

NEWS DIGEST

Two firecracker sellers arrested

**KATHMANDU:** Police arrested two persons on charges of selling firecrackers in Kathmandu on Saturday. A police team from the Metropolitan Police Circle, Lainchour, arrested Bikash Manandar of Pakanjol and Jay Shanker Prasad whose stores were found selling firecrackers meant for the Tihar festival. Eight packets and 32 pieces of firecrackers were confiscated from the shop of Manandar and Shah respectively. The two have been taken under custody for further investigation. (PH)

Robbery in Naradevi house

**KATHMANDU:** Five tola of gold and Rs 10,000 were robbed from a house at Naradevi, Kathmandu on Saturday night. Robbers looted the items from the room of Rajendra Lamsal, who hails from Sonshree-3 of Bardiya, and is a tenant at the house. Two suspects have been arrested while further investigations are underway, police said. (PH)

Unconscious Syangja man dies

**KATHMANDU:** A person, who had gone unconscious, died while undergoing treatment at Chabahil-based Om Hospital, police said. Lesh Bahadur Sunar of Ranghanga-2 of Syangja district had been temporarily living in Rudramathi of Kathmandu. (PH)

1 held with fake notes

**GULMI:** A 28-year-old man from Nawalparasi district was arrested with counterfeit currency notes from Tamghas, the district headquarters of Gulmi, on Sunday. Hiramani Poudel, of Makar-2 in Nawalparasi, was held with the counterfeit notes worth Rs 7,500, police said. Poudel is a teacher at Nawalparasi-based Moonlight Boarding School. Locals took the suspect under control as he paid fake currency notes while buying a recharge card at a shop. (PH)

Corrigendum

The news report 'Polling stations to be disabled-friendly' (Oct 28, Pg 1) erroneously said wheelchairs will also be provided for the elderly and pregnant women. The EC, however, said the facilities will be only available for the differently abled. —Ed

WEATHER WATCH

FORECAST: Partly cloudy in the hilly regions. Mostly fair in the rest of the country.

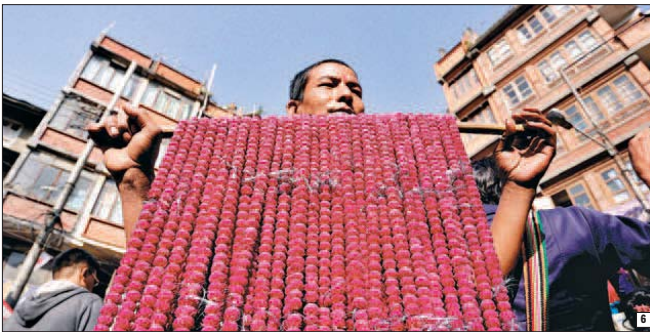
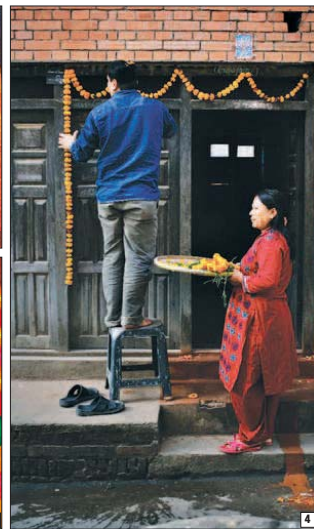
PLACES	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	RAINFALL (MM)
Daridhura	19.3	7.5	0.0
Dipayal	28.4	10.0	0.0
Dhangadi	28.3	12.2	0.0
Bierendangar	26.5	9.5	0.0
Nepalganj	28.8	15.4	0.0
Junja	19.9	-3.0	0.0
Dang	27.0	10.6	0.0
Pokhara	24.6	13.3	18.4
Bhairahawa	28.7	16.0	0.0
Sirma	27.2	16.0	0.0
Kathmandu	23.3	9.0	0.0
Chivahadanga	21.0	8.9	0.0
Taplejung	18.5	10.4	0.0
Dhankuta	22.2	12.5	0.0
Biratnagar	29.3	19.5	0.0
Jiri	18.0	4.0	0.0
Lumle	18.0	9.5	0.9

Source: Meteorological Forecasting Division, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Kathmandu.

राहदानी हसारी

मिति २०७०/०९/१५ गते मन्त्रपरिषद कायान्वयितम् जेठा मेरो निम्न खोला भएको राहदानी हसारीको हवा पार्नु हुने महामन्त्रले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालयमा वा तालको डगानामा बुझादिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछ।  
नाम: विद्वज्ज जोशी  
राहदानी नं: ०९०८८६८०  
डेगना: मन्त्रपरि २, नवलपरासी

Colours of Tihar



1) A vendor sells colour for Bhai Tika at Ason in Kathmandu on Sunday; 2) a vendor displays flowers for sale at Itahari in Sunsari; 3) a man makes a colourful mandala at Ason on the occasion of Laxmi Puja; 4) a couple decorate their house with marigold flowers in Kathmandu; 5) a man sells pictures of Goddess Laxmi at Ason; 6) a man sells makhamali garlands at Ason.

POST PHOTOS: SAMPOKHA MANANDHAR, LILABALLAV GIRMI & SAJUD MANANDHAR

Lo Manthang folk concerned over world heritage site plan

**POST REPORT**  
**KATHMANDU, NOV 3**

Local people at Lo Manthang, an ancient mountain kingdom, are concerned over the existence of their homeland once the area is enlisted as a World Culture Heritage site.

In 2008, the government had included Lo Manthang, an ancient mountain kingdom, as a World Culture Heritage site. The famous earthen-walled capital located at an altitude of around 3,000 meters above sea level, in the tentative list for World Culture Heritage designation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The famous Tibetan Buddhist kingdom is the single nomination from the country for the designation for its uniqueness and vibrant cultural heritage dating from the 15th century.

Indra Dhara Bista, a local and a member of Culture Heritage Conservation Sub-Committee, strongly objected to the proposal saying it would affect the livelihood of local communities who are dependent on Lo Manthang and surrounding cultural landscape.

Local people believe that once the site is declared a world heritage site, the



Lo Manthang in Mustang.

POST FILE PHOTO

authorities concerned would curtail their access to the place and restrict other permitted development works necessary for improving their livelihood. A large number of local people depend on trade and agriculture for their livelihood, and run shops connected with the earthen wall surrounding of Lo Manthang. Bista was among the participants attending a two-day international symposium on 'Safeguarding Lo Manthang and Cultural Landscape of Upper Mustang' in the Capital that concluded on Saturday.

In the programme, Tashi Bista, a youth advisor representing the Upper Mustang Youth Society, said it is worse to see the loss of antiquities of Upper Mustang

being sold online and use of sub-standard materials in the renovation of the site for listing it on World Heritage Sites by the international community and government authorities. "We fear that once the site makes it to the list, locals' development needs, including better education and health, will be dominated by the conservation efforts of artifacts in the area," he said.

Meanwhile, the locals have submitted a letter mentioning their concerns to the Jigme Shinge Palbar Bista, former king of Lo Manthang for consideration.

Since 2008, various organizations and experts have been involved in restoration temples, research and excavation of prehistoric caves in the area. Roland Lin Chih-Hung, a representative from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in France, said it is not possible to work in isolation, without consulting the communities for the sustainable development of the particular site. "Regarding the decision about listing as a world heritage site, it is still a long way to go and local people's concerns would be taken into consideration during the process," he added.

According to Neel Kamal Chappagain, assistant professor at the Centre for Heritage Management of Ahmedabad University in India, sustainable development of the site is possible only through a mutual dialogue between the locals and the conservationists," he said.

NA's health camp benefits Palpa villagers

**MAHAVARVAL**  
**PALPA, NOV 3**

A free health camp organised by the Nepal Army's Chandri Prasad Battalion at Jhokendi of Foksingkot VDC in the district has benefited 104 people in the area.

According to Jitendra Thapa, the battalion chief, the camp was organised as part of the Army's social responsibility initiative after they found out that there were many people with genuine need of proper check-up and treatment in the area.

According to Dr Kalpana Rawal Khadka, most women in the area were found to have been suffering from high blood pressure, menstruation related problems, uterus prolapse and skin rashes, while the children and men had skin rashes, high blood pressure and scabies, among others.

Yam Bahadur Thapa, headmaster of the Mangaladevi Primary School, said the high blood pressure seen in men could be attributed to the tradition of consuming alcohol.

The one-day free health camp witnessed participation of around 80 percent of local women.

Ranisara Gharti, 80, who had walked for three hours from Belunja to the health camp, said she had been depending on local shamans for years, but it was after the check-up at the camp she found that the problem plaguing her for years was something else.

Dr Khadka said she was suffering from gastritis and high blood pressure. According to Gharti, this was the first time that had ever visited a doctor. "Let's see if the medicine given to me does any good," she said, adding that she would be happy to be relieved of her illness.

Bhawisara Saru Magar, another local who came to the health camp, said many villagers opt to go hospital only as the last resort.



A woman undergoing health check-up at a free health camp organised by Nepal Army at Foksingkot in Palpa.

POST PHOTO

NC, UML feel campaign heat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As a stopgap measure, the NC has asked its Central Working Committee (CWC) members, who are in the party's list of PR candidates, to visit the districts. Senior leader Sher Bahadur Deuba is busy in Dadauldhura and Kailali-4, while Ram Chandra Poudel is busy in his Tanahun-2 constituency.

"We have conveyed this message to our top leaders. They will visit the districts immediately after 'Tihar,'" said NC leader Prakash Saran Mahat.

Senior leaders of the CPN-UML are also busy in their own constituencies. Besides Khanal, senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal is busy in his two constituencies (Rautahat and Kathmandu-2). Khanal won the 2008 election with a low margin, while Nepal had tasted defeat in both his constituencies.

"As per our party's tradition, senior leaders' nationwide district campaign comes last," said CPN-UML secretary Shankar Pokhrel. But as the indefinite general strike called by the CPN-Maoist

Flower prices up due to 'short supply'

POST REPORT  
**KATHMANDU, NOV 3**

Though there were relatively fewer vehicles plying on the road on Sunday afternoon, the Laxmi Puja day, pavements were bustling with pedestrians purchasing goods for the Tihar festival.

People seemed busy at flower shop in a corner of Chabahil Chowk, fiddling with the marigold flowers and bargaining with the vendor. "These are local flowers, not imported ones. Have a look," Chandras Babu Karki, a vendor, tried to convince his buyers. "Rs 100 is too much. I will pay Rs 80," said Laxmi Gurung, who hails from Baglung. According to vendors there, a single marigold flower costs Rs 20 while a fresh garland costs as much as Rs 150. "There has been short supply of flowers as we did not import from India," said Loknath Gaire, president of the Floriculture Association of Nepal.