

Nepal President appeals for peace

■ Gen Z leaders hold talks with President Paudel at Army HQ for interim Govt formation

■ By Shirish B Pradhan
KATHMANDU, Sept 11 (PTI)

NEPAL'S President Ramchandra Paudel on Thursday appealed to all sides to cooperate in maintaining peace and said he was making efforts to find a solution to the current political situation within the constitutional framework. It is the first time the President spoke about the current turmoil. He was not seen in public after the Gen Z agitating groups burnt the President's office and his private residence on Tuesday.

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Army deployed on the route to the Parliament amid curfew, in Kathmandu, Nepal on Thursday. (PTI)

Gen Z group wants to dissolve Parliament, amend Constitution

KATHMANDU, Sept 11 (PTI)

YOUTH-LED Gen Z group, which spearheaded the anti-government protests in Nepal, Thursday said that Parliament must be dissolved and the Constitution should be amended to reflect the will of the people, as the death toll from the demonstrations increased to 34.

The Gen Z protesters organised a press meet here to express their views, while some of their representatives were busy holding discus-

sions with President Ramchandra Paudel and Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel at the Army Headquarters to find a solution to the current political crisis.

Speaking on the occasion, the Gen Z activists underlined the need to find a solution through dialogue and cooperation.

Diwakar Dangal, Amit Baniya and Junal Dangal - all representatives of the Gen Z group - were among those who spoke at the press meet.

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India-US trade talks on track: Goyal

NEW DELHI, Sept 11 (IANS)

UNION Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the first tranche of the India-US trade deal is expected to be finalised by November.

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A LONG WAY TO GO
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He explained that discussions between the two countries are moving in a positive direction and both sides are satisfied with the progress so far.

Speaking to reporters in poll-bound Bihar, Goyal recalled that



in February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump had instructed their ministers to work on the pact and finalise the first tranche by November this year.

"In February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump together instructed us that

the ministers of both sides should make a good agreement by November," Goyal said.

"The first part of that agreement, the first tranche, should be finalised by November 2025, and since March, discussions have been going on this subject very seriously in a very good environment, progress is being made, and with the progress, both sides are satisfied," Goyal added.

His remarks came a day after PM Modi and President Trump had a friendly exchange on social media.

Trump, writing on his platform Truth Social, said he was pleased with the ongoing talks and was confident that both nations would reach a successful conclusion.

India, Mauritius to facilitate bilateral trade in local currencies: PM Modi

\$655 MN ECONOMIC PACKAGE FOR MAURITIUS

VARANASI, Sept 11 (PTI)



INDIA on Thursday announced an over USD 655 million special economic package for Mauritius and signed seven pacts to further expand bilateral ties in several critical sectors with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the two countries as not just partners but a family.

Following talks with his Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Modi said a free, open, stable and prosperous Indian Ocean is a shared priority for both sides and India remains fully committed to strengthening the security of Mauritius's exclusive economic zone. Modi also said that both sides will work towards

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Amit Shah launches faster immigration clearance programme at 5 more airports

NEW DELHI, Sept 11 (PTI)

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), which fast-tracks the immigration process of pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders, in five more airports.

The special initiative was first rolled out at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here in July 2024 and two months later launched in seven more airports -- Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad. Today, the FTI-TTP was launched in Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode and Amritsar.

"Fast Track Immigration: Trusted Traveller Programme makes immigration simpler, faster and hassle-free," the minister said at a special programme held virtually.

OCI card holders and Indian citizens travelling abroad will



receive the maximum benefit under the programme, Shah said. So far, three lakh people have registered and 2.65 lakh availed the facility so far.

The programme ensures faster immigration clearance. Several thousand passengers have been granted faster immigration clearance through e-gates till now, officials added.

The FTI-TTP, aimed at facilitating international mobility with faster, smoother, secure immigration clearance, has been started for Indian nationals and OCI card holders on a gratis basis in

the initial phase.

The FTI-TTP is similar to the Global Entry Program offered by the US that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travellers upon arrival in America in select airports, another official said.

The FTI-TTP will eventually be launched at 21 major airports in the country. Eligible passengers will be allowed to utilise e-gates and bypass regular immigration queues for a seamless journey. They will need to apply online and submit their biometrics (fingerprint and facial image) along with other required information as specified in the application form. The FTI registration will be valid for a maximum of five years or until the validity of the passport, whichever comes first.

A traveller can avail the facility by applying through the government website www.ftittp.mha.gov.in and providing the required details, which will be verified by the Bureau of Immigration.

Approved applications would receive a message to schedule an appointment to provide their biometrics details at designated international airports in India or the nearest Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

The applicants need a minimum passport validity of at least six months.

The programme will be implemented in two phases -- Indian citizens and OCI cardholders in the first and foreign travellers in the second.

The Bureau of Immigration will be the nodal agency for fast track immigration of various categories of travellers under this programme.

After necessary verification, a White List of 'Trusted Travellers' will be generated and fed for implementation through e-gates.

Once the genuine identity of the passenger is established and biometric authentication done, the e-gate will open automatically and immigration clearance will be deemed to have been granted.

Rajnath flags off historic tri-service sailing expedition on IASV Triveni



NEW DELHI, Sept 11 (IANS)

IN A historic first, women officers of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force have embarked on a mission to circumnavigate the globe by sea. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni through video conferencing on Thursday.

A joint team of ten women officers will cover more than 26,000 nautical miles during this voyage, marking the first-ever tri-service expedition of its kind. The formal departure of the boat took place on September 11.

“This is the first time in history that women officers of all three services -- the Army, Navy, and Air Force -- are undertaking a mission to sail around the world, united under one flag and one mission,” Singh said.

He added: “I am certain our daughters will complete this mission and show the world that the valour of Indian women knows no bounds. This is not just a sea voyage -- it is also a journey of discipline, courage, and willpower. Storms, loneliness, fatigue, and despair may come your way, but the light of determination burning in your hearts will overcome every challenge.”