

## NATIONAL

## ONCE-OVER

## Three die in accident

SURKHET: Three members of the same family died and four others were seriously injured when a jeep met with an accident at Badki in Hima Rural Municipality, Jumla, on Wednesday morning. The jeep heading for Surkhet from Jumla headquarters Khalanga veered off the road and fell some 200 metres down the road. The deceased have been identified as Lale Sarki, 26, of Tila Rural Municipality, his wife Janaki, 23, and their eight-month-old daughter Mahima. Those injured in the accident are receiving treatment at Karnali Institute of Health Sciences. — HNS

## Molester held

GAIGHAT: Udayapur police on Wednesday arrested a youth from Rashuwa Salghari of Rautamai Rural Municipality-3 for molesting a nine-year-old girl. The arrestee is Dambhar Rai, 28. On the day of *Vijaya Dashami*, Rai had molested the minor. "Police arrested Rai on the basis of a complaint filed by the victim's father on Tuesday," said SP Chandra Rai. — HNS

## Bear attacks man

DAMAULI: A person was critically injured in a bear attack in Tanahun on Wednesday. The injured is Bhim Bahadur Tamang, 48. Tamang was attacked by the bear while cutting grass in the forest. Tamang has received deep cut in his neck and has his left hand fractured. His wife had yelled for help, but when locals reached the incident site, the bear fled the scene. Tamang has been sent to Kathmandu for treatment, police said. — HNS

## Monastery renovated

MYAGDI: The Narsing Gumba, a 1,250 years old monastery in Muktinath, Baragung Mukti Kshetra Rural Municipality-1, Mustang district, has been renovated. The Buddhist monastery was renovated at a cost of Rs 28.5 million, president of the Muktinath Area Development Committee Hira Bahadur Thakuri (Wangwell Lama), said. The Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, the then District Development Committee, Muktinath Kshetra Development Committee, local conservation committee, Water-induced Disaster Management Committee, among others, had provided grant assistance for the renovation of the monastery. The ancient monastery, which had been repaired a few years ago, had started leaking. The Buddhist preacher Rimpochhe is credited for constructing this monastery at Muktinath, a common pilgrimage for both Buddhists and Hindus. — RSS

## 75 per cent tunnel work completed so far

Himalayan News Service  
Surkhet, October 24

About 75 per cent tunnel construction of Bheri-Babai Diversion Multipurpose Project has been completed till date.

Nine-kilometre tunnel has been dug using tunnel boring machine. The total length of the tunnel is 12.2 kilometres.

For the first time in the country's history, the work on digging the tunnel using tunnel boring machine had started a year ago.

According to the project's senior division hydro geologist Krishna Parasd Upadhyay, 75 per cent of the tunnel work has been completed and the remaining work will be completed within six months if the work continues with the same pace. Upadhyay predicted that the tunnel construction would be completed within the deadline as China Overseas Engineering Company Limited tasked with the construction work had sped up work.

In the first phase, 12-kilometre tunnel will be constructed and 48 megawatts electricity will be generated while irrigation system will be developed in the final stage.

Located between Bardiya of Province 5 and Karnali Province, the machine is digging 40 metres tunnel daily. Upadhyay said the tunnel boring machine had already crossed To-likhola, which was considered

## BHERI-BABAI PROJECT



An under-construction tunnel of Bheri-Babai Diversion Multipurpose Project, in Surkhet, on Wednesday.

to be risky. "Construction of the tunnel is in full swing," said Upadhyay.

After the completion of tunnel work, a dam will be built at Chiple of Surkhet and a powerhouse at Chepang of

Bardiya. After the construction of a 15-metre tall dam, water from Bheri will be diverted to Babai at the speed of 40 cubic centimetres per second. The water brought to Babai will be used for irrigation.

A target has been set to generate 48 megawatts electricity from the project by constructing a powerhouse in Bardiya. Earlier, the project had set a deadline of 2020 to complete the tunnel work. As many as

600 people, including Chinese and Nepali nationals, are working on the project. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 16 billion. The project is being built with domestic investment.

## World Polio Day marked

Himalayan News Service  
Kathmandu, October 24

World Polio Day was marked today by organising various awareness programmes.

World Health Organisation had declared Nepal polio-free country in 2014, but due to open border with India, Nepal is facing challenges to control cases of imported polio.

In a bid to eradicate polio completely, infants have been given two doses of inactivated polio vaccine into routine immunisation schedule from mid-August this year.

Acting on the recommendation made by WHO, the government has started administering fractional dose of polio vaccine to children. Earlier, the government introduced one

dose of IPV into routine immunisation schedule in the 14th week which consists 0.5 ml dose. Now, every infant must be given 0.1 ml dose of IPV in the sixth week and 14th week, and they have to be given oral polio vaccine three times, informed Dr Badri Raj Pandey, chairman of the National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication.

"Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. It invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. The virus is transmitted from person-to-person and spreads mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, through contaminated water or food. Initial symptoms are fever, fatigue, headache, vomit-

ing, stiffness of the neck and pain in the limbs," said Dr Pandey. He said polio mainly affected children under five years of age and there was no cure for polio, but could be prevented through vaccination.

According to WHO, as long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting polio. Failure to eradicate polio from these last remaining strongholds could result in as many as 200,000 new cases every year. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two nations yet to be declared polio-free in the world. In 2005, four polio cases were detected in areas bordering India and increased to 20 by 2008. No cases were reported in 2009 while six cases were reported in 2010.

## Allow ascent to Mt Jugal, demands Province 3 govt

Himalayan News Service  
Hetauda, October 24

The Province 3 government has decided to ask the central government to open Mt Jugal for climbing.

Acting on the proposal of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment of the province, a meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Dorman Poudel took a decision towards this effect today. It is important to note that the mountain remains

off limits till this date despite rumours to open it for climbing long in the past itself.

Situated in Jugal Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchowk, Mt Jugal is a five hours' drive from Kathmandu. Again, it takes approximately 20 hours to reach the base of the mountain from Gumba.

Now, Social Development Minister Yuvraj Dulal, who has climbed Mt Everest, has taken the fresh initiative to open Mt Jugal for climbing.

## Tele-medicine centre becoming popular in Phalebas Municipality

Rastriya Samachar Samiti  
Parbat, October 24

A tele-medicine centre brought into operation at Thanamaula of Phalebas Municipality-8 in Parbat has won people's trust and is providing service to a good number of people.

Locals have been benefited by the operation of the centre at Char Bhanjyang Health Centre as it provides health counselling for epilepsy, mental health problems and other health issues related to urinary system, skin and neurology. Chief at Char Bhanjyang Health Centre Roshan Gurung said health ser-

vices had been accessible to the locals with the operation of the tele-medicine centre.

The centre provides services to patients through Skype where medical specialists and doctors from home and abroad provide health counselling and advice to patients.

Local Arjun Kunwar, 38, said he had been feeling uncomfortable even for his casual movement due to neurological issues. But now the problem has been cured following the treatment he acquired through the consultation with a foreign doctor. The centre made it possible for him. He underwent a surgery of his throat nerve on

the recommendation of the doctor he met on Skype at the centre.

According to him, there are many other people who have been living a normal life after receiving healthcare services from the centre for their different health-related problems. The centre refers patients to other health facilities, in coordination with Western Regional Hospital, Pokhara, if they need to be admitted to hospital.

The centre was established in 2066 BS at the initiation of Char Bhanjyang Tamu Society based in the UK. Around 25 people visit the centre on a daily basis these days.

## Minister Yadav stresses protection of intellectual property rights

Rastriya Samachar Samiti  
Kathmandu, October 24

Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies Matrika Prasad Yadav has said that the Government of Nepal is serious about protecting intellectual property rights by constitutionally establishing the same as a fundamental right.

He shared this during a meeting with Francis Gurry, director general of the World Intellectual Property Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland, today.

The minister said that preparations were under way to revise old laws related to intellectual property and bring new acts.

Minister Yadav said that there were many challenges in implementing the IP related laws and pointing out the need for broader awareness among the general public about the matter, his private secretariat stated.

He said that research and studies in the academic sector, geographical diversity and strong laws related to intellectual property, especially patent rights, would give a new identity to Nepal in the world map.

Stating that Nepal was in dire need of technical and non-technical support for formulating new laws related to intellectual property, Minister Yadav appreciated World Intellectual Property Organisation for its assistance to Nepal. WIPO Director General Gurry pledged to provide the needed assistance for protecting intellectual property rights in Nepal.

Minister Yadav is currently in Geneva to attend the world investment forum of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.



Farmers harvesting rice after the end of *Dashain*, in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, on Wednesday.

## Reconstruction snail-paced in Kavre

Himalayan News Service  
Kavre, October 24

More than three years have passed since the deadly 2015 earthquakes struck the country. Reconstruction of private houses, however, has been very sluggish in Kavre.

Of the total recipients of the first instalment of the housing grant, only 2,734 quake victims have rebuilt their houses so far in the district. According to National Reconstruction Authority Project Unit, Kavre, of the 68,773 quake victims who received first tranche of the housing grant, only 18,804 have rebuilt their houses and received the third instalment.

The government had provided the housing grant to 17,371 quake victims while non-governmental organisations had provided assistance to 1,433 beneficiaries to rebuild their houses in the district.

The government has set the target of completing reconstruction of all the structures destroyed in the

## Model settlement planned

KAVRE: If everything goes as planned, a model integrated settlement of Tamang community with homestay facility will be developed in Tindhar village of Mandan Deupur Municipality-10, Kavre. A detailed project report has already been handed over to the construction committee upon its approval by the National Reconstruction Authority. According to the committee chair Aitaman Tamang, the settlement will have 40 houses. "As part of the project, each of the houses damaged in

the earthquakes will get Rs 300,000 as grant from our side," said CARITAS field coordinator Pushparaj Nepal, adding, "But those who will receive our grant won't get the government grant." Construction committee member Ram Bahadur Lama said management of land for the model settlement was over. "As per our estimate, construction of a house will cost more than one million rupees," he said, adding, "The settlement will also feature community buildings and public lavatories." — HNS

quakes within five years. Of the total quake victims who have received the first tranche of the grant, 65.8 per cent have taken the second tranche of the grant as well. As many as 44,750 victims have received the second tranche

of grant till date. Of them, 42,620 received the grant from the government and 2,137 from non-governmental organisations. As many as 82,833 families were incorporated on the list of beneficiaries in the district.