattarai stressed on a new course but was turned down by the Dahal faction. “UML wants us to withdraw to pave the way for a consensus government, but it’s irrelevant at this point,” said Maoist Vice Chairman Narayan Kaji Shrestha. Dahal had the last word, saying there would be no withdrawing. His faction reasons</p>

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					that due to NC's opposition a consensus government is impossible even if the new course is adopted.
10.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	Madhes Parties Have Ace Up Sleeves	With two days remaining for the fourth round of the prime ministerial election, Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha's (SLMM) chances of forming an alliance with the UCPN (Maoist) for government formation seems very slim. Although Monday's incident of 11 Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum (MJF) lawmakers crossing the floor in support of the Maoists has mounted "pressure" on SLMM to make its stand clear in the upcoming run-off polls, its position still seems ambiguous. Madhesi leaders have said that until and unless the Maoists present themselves explicitly mainly in specifying the number of Maoist combatants to be integrated in Nepal Army, fixing "time frame" to return the confiscated properties, decamping Young Communist League (YCL) and meeting the Madhes demands, they wouldn't support the Maoists. "We are seeking clear commitments from the Maoists," said Jaya Prakash Prasad Gupta, co-chair of MJF, adding "there are very slim chances of aligning with the Maoists for the new government".
11.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	NC to Block Maoist Bid to Take Helm: SLMM A Crucial Force	Nepali Congress (NC) has made it clear its "second priority" is not to let the Maoists attain power at any cost, though it is less hopeful of its first priority — its own candidate becoming the next prime minister. Supporting CPN-UML — in case the much-touted "new course" is initiated as per UML demand — is not the NC's third priority. NC has told CPN-UML that its third priority is to "discuss" any other alternative to form its own majority government. This has logically put the Madhes-based parties with 82 votes in a significant position — at least unless

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					the new course is started — giving them the final authority to draw the future course of the ongoing race. The Madhesi parties say their decision will depend on the NC coming clear. They say that they have found the Maoists “clearer” on their point-wise commitment to Madhesi demands. “We are clear on Madhesi demands, and we will continue our discussions and efforts to garner support to form our government,” said NC leader Ram Sharan Mahat. “If the fourth round of election fails to yield any result, we would be open to discuss any other alternative, including breaking free from the current electoral process.”
Opinions, Editorials and Interviews					
12.	Republica	English Daily	6	Beware, The People's Republic of Nepal	<p>The internationals and the Kathmandu intelligentsia should openly tell the Maoists, they cannot lead the government as long as they retain their armed force. The battle for prime minister is not a “dirty game of politics”. Only those who under-estimate the importance of government-formation in times of critical transition would characterize it that way.</p> <p>The resolution for now is to maintain the left-democratic alliance, even while seeking ways to save the Maoist party from itself – mainly by keeping it out of government leadership for now while helping it to demobilize and democratize. Amidst conditions of four-way polarization between the Nepali Congress, the Madhesi parties, the UML and the Maoists, the ideal would be to have a rotational prime ministership starting chronologically with the Nepali Congress, and ending with the UCPN (Maoist) – the last when the party detaches itself from arms and agrees on the founding principles of a democratic</p>

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					constitution. All of which requires Chairman Dahal to bring himself to love his party more than himself, if not the country.
13.	Republica	English Daily	7	Delusive Communist Party	<p>Jainendra Jeewan writes:</p> <p>In fact, the intra and inter-party disagreements between communists are too serious and too many to overcome and they are there in all forms and fronts- ideological, strategic, tactical, organizational, factional, personal and regarding relationships with foreign powers, especially with India. Take CPN-UML for example, which may formally break anytime; indications are that it will chunk into 'democratic left' close to NC (headed by Nepal-Oli) and 'left alliance' aligned to Maoists (headed by Khanal- Ishwar Pokharel), while a small group led by Bam Dev Gautam will join UCPN (Maoist).</p>
14.	Republica	English Daily	7	Neutral? Nah, They are Incompetent	<p>Dr. Bhimarjun Acharya writes:</p> <p>The demand and discussion of amendment to the constitution or to CA rules is totally absurd in the context of electing/selecting a prime minister. It has become a general tendency among the political parties to start blaming laws and talk of amending the constitution when they fail or are unable to achieve their desired goals. This is being attempted now as well. In fact, the perennial problem of our political parties is the non-implementation of laws. The power to amend the law and constitution is recognized with a view to overcoming the difficulties which may be encountered in the working of the constitution or law at a given stage in a nation's development. But our position in the case of selecting/electing prime ministers nowhere justifies the</p>

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					amendment to CA laws or constitution. Obviously, political parties may establish best usages as a means of bringing about constitutional development without formal changes in the law.
15.	The Kathmandu Post	Vernacular Daily	6	Confirmation Bias	<p>Deepak Thapa writes:</p> <p>There are similar fallacies with regard to other groups as well in Nepal. Take the case of Newars. Although we all read of the gallant resistance by Kirtipur or that for more than 60 years three Newars have been revered as martyrs who braved death for the cause of popular rule, hoary jokes about Newars and their supposed lack of courage still do the rounds. Bahuns are attributed a similar propensity to funking out of battle even though historically they formed a significant part of the soldiery, along with Chhetris, Gurungs and Magars, in the original Gorkhali army of Prithvi Narayan Shah. For one reason or the other, and this has partly to do with the pseudo-scientific theory of martial races propounded so powerfully by the British in India, that, despite every evidence to the contrary, among certain groups such as the aforementioned Chhetris, Gurungs and Magars there is a belief that it is innate in their character to be better suited to military service.</p> <p>That is perhaps why you have observations like this on our Army's website: 'When asked to Sipahi Deependra Yadav currently working in Supply & Transport Battalion, Kathmandu about relatively less turnout of Madhesis in NA, he said it is primarily due to rugged training Madhesis prefer to join Police and other government sectors rather than in Nepalese Army.' An</p>

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					<p>army of the 21st century should know better than to give credence to statements that belong more to the Orientalist tradition of 19th-century British Indian army ‘handbooks’ that dwelt on the qualities of ‘martial groups’, among whom the Gurkhas figured most prominently. The Khas (Chhetri), Gurungs and Magars were identified as the Gurkhas in one those early handbooks. I wonder if the martialness of the British Gurkhas has diminished since as there are a number of Newars and Bahuns as well among its ranks, not to speak of the many more numerous Rais and the Limbus. The sahibs think not, but what of their brown counterparts in Nepal?</p>
16.	The Kathmandu Post	Vernacular Daily	7	Saran’s Brief	<p>Sushas Chakma writes:</p> <p>There is no alternative to a National Unity Government (NUG) with the following possible elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the new NUG should be to draft the new constitution of Nepal and its term should expire by the May 28, 2011, when the current term of the Constituent Assembly (CA) expires; • The NUG should include all the political parties in accordance with their representation in the Constituent Assembly; • The Prime Ministership of the NUG should be rotational for a specific period of time amongst the three main political parties i.e. the CPN-UML, the Nepali Congress and the UCPN (Maoist), and that the prime minister may be assisted by three deputy

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				<p>prime ministers drawn from other two main political parties and Mahdesi parties;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of seats in the ministries should be based on the strength in the parliament with representation of the Madhesis and Janajatis;• The recommendations of the Council of Ministers, (not the prime minister alone) shall be binding on the president;• The NUG may create mechanisms to implement the CPA including the integration of the PLA/democratisation of the Nepal Army and creation of the states/provinces of federal Nepal.• The NUG should form a high-level political mechanism, and, given the now obvious failings of the process, a wide ranging review of the implementation of the CPA so far. The review needs a short, focused mandate led by eminent personalities whose findings will carry weight with both parties. <p>Saran's visit to Nepal once again underlines India's centrality to Nepal. His visit must break the impasse. Otherwise, India will be rightly construed as the major obstacle to peace in Nepal. Chaos in Nepal will have terrible consequences for both countries. India must take corrective measures to ensure that the past is not repeated.</p>
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17.	The Himalayan Times	English Daily	8	Election for PM: Message from Three Rounds	<p>Professor Birendra Mishra writes:</p> <p>The three rounds of elections that have taken place seem to convey some message. The first round reveals that the parties are not interested in constitution-writing and completing the peace process but in getting the PM's post at any cost as, the CPN-UML decided to abstain from voting, after it withdrew its candidature on the ground that it would vote for that candidate who could garner support from the two-thirds of CA members required for adopting the constitution. Its abstention has six implications. First, it made the Nepali Congress (NC), its existing coalition partner, handicapped in getting its candidate elected, as without its support it cannot win. Second, it came out of the coalition forged by the then NC leader GP Koirala to keep Maoists, in the present form, away from forming the government. Third, it took revenge from the NC who opted for MK Nepal for Prime Minister in place of Khanal who was both the chairman and the leader of the party in parliament. Fourth, it has failed to grasp the reality that it can stop NC to get its candidate win but not the candidate of the UCPN-Maoist who can win without its support. Fifth, its abstention from voting could neither facilitate the forming of a majority government nor passing of a new constitution. Sixthly, the NC could have thought properly before fielding its candidate in view of the crack developed in the UML. The second voting, which took place in quick succession hardly showed any change in the results. But, it did show some marginal change for or against each of the contestant.</p>
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18.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	4	Concern Over Political Impasse (Editorial)	<p>The failure of the past two governments indicates that a majority government cannot solve the country's problems and accomplish the historic job of concluding the peace process in the present complicated political equation. Thus, a consensus government with the representation of all the political parties, in general, and major political forces, in particular, alone can address all the pending problems and give the country an amicable outlet. But the two largest parties are posing obstacles in forming a national unity government. Although the Nepali Congress has claimed the leadership of the next government, there is no guarantee that the NC can bring all the forces together and create consensus. Against this background, the stance taken by the CPN-UML is absolutely correct, which is aimed at forging a consensus government. The UCPN-Maoist and the Nepali Congress, too, need to realize this ground reality and pave the way for a consensus government by withdrawing from the prime ministerial race.</p>
19.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	4	Where are the Moral Obligations?	<p>Shyam KC writes:</p> <p>The leadership in all the major political parties have to take their share of blame for the present situation, which is really an extension of the past two years of inaction on the constitution front. The leaders may not be legally to blame, but don't they have moral responsibilities toward the people of the country? If they are persons enough, their apologies to the people must come and come in a way everyone understands. One such way would be to opt out of the race and leave the field to others, especially to those belonging to the smaller parties who may not have been</p>

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					<p>the first choice during the CA elections. But considering the behavior of the parties they voted for, they might have found the smaller parties more nationalistic and more to their liking than the large parties who are busy not only fighting with each other but which are plagued with infighting among their own leaders. But to expect any reforms in the present leadership would be foolhardy as they, in their arrogance, will continue to act the way they have always been functioning. They know no other way except to be guided by outside hands and minds.</p>
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