

CCD Media Monitoring

Compiled on 11 August, 2010 Wednesday



SN	Newspaper/ Online	Type	Page	Title	Synopsis
News					
1.	Annapurna Post	Vernacular Daily	2	Meeting Adjourned	<p>The meeting of the Study Committee on Concept Paper and Preliminary Draft was adjourned on Wednesday in the absence of representative from the Nepali Congress. NC representatives Ram Chandra Poudel, Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Laxman Ghimere, Radheyshyam Adhikari and Ramesh Lekhak were absent citing that they were busy preparing for the party's general convention.</p> <p>Meanwhile, a meeting of the big three parties called by CA Chair, Subash Nembang, has started discussion on the contentious issues of the preliminary draft of Committee on Determination of Structure of Constitutional Bodies.</p>
2.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	1	CA Chairman Continues Talks with Leaders	<p>Constituent Assembly Chairman, Subash Nembang, continued discussions with leaders of major political parties regarding the differences surfaced during the constitution drafting process. On Tuesday, Nembang organized a meeting of chief whips of major political parties. However, the meeting remained inconclusive because of the dissent opinion of the UCPN-M. The UCPN-M was of the opinion that the legislature should be unicameral while NC and UML were in favor of a bicameral</p>

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					legislature.
3.	Annapurna Post	Vernacular Daily	1	Constitutional Vacuum if the Candidacy Withdrawn	<p>Ram Chandra Poudel of the Nepali Congress today ruled out withdrawing his candidacy in the fifth round of polls to elect a new prime minister slated for August 18. Talking to media persons in Kathmandu on Wednesday, he said doing so would invite serious political crisis and create constitutional vacuum. The CPN-UML has been asking Unified CPN-Maoist and NC to pull out of the race to clear way for national consensus. The UCPN-M also floated the idea to NC during a meeting between the two on Monday. “As there is no constitutional and legal provision to start fresh voting by closing the ongoing process, it will create a constitutional vacuum. It will also create political disorder and a grave national crisis,” Poudel told media persons at the NC parliamentary party office in Singha Durbar. NC will never accept an idea that will push the country toward more uncertainty, Poudel said. The “immature” idea floated by the UCPN-M and the UML will put the interim constitution and the state’s legitimate bodies into disrepute, he added.</p> <p>The Himalayan Times: Poudel Vows to Stay in Fray, page 1</p>
4.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	UML Not to Dwell on Majority Government	<p>Amid speculation on Wednesday’s CPN-UML Central Committee (CC) meeting and its implication on the fifth round of prime ministerial polls, the UML leadership has said it will</p>

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					<p>not delve into the issue of a majority government. The party is rather preparing to present a concrete plan to explore common grounds on the most contentious issues related to the peace process. Amid differences within the party on whether to support the democratic alliance or stand firm in its stand of forming a national consensus government, the party establishment has prepared a proposal on the unresolved issues. “We have not called this meeting to support one party or the other. We will present a concrete proposal on all contentious issues to be settled before the formation of a national consensus government,” Secretary Yuba Raj Gyawali said. UML Chairman Jhala Nath Khanal and General Secretary Ishwor Pokharel had prepared the concept paper in consultation with other leaders. The proposal will be discussed with other parties following its endorsement by the CC.</p> <p>Republica: UML to Stay Put, page 1</p>
5.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	3	Maoist Meet May See Fireworks	<p>Differences, which have further widened of late, between the top two leaders of the UCPN (Maoist) will spur heated discussions in the upcoming Central Committee of the party, say insiders. The CC meeting scheduled for Wednesday has been postponed to Thursday on the ground that more time is needed for completing preparations for the event. Both factions of the leaders supporting Chairman Pushpa Kamal</p>

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					<p>Dahal and Vice Chairman Baburam Bhattarai are impatient to “vent their ire” against each other. “The meeting is likely to witness heated discussions and is also expected to thrash out several crucial issues,” said a Maoist leader. Both Dahal and Bhattarai have serious disagreements over several crucial issues pertaining to internal party politics, government formation and the peace process.</p> <p>Republica: Saran Meetings Polarize Maoists, page 1</p>
Opinions, Editorials and Interviews					
6.	Kantipur	Vernacular Daily	7	Deteriorating Significance of the Constituent Assembly	<p>Dr. Surendra Raj Devkota writes:</p> <p>It is not unusual for the Madhesi parties to show their opportunist character. However, the nation and the CA will have to fall prey to the apolitical drama staged by a matured party like the CPN-UML. Amendment to the interim constitution is not the solution for the CA which has neither been able to write the constitution nor has it succeeded in forming a government. Such a mass of anarchists and inefficient people would not be able to write the constitution.</p>
7.	The Rising Nepal	English Daily	4	Speaker for Unity (Editorial)	<p>If we fail to have the constitution in the next ten months, the entire efforts put on the peace and political process since the last four years will go to waste. Should we again fail in this process, there are chances that the country might return to the bad old days of the conflict. So, as said by the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, all the political parties, leaders and</p>

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					other conscious citizens must remain united and make constructive contributions in institutionalizing the achievements of the people's movement. It is a crucial test of the political parties in the eyes of the people.
8.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	Diagnosis and Cure	<p>Pramod Mishra writes:</p> <p>We must reflect on the Nepali character and Nepali mind, especially the dominant character and mind, which is another way of saying the high caste Nepali mind and character. While it would be wrong to generalize the Nepali high caste mind and character as a homogenous entity, the display of egoism and inflexibility of the top party leaders (all Bahuns) suggests that there may be something the matter with the dominant Nepali mind finding it hard to adjust to the fluidity, pluralism, multiplicity, flexibility, multi-directionality of the emerging Nepali future. There definitely seems to be a disjuncture between the jaded, stuck-up, aged mindset of the parties' leadership and the emerging hopes and aspirations of the common Nepali people. The challenge now is how to transform the parties' leadership to be responsive to the emerging milieu, how to bring in line the man, the moment and the milieu for a new Nepal. If the disjuncture persists for long, banality and pathology may very well take over. And that is the danger against which Nepali media, civil society, and the international community need to warn Nepal's political players—and, if need be, help replace the old set, through democratic means, with a new set of more attuned leaders.</p>

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9.	The Kathmandu Post	English Daily	6	There is a Way	<p>Shyam Prasad Mainali writes: It is important that all the members in the CA be made to focus on the constitution making process by removing all other responsibilities. Representatives of civil society and independent intellectuals should also be made to participate in the process. Provisions should be made to include the political parties in government after concluding the constitution writing process and organizing fresh elections. These measures will give a much needed boost to the constitution writing process. However, these measures should only be taken if no other alternative remains. It should be noted that this measure also requires political understanding and agreement. The political parties should reflect on the example provided by Zimbabwe where civil society rejected the constitution written by the CA. Hence, the constitution was re-written with the help of an independent agency to make sure that it would aptly reflect the aspirations of the country's people.</p> <p>Other important issues where decisions need to be made include the official language, fundamental rights of the people, the options between a unicameral or bi-cameral house in the parliament, types and nature of the judiciary, citizenship provisions, cases of rights for minorities, access to resources, election system, foreign policy and provisions on transitional justice. All these issues should be finalised with the promulgation of a fixed schedule. It is important that the political parties address these issues in a prompt manner if they are to garner any support from the masses. Therefore, a</p>
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					government of consensus must be formed without haste. If not, the political parties will have no other alternative but to hold another election for a fresh people's mandate.
10.	Republica	English Daily	7	Way Ahead	<p>Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani writes:</p> <p>Under the new cooperation formula, the premiership of the country will rotate among the leaders of the three parties for a period of nine month each with the Maoist taking leadership after the integration of the their combatants with the national security forces. It would also mean rehabilitation of those who cannot find a place in the security sector. The government under this concept will be an all-party consensus government with only the leadership changing every nine months among the three parties as per mutual understanding.</p> <p>It is easy to view the above suggestions as being unworkable or impractical. But before we reject it, we should take a hard look at the next best alternative which is a majority government that the parliament has failed to deliver even after four attempts. Even if we are successful in the fifth attempt, which remains doubtful, the bitterness and rancor that it would generate in the process will make it highly unlikely that the new government will be able to provide leadership that will take the country forward. The trust deficit that now exists among the political parties will certainly deepen and we will once again start receiving visitors from our neighboring countries eager to “fix</p>

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					the problem”. Let us think of joining hands now before the fifth round of election to solve our problems ourselves so that we, as politicians, do not become a burden to our people and be responsible for transforming our nation into a playing ground of our neighbors.
11.	Republica	English Daily	7	Bhattarai's Turn	<p>Sukhdev Shah writes:</p> <p>Assuming that Bhattarai gets a go-ahead from his party and is backed up by an unconditional support from the party supremo, Dahal, he will be in a stronger position to confront the old nemesis of democracy and die-hard status-quoists—Nepali Congress (NC) and CPN-UML. Despite their electoral rout, ruined public image, and irreversible loss of public trust, these parties seem to have learned nothing from the disasters they caused the country during their two decades of misrule. However, looking at the electoral arithmetic, Maoists would have to cultivate other alliances to gain majority support which, however, will be much easier for Bhattarai than would be for Dahal because of the problems he faced during his first term in office. Additionally, a Bhattarai-led campaign will have more appeal to attract Madhesi into its fold, who may feel more comfortable working with Bhattarai than they would with Dahal. For the Maoist party too, there will be no risk aligning with the Madhesi front—a risk they will surely face in taming the hereditary claimants to government power, NC and UML. With Madhesi parties in the fold, there would be less of a hesitation for other smaller parties in the Constituent Assembly to free themselves from NC-UML hegemony and align with the</p>

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					forces of the future—Maoists and Madhesis.
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