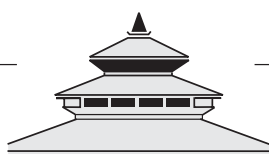




Athens hurdles champion banned Pg 8



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THE KATHMANDU POST



Bruni joins fight against AIDS City III

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Terrorist attack rocks Mumbai

125 killed, over 300 injured Rescue efforts on



WORST NIGHTMARE: (From Left) Firefighters try to extinguish a fire as it engulfs the top floor of the Taj Mahal hotel, Indian nationals including journalists take shield at one of the attack sites in Mumbai and a guest at the Taj Mahal hotel being rescued. (Related story on Pg 6)

DINESH WAGLE NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

By all accounts and standards, it was immaculately coordinated and spectacularly executed.

As the city of Mumbai was gearing up for yet another glittering nightlife Wednesday, a group of gun-toting young terrorists with their backpacks filled with explosives spoiled the party and took India by surprise.

The fight continued the next day when millions of Indians who would have perhaps watched the re-teletcast of the previous day's cricket match in which their country defeated visiting British team found themselves glued to their TV sets that were beaming live footage of the fighting between security commandos and the terrorists in some of the most famous landmarks of Mumbai.

continuously updating them with the figures of casualties.

The tally: 125 dead, more than 300 injured. At the time of writing the fighting in five-star hotel Trident Oberoi was going on. The remaining two one-day matches with England were cancelled in the wake of the attacks that also specifically targeted British nationals.

See Editorial Pg 4

The Maximum City, as they call it, remained in maximum fear throughout Thursday. Schools, train services and the markets remained closed in India's financial capital. It all began at around 9:25 PM India time Wednesday when three men with automatic weapons started firing in Leopold Cafe, a favorite tourist hangout. It lasted for 25 minutes.

The attackers moved toward the nearby icon Taj Mahal hotel firing indis-

criminally. Some of them went to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, one of the two busiest train stations in Mumbai that was previously known as Victoria Terminus or VT. There, four terrorists faced anti-terrorist squad of the Mumbai police. By the time they were shot dead, they had killed 10 and injured 30.

In the Taj hotel where the attackers reached at 10 PM, they fired rampantly in the swimming pool area. They killed eleven policemen, including Hemant Karkare, the chief of Mumbai's counterterrorism squad and a popular face of anti-terrorism efforts in India.

The attackers, believed to be in their early 20s and working for a previously little known outfit called Deccan Mujaheddin, also went on rampage in Trident Oberoi hotel in Nariman Point and a multiplex. They also attacked two taxis in two different locations.

(Contd on Pg 3)

Prez, PM condemn attack

KATHMANDU, Nov. 27 (RSS)-President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav Thursday sent a letter to Indian President Pratiba Patil and expressed deep shock over the news of terrorist attacks in various parts of Mumbai, India on Wednesday.

"We strongly condemn this cowardly attack and the killings of innocent people," Dr. Yadav said. Extending his deepest condolence to the families of those killed, President Dr. Yadav said Nepal is with India and its people during this difficult time.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal, in a separate condolence message sent to Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, has expressed profound shock at the terrorist attack and deep condolence to the bereaved families.

Maoists may get CA vice-chair

PHANINDRA DAHAL KATHMANDU, NOV. 27

The CPN (Maoist) candidate Purna Kumari Subedi is likely to win the Constituent Assembly vice chair election scheduled for Friday with the CPN-UML likely to cast its vote in her favour.

"Our party has got the commitment of votes from UML and Janamorcha Nepal," said Purna Kumari Subedi, the Maoist candidate told The Post. "I am sure to gather simple majority necessary to win."

She also said that her candidacy has been filed according to the understanding with UML.

If UML votes for her, she will be able to get the simple majority necessary to elect the vice chairman. The UML, which is also a coalition partner of the Maoist-led government, is likely to support the Maoist proposed candidate.

"Our party leadership is scheduled to meet Maoist chairman tomorrow morning to take decision in this regard," said UML chief whip Bhim Acharya.

He, however, said that the final decision has not yet been taken.

Along with her, Ramani Ram of Tarai Madhes Loktantrik Party (TMLP), Nilam KC of CPN-ML, Khovari Raya of Sdbbhavana Party, Lila Nyaichai of Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party and Pratiba Rana of Rastriya Prajatantra Party are fighting for the post.

The six candidates for the

post of Constituent Assembly vice chairman were busy throughout Thursday campaigning for election, begging votes from parties and lawmakers.

Candidates from other political parties also held talks with CPN-UML, Nepali Congress and other parties to gather support.

"We have not yet decided whom we will support," said NC vice chairman Ram Chandra Poudel. "Maoist have not asked us for our vote. We will vote for a party not in the government."

However, he also said that the NC has requested the smaller parties to pick up a common candidate and convince the UML to also vote for their choice.

Chairman of Constituent Assembly Subash Chandra Nembang also tried to form a consensus candidate for the post.

"The attempt to elect the vice chairman uncontested did not succeed today," Nembang told the Post. "If it will not be decided by tomorrow morning, it will decide from the assembly."

According to Nembang, the names of candidates would be tabled in the House in the set order and the first candidate to bag more than 50 percent of the votes would be declared vice chairman.

If any candidate fails to secure the necessary votes in the first phase, voting would continue until one candidate gets the majority vote.

Rs 2.4b UK aid

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, NOV. 27

British Minister for International Development Mike Foster on Thursday announced the United Kingdom's fresh financial aid of £20 million (Rs. 2.4 billion) to carry out various development activities in Nepal for the next two years.

Speaking at a press meet organised on Thursday, Foster said, "The amount will be used to support the peace process and programmes on poverty reduction that would bring real change in rural Nepal."

Earlier this week, Department for International Development (DFID) had announced £102 million (Rs. 10.4 billion) support for the Nepal Peace Trust Fund, health and education sectors, building good governance, improving public financial management, rural infrastructure and livelihoods and addressing climate change for year 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

He called on the political parties to use the historic opportunity to build lasting peace in the country. "It is imperative that the Nepal Government utilise the people's mandate by building lasting and inclusive peace."

He said the leaders he had met assured him that they would do the needful to build peace and reduce poverty.

During his stay here, he met Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Bam Dev Gautam, Finance Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Foreign Minister Upendra Yadav, Minister for Environment and Science and Technology Ganesh Sah, Constituent Assembly members belonging to marginalised groups, UN Secretary General's Special Representative Ian Martin, donors, climate change experts, community groups and private sectors, according to a statement released by DFID.

(Contd on Pg 3)

Federal model must suit Nepal: Koirala

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, NOV. 27



Koirala

Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala said on Thursday that the federal system that Nepal will adopt in the future must suit the country and should not be copied from elsewhere.

Inaugurating a one-day workshop on the role of the Nepali Congress in the constitution drafting process, he said Nepali Congress was engaged in homework to come up with a suitable model of federalism in the new constitution.

"Parties are talking about federalism of South Africa and Switzerland," Koirala said. "We should not copy or follow any other model."

He also said Nepal must make a model of federal system that would match the geographical structure of the country.

"We must be careful to establishing a federal model so that there would be no conflict in future," he said at the workshop organised by Nepal Democratic Lawyers' Association, a lawyers' group close to the Nepali Congress.

The federal system of the country must be able to reflect the sentiments of the people from the east to the west, Koirala said.

"State restructuring is an important aspect of the new constitution," he said.

He also accused Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal of taking the country in a wrong direction by violating the politics of consensus.

Help from the international community would be forthcoming if the parties work together. Koirala's remark comes a day after Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee emphasised the politics of consensus to strengthen democracy in Nepal.

He flayed Prime Minister Dahal for frequently speaking against parliamentary democracy when he was elected from parliament as prime minister.

He also called on democratic forces to join hands since the Maoists are speaking against parliamentary democracy.

Speaking at the programme, chief whip of the Nepali Congress Laxman Ghimire said that from mid-December all NC lawmakers would stay in the capital and work on statute drafting rather than go to the districts.

O Tempora ! O Mores !!

by Sarab



The honourable minister is still unable to find the right relative to fill the vacant post! What to do?

PRAGATI SHAHI KATHMANDU, NOV. 27

Birth of a wild buffalo calf has elated officials at the Central Zoo. The calf was born to seven-year-old mother Shrawani and her 17-year-old mate, Koshi, on Nov. 9.

"The birth was unexpected as the bull was too old for breeding," said Binab Karmacharya, veterinary doctor at the zoo.

According to him, the normal lifespan of wild buffaloes, which start breeding at the age of three, is between 18 and 20

years. The gestation period of this endangered species is 10 months and it gives birth to a single baby at a time.

Koshi and Shrawani are orphans and were brought to the zoo very early into their lives from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR), the only habitat of the endangered wild buffaloes in the country.

At a time when the number of the wild buffaloes in the country is decreasing at an alarming rate due to increased poaching and cross-breeding with domesticated buf-



Shrawani with her calf at the central zoo. POST PHOTO: UZOL DANGOL

fales, the birth of the calf has given the zoo officials a reason to cherish.

"It is very difficult to keep wild buffaloes in captivity. Their successful captive breeding at the zoo is one of the happiest moments for the zoo staff," said Sarita Gyanwali, project manager at the Central Zoo.

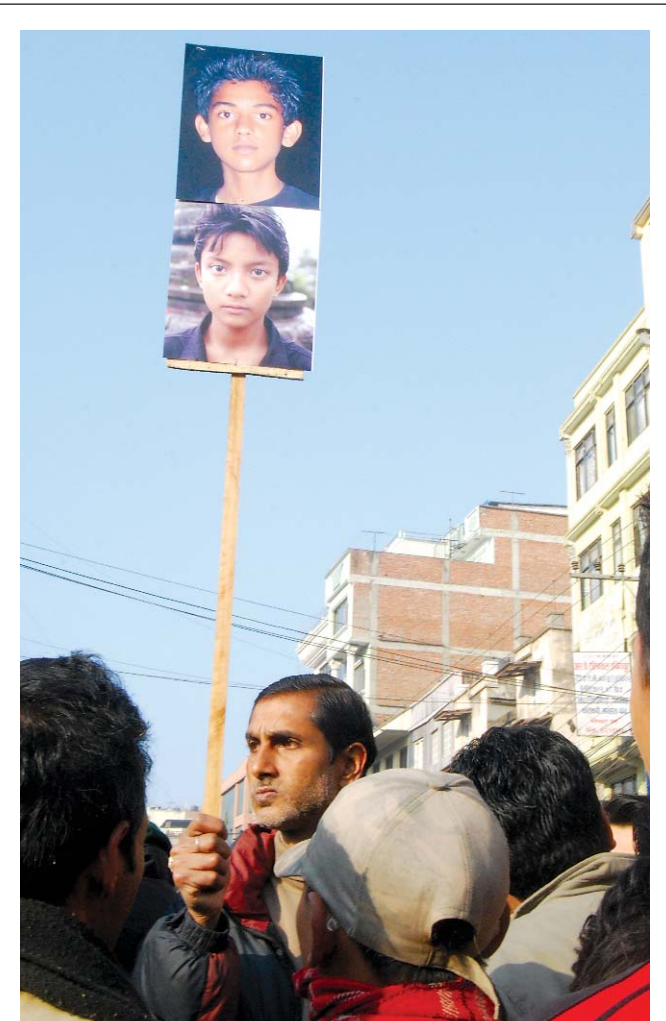
According to a census conducted in 2003, KTWR has 160 to 180 wild buffaloes.

However, officials at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation said

the number of pure breed of wild buffaloes in the country could be well below 160. Semi-wild buffaloes are born after cross-breeding with the pure wild buffaloes.

Central Zoo has carried out the breeding of endangered species, including tiger, hippopotamus and Siamangs.

Meanwhile, zoo officials are also trying to breed the endangered rhino in captivity. "Our success at breeding captive animals makes us hopeful about rhino breeding too," Gyanwali said.



Locals and kin of Ashish Manandhar and Ritesh Rauniyar stage a demonstration at Kalimati Chowk, demanding that the government bring the culprits to book. The youths, who had gone missing since Nov 15, were found dead in a forest near Thankot, Wednesday. (Story on Pg 2)

POST PHOTO: BHIM GHIMIRE