

Election of House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly, 2022

Daily Report

November 19, 2022, Saturday

Elections for the House of Representatives and the Provincial Assembly will be held tomorrow, November 4. According to The Commission, all the necessary preparations for the election have been completed. The Election Commission has instructed the election staff to be impartial during their duty. The Commission has issued a directive urging everyone to be impartial and independent of any personal or institutional influence while counting the vote. In the course of conducting the election, there might be various direct and indirect influences, pressure, extortion, and threats. The Commission requests everyone to commit to completing and conducting the election honestly despite the existing problems.

The directive also urges political parties, candidates, elected representatives, or stakeholders to resolve disputes related to voting and vote count independently without any political influence. It also instructs everyone to fully comply with the Constitution of Nepal, existing laws, laws, codes of conduct, election-related guidelines, and procedures and not to misuse ballot papers, ballot boxes, or other election materials. The directive mentions, "One shall not act contrary to election-related laws. One shall be an abate to such activities. Otherwise, they will be penalized according to the law. At the same time, the Commission has also asked to respect and treat everyone, including political parties, candidates, employees, monitors, observers, civil society media workers, and voters, in voting and counting.

According to Solukhumbu representative Anju Karki, on the eve of the election, there was a clash between CPN-UML workers and alliance workers in Mapya Dudhkoshi Rural Municipality-6. Police arrested 28-year-old Bishal Rai, 26-year-old Bikash Rai and 29-year-old Sujana Rai of Mapya Dudhkoshi rural municipality-6 Waku on November 18 and released them on November 19 for their involvement in the clash. According to the police, Bishal Rai is a member of CPN-UML and Bikash and Sujana Rai are activists of alliance. Biltu Rai, a polling officer posted at Furke community forest polling station in Nechasalyan rural municipality-4, died in his sleep on November 19.

According to Dhankuta representative Ishwar Thapa, the assistant staff who was working for the polling in Sagurigarhi Rural Municipality-3 died on November 19.

According to Sunsari Representative Jay Krishna Yadav, even before one day of the election, the candidates have not stopped campaigning and have not removed the flags and banners. CPN UML candidate from Constituency No. 2 Bhim Prasad Acharya for the candidate for the House of Representatives, and Ram Prasad Mehta, the candidate for the Provincial Assembly of Province 2 (B), have been seen hanging the party flag at regular intervals throughout the village, including Yadavtole of Inaruwa Municipality-9 Babiya. Nepali Congress cadre Sitaram Mehta, candidate from constituency no. 2 of the House of

Representatives for the post of Member of the House of Representatives and Rajiv Koirala, the candidate of the Member of the Provincial Assembly of Province 2 (B), have been found hanging party flags and flags with election symbols all over the village including the Bhagwati Temple of Inaruwa Municipality-9 Babiya. Government Spokesman and Minister of Communication and Information Technology and Law Minister Gyanendra Bahadur Karki and Haji Israel Masuri activists have been found to have violated the Election Code of Conduct 079. It was found that the workers of CPN-UML provincial assembly candidate Jagdish Prasad Kusiait did not remove the flags placed against the election code of conduct even during the regular time.

According to Rakesh Nepali, representative of Udaypur, on the night of November 18, a bomb exploded in the forest in the middle of Udaypurgadhi Rural Municipality-7 and 8 and in the forest of Triyuga Municipality-16. Although bombs exploded in two places, the security agencies have confirmed only the explosion in Udaypurgadhi. Chief District Officer Janardan Gautam said that a bomb exploded in the forest at around 11:45 on the night of November 19. With the bomb blast, the police have increased security vigilance. So far, no party has taken responsibility for the incident. According to the police, the CPN-Maoist Biplav group boycotted the election, so the same group may be involved in the explosion.

According to Okhaldhunga representative Saraswati Baniya, Nepali Army has disposed off two suspicious items that look like pressure cooker bombs that were found near the concrete bridge connecting the border of Molung Rural Municipality-3 and 4 in the morning of November 19. The bomb disposal team deployed from Aridman Battalion Okhaldhunga of Nepali Army disposed the bomb. Locals near the bridge alerted the police after seeing a suspicious object in the morning. The bomb disposal team of the Nepali Army has disposed off the suspicious item immediately after it was found.

According to Morang representative Binod Subedi, 80 sacks of rice, which were being taken to Sundararaicha municipality-3 under Morang Constituency number 6, with the intention of influencing the voters, have been seized and handed over to the police. When the fixed period of the election started on November 18, 500 sacks of rice packed in white plain sacks without labels and brands were unloaded from the truck. The Chief District Officer of Morang Kashiraj Dahal has said that an investigation will be conducted in relation to the incident. The Nepali Army has disposed off a suspected bomb-like object found in Biratnagar Metropolitan City-3 Pushpa Marg in the morning of November 19. After seeing a suspicious object on the side of the road around 6:30 in the morning, the locals informed the police. After the suspicious object was found, it was disposed of by the bomb disposal team of the Nepali Army.

Madhes Province

According to Siraha representative Durga Pariyar, the police arrested two People Socialist Party workers from Navrajpur rural municipality-5 on the charge of money laundering during the silence period on November 19.

District Police Office, Siraha DSP Subash Budhathoki said that Binod Yadav and Nageshwar Yadav, 35, of Navrajpur rural municipality-5 are among those arrested. DSP Budhathoki said that the police arrested them with the money when they were distributing the ballot papers and Rs. DSP Budhathoki informed that both the arrested persons will be prosecuted according to the instructions of the Election Office.

According to Dhanusha representative Dipendra Prasad Singh, Chief Election Officer of Janakpurdham Chief Election Officer Brajesh Pyakurel has informed that all the preparations for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections to be held on November 20 have been completed. Security has been tightened at the election centre. He said that the polling stations are equipped with election materials and ballot papers.

According to Mahottari representative Ajay Kumar Sah, amount of 150,000 rupees has been recovered from the vehicle of Bishnu Bahadur Yonjan, an independent candidate of constituency 1 'B', from Panche Tole of Khairmara located in Bardibas Municipality-11. District Police Office SP Krishna Pageni informed that the money was found from Yonjan's car which reached Panche tole in the evening of November 2. An Indian vehicle carrying a ballot paper with a swastika printed on the sun symbol of CPN-UML has been seized by the police from Bardibas. SP Krishna Pageni of District Police Office Mahottari informed that a vehicle with Indian number HR 36 S 5471 carrying a ballot paper with a swastika stamp was seized from Gouridanda located in Bardibas Municipality-3 on the night of 2nd November. According to Mahottari police, the vehicle was seized after 262 sample ballot papers with swastika stamped on the sun symbol were found. SP Pageni informed that the arrested vehicle is under the control of the local police office, Bardibas.

According to Rautahat representative Kopila Timalina, CPN-UML youths have protested against Devi Prasad Timalina, the candidate for the Member of the House of Representatives of Rautahat constituency no 4 and the candidate for the Member of the Provincial Assembly (A) of the Maoists on the night of November 18 in Chandrapur Municipality-2 Kaltol for violating the code of conduct. Local Shambhu Thapa said that UML came to the village in number of more than 60 people led by Timalina and skirted by armed police.

According to Saptari representative Manohar Kumar Pokharel, Madhesi Commission member Abhasetu Singh has openly campaigned against People Socialist Party Nepal Chairperson Upendra Yadav, the candidate for Saptari Constituency 2, and in favour of another candidate Janamat Party's Chairperson C.K Raut. There is a rule that constitutional officers cannot be in favour of or against any party or candidate and are not allowed to engage in propaganda and cannot use social media for the propaganda of any party or candidate.

Bagmati Province

According to Dolakha representative Uddhav Pokharel, the Commissioner of the Election Commission and heads of security agencies have inspected the polling station in Dolakha. On the day before the Provincial Assembly and House of Representatives elections, a team including the commissioner of the Election Commission, Ram Prasad Bhandari inspected the polling station. A team including the Commissioner of Election Commission Bhandari, Commission Secretary Gokarnamani Duwadi, Home Secretary Binod Prakash Singh, Inspector General (IGP) Dhiraj Pratap Singh and Armed Police Force Raju Aryal visited a polling station in Melung Rural Municipality to inspect the state of Dolakha polling station along with the peace and security arrangements. They visited Tribhuvan University located in Ward No. 6 of Melung Rural Municipality and inspected it. The team that came through the helicopter also received the information about other polling centers in the district.

According to INSEC Sindhupalchok representative Natibabu Dhital, Son of house of representative candidate, Chattra tamang has been captured and beaten in the allegation of distributing money in Indrawati Rural Municipality-7, Gahate, by the cadres of the CPN Maoist Center (alliance) on the afternoon of November 19, 2022, Injured Tamang was rescued by the police and taken to the headquarters. Candidate Amansin Tamang said that he is ready to file a complaint against those involved in the incident on behalf of the victim.

According to Rasuwa representative Hemnath Khatiwada, voters have complained that the polling station in Rasuwa is not disabled-friendly. Sriram Thapa, Head of District Election Office, said that polling centers other than Rasuwa's Kalika Himalaya Campus cannot be called disabled friendly. Thapa said that polling officers and other employees have completed the construction of polling stations in all places.

According to Dhading representative Sitaram Adhikari, meal has been arranged at Malekhu in Dhading for the voters who will be casting their votes in Gorkha district. Long line of vehicles can be spotted in the district that has brought the people to vote for the coalition. Journalists and observers reached to the venue where more than 25 cars and 20 small four-wheelers stopped to enjoy the feast. As per Ramhari Barakoti, a local, people were in the queue for the free food from morning till the day. An employee of the hotel informed that food orders have been received for 10,000 voters of Gorkha. According to the residents of the area, they violated the election law by serving food in large numbers against the code of conduct. Meanwhile, election preparations in the district have been completed. Out of 114 polling stations, 144 polling stations are highly sensitive. There are 265,996 voters in Dhading. Polling stations have also been constructed in Puru and Newer in the high Himalayan Ruby Valley. Electoral Officer of Dhading constituency No. 1, Krishna Karki informed that the staff are preparing for the election and the voting will start from 7 am on the 20th. Chief Electoral Officer, Swakriti Parajuli has requested the voters to vote

peacefully. There is a peaceful situation throughout the district and the employees. Parajuli stated that the security system is strong throughout the district.

According to Nuwakot representative Navadeep Shrestha, wire netting has been installed in the polling stations of Nuwakot, even though the Election Commission has not made it mandatory. Four counting stations have been set up in the District Court where the office of the Chief Electoral Officer is located. Chief Election Officer, Madan Bahadur Dhama stated that, the wire netting has been built in order to make the counting procedure efficient. Likewise, chief election officer Dhama, informed that they have received eight written complaints of violation of the code of conduct. Complaint of Badri Mainali, from UML, has been sent to the commission while other complaints have been proceeded forward in the district itself.

According to Kathmandu representative Bimal Paudel, the police arrested seven workers including Harikrishna Gajurel, the chairperson of ANNISU (revolutionary), the student organization of CPN Revolutionary Maoists led by Mohan Vaidya, who showed a black flag in front of the Election Commission demanding to boycott the elections. SP Dineshraj Mainali informed that those who were arrested were kept in the police circle, Darbar Marg, District Police Complex, Kathmandu. The team of Nepal Army has neutralized the suspicious object found in Harsiddhi located in Nagarjuna Municipality-5 under Constituency No. 8 of the House of Representatives of Kathmandu. The team of the Nepalese army inactivated it. DSP Raj Babu Maharjan informed that the item found on November 18 was destroyed by a team led by Roshan Lamichhane from Kalidhwaj Battalion of Nepal Army. The Election Commission has asked Sudarshan Basnet, an employee working at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, for an explanation after receiving a complaint from National Vigilance Center about the campaigning of a political party through the Facebook page. Similarly, Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development Dr. Ramesh Singh has also been asked for an explanation. After the news that he has entered the constituency to influence the voters, Dr. Singh was asked for an explanation. According to rule number 7(a) of the Election Code of Conduct, 2022, enshrines that the government of Nepal, state government, local bodies, semi-government, public organizations and employees working under them should not engage in campaigning in the favor of or against any political party or candidate.

According to Bhaktapur representative Ramesh Giri, the parties involved in the alliance violated the code of conduct during the silent period on the 2nd, a day before the election of representatives and state assembly. The police intervened soon after the youth leaders of Nepali Congress started an open meeting along with Naresh Ranjit, the youth leader of CPN Maoist Center in Madhyapurthimi Municipality-3 Kaushaltar Sagbari. During the silent period, some leaders and workers of the Gathbandhan party gathered at the ground of Badminton Kot in Sagbari with the presence of the candidate of the alliance, Nepali Congress district president Darabha Thapa, and discussed about winning the alliance.

Chief Electoral Officer Poudel has informed that the work of making booths in all the polling centers of Lalitpur has been completed for the election of the representative of the INSEC Lalitpur Deepak Prasad Ghimire in the House of Representatives and the Provincial Assembly. District Election Officer Goma Ghimire Dhamala informed that in the polling station where there are more than 251 voters in all three constituencies of Lalitpur, staff and polling officers will deploy volunteers at the rate of 8 to 9 people depending on the need.

According to Sindhuli representative Nabin Babu Adhikari, the police arrested 58-year-old Dhak Prasad Devkota from Kamalamai Municipality-4 Sangbale on November 19. Harikrishna KC, DSP of District Police Office Sindhuli, informed that Devkota was arrested when leaflets related to boycotting the elections were increasing. Devkota, who was arrested, is the coordinator of Sindhuli Patriotic Republican Front. He informed that 260 pamphlets were also recovered from him. Chief Electoral Officer Upendra Prasad Gautam informed that construction of booths is going on in all the polling centres of the district. He said that the construction of booths and all-party meetings have been completed in most of the polling places and construction of booths is going on in other places. He said that the election activities were conducted in a peaceful manner.

According to Makwanpur representative Pushparaj Adhikari, the preparations of all polling stations in Makwanpur district for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections on November 20 have been completed. There are 167 polling Centres and 364 polling stations including two temporary polling stations in Makwanpur, which has two constituencies of the House of Representatives and four constituencies of the Provincial Assembly. Among the polling stations Makwanpur representative assembly constituency no. 2. There are 172 polling stations in first and 192 polling stations in the House of Representatives. Chief Electoral Officer of Makwanpur Rishi Ram Niraula said that the staff and security personnel assigned to the polling centre held an all-party meeting with the local political parties to organize the voting in the polling centre and completed the necessary polling station construction works. He said that 3,000 employees have been mobilized in the district for the election.

According to Chitwan Representative Dipendra Adhikari, the CPN Biplav group has warned Thakur Dhakal of Chitwan's Constituency 3 province B candidate. He is also the outgoing mayor of Madi municipality. A pressure cooker bomb was found at two places in Bharatpur Metropolitan City on November 19 at 12:30 PM. A pressure cooker bomb was found on the bypass road in front of Bharatpur-10 Bharatpur Eye Hospital and east-west highway at Bharatpur Municipality-12 Astha Chowk. Spokesman of District Police Office Chitwan Bijayraj Pandit informed that the team of Kali Bahadur Gan Bharatpur disposed of the item on 3rd of Mangsir at 3:30 in the morning.

Lumbini Province

According to Palpa District Representative Yagyamurti Timilsina, the employees have already reached all the polling stations in the district on November 1, and the coordination

meeting between the local parties has been completed in all the polling stations. Chief Electoral Officer Kamal Raj Bista said employees and security personnel reached the polling station with election materials. Bista that there have been no formal written complaints of violation of the code of conduct at the beginning of the silent period. However, some verbal complaints have been brought to the attention.

According to Dang representative Jayanarayan Pun, the Nepali Army has disposed the suspicious items found near the Tulsipur Sub-metropolitan-13 Babai bridge. On the morning of November 19, locals reported a suspicious object near the bridge. DSP Rajan Gautam of the District Police Office informed that the object was a fire dispenser cylinder with wire attached. The bomb disposal team of the Nepali Army from Tulsipur no 19 artilleries defused the bomb. The situation in Banke district is normal so far.

According to Banke Representative Laxmi Tharu, security management has been tightened at the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections polling stations. District Election Monitoring Officer Khadananda Adhikari, the preparations for the election polling stations will be completed in all the polling stations by this evening. IP Kharel, a member of the provincial assembly from the CPN Maoist centre, Constituency number 3 (A), posted on the Facebook wall during the silent period, alleging Dal Bahadur Sunar of corruption. Maheshwar Gahatraj, the candidate of CPN-Maoist Center's Region No. 1, has also been found soliciting votes during the silent period on his Facebook page.

According to INSEC Observer Mahendra Rana, the male and female polling stations and queues for the disabled and pregnant women at Baijnath Rural Municipality have been managed.

According to Pyuthan Representative Rabindra Pandey, the District Election Office has informed the completion of preparations for voting in 223 polling stations. An all-party meeting was held in the presence of the representatives of various political parties by the polling officers in all the polling stations.

According to Rupandehi representative Reema BC, the police have seized two vehicles containing liquor from different places in Suddhodhan Rural Municipality. A pick-up vehicle without a number plate from Suddhodhan Rural Municipality-1 Beluwa and a vehicle from Suddhodhan Rural Municipality-5 Khajuria were seized and taken into custody. According to Election Code of Conduct Monitoring Officer Bishnu Gyawali, the locals took control of the pick-up vehicle and reported it to the police. According to the local youth, the liquor was intended to be distributed by Nepali Congress workers to impress the voters.

According to Bardiya representative Man Bahadur Chaudhary, preparations for the district-wide elections have been completed for the election. Necessary staff, including polling officers and security personnel, reached 376 polling centers of 154 polling stations in the district two days ago and started preparations. The district's candidates did not do any campaigning activities during the silent period of the election.

According to Kapilvastu Representative Parbati Acharya, informed that even after the silent period started, pamphlets and flags of the candidates of Janata Samaj Party Nepal, Democratic Alliance of Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and other candidates were found near the polling station in Krishna Nagar area of Constituency No.3. During the monitoring, it was found that some polling stations were cramped and not spacious enough.

According to Kapilvastu representative Parvati Acharya, Bed Prasad Panthi, the polling officer posted in Shree Ganesh Basic School located in Krishnanagar Municipality 4 of Kapilvastu, was discharged from his position on November 18 on the charge of violating the election code of conduct. The monitoring team, led by the election officer, Prakash Marasini, relieved Panthi from his position. According to Marasini, the election officer of Kapilvastu Constituency No. 3, the officer Panthi was dismissed from the position of polling officer because he acted contrary to the high level of moral conduct while intoxicated and used foul language against the election officials. He said that Panthi has been relieved of his post pursuant to Section 83(1) of the House of Representatives and State Assembly members directive 2022. Electoral Officer Marasini said that Yamalal Neupane was appointed as a polling officer in the place of Panthi. Similarly, flags, pamphlets and other stuff used for campaigning by several political parties including CPN UML and Nepali Congress can still be spotted near the polling stations even after the start of silent period. During the monitoring, it was found that the management of the polling stations were being prepared but, space constraint was noted in some places.

According to Gulmi representative Toplal Aryal, the Chief Election Office of Gulmi has informed that all preparations for the election have been completed. Total of 2226 officials, including 279 polling officers, 279 assistant polling officers, 1389 assistant officers and 279 assistants, and more than 3000 security personnel have been mobilized for the election of constituency No. 1 and 2. Construction of the polling stations and the all-party meeting has been concluded by the election officials. As per Chief District Officer, Punyabikram Paudel, no anti-election activities have been noted in the district so far and the security arrangements in the district has been tightened.

Karnali Province

According to Surkhet Representative Prabha Rawat, the Election Commission has confirmed the completion of all necessary preparations for the election on November 20. A team has also been deployed in Surkhet to monitor and inspect the election. DIG Poshraj Pokharel said the security arrangements around the polling place had been tightened.

According to Kalikot Representative Kali Bahadur Malla, 55-year-old Kasichandra Baral, an independent candidate for Kalikot District Representative Assembly and a resident of Raskot Munucuplaity-7 in Kalikot District was attacked by Maoist centre workers. The victim informed the INSEC representative over the telephone that he was attacked by a group of 11

people led by Dhawaja Bahadur Shahi, a member of the YCL district near the Maoist center. He was attacked in his while he was in a house in a Dalit settlement near his village. The victim, Baral, was allegedly assaulted for standing against Mahendra Shahi as an independent candidate in the election.

According to Humla district representative Nanda Singh, with only one day remaining for the election, preparation for various polling centers and counting places in the district has been completed. According to Chief Electoral Officer Dil Prasad Sapkota, 59 permanent polling stations, one temporary polling station, and one polling station in Simkot, the headquarters, were cordoned off. Voters returned to their villages to cast their votes.

According to Jumla district representative Mandatta Rawal, all the voters have returned to the village for the elections. As voting day approaches, the voters who have made the city a temporary base return to their villages.

According to Dolpa district representative Bishnu Prasad Devkota, there are 34 voters to cast their votes in the polling station at the ward office of Phot village in Shey Phoksundo rural municipality, ward number 6 of Upper Dolpa. The polling station in Phot village of Vijier, the last discovered settlement in Nepal, has the least number of voters. There are 68 polling stations in Dolpa, 66 permanent and two temporary. The number of voters in the district is 22 thousand 774.

According to Jajarkot district representative Dinesh Shrestha, district election officer Naveen Kathayat informed the completion of preparations for the election in 143 polling centers of 88 polling stations in Jajarkot.

Sudurpaschim Province

According to Achham representative Shivaraj Dhungana, the construction of booth and centres has been completed in the 208 polling stations of the district for voting under representative and provincial assembly member election-2022. In order for the voters to vote easily, calmly and systematically, booths have been constructed at 208 places in 91 wards of the district with separate lines for women and men.

According to Baitadi district representative Nari Badu, all the preparations for the election have been completed in the district. Chief Electoral Officer Jayanand Paneru said that booth construction, all-party meeting and other works have been completed in all the polling stations for the representative and provincial assembly elections to be held tomorrow.

According to Kanchanpur district representative Lily Kunwar, the head of the district election office, Udayraj Joshi, has said that the staff assigned for voting have completed the construction of the polling station. The employees who arrived at the polling station have completed the work of issuing notices according to the schedule, conducting all-round

discussions, collecting the necessary materials for the construction of the polling station and constructing the polling station.

According to Darchula district representative Narendra Singh Karki, women employees have been given the responsibility of conducting elections in two polling stations in the district in the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly member elections. Just got it. As a sample, only women employees have been sent to two centres in the district. In Mahakali Municipality-5 Api Nampa Conservation Area Centre (a) and (b) both centres have all women from polling officers to assistants. According to Chief Electoral Officer Khemraj Bhatt, female employees have been given the responsibility of conducting voting in polling stations as a model in the district.

According to Kailali district representative Mainamoti Chaudhary, all the preparations for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly member elections have been completed. Ramprasad Joshi, information officer of the Chief Election Officer's office, said that all the preparations have been completed, including the work of building booths in 637 polling stations of the 237 polling stations in the district, holding all-party meetings and self-sevak election and distribution of identity cards.



For Human Rights and Social Justice

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