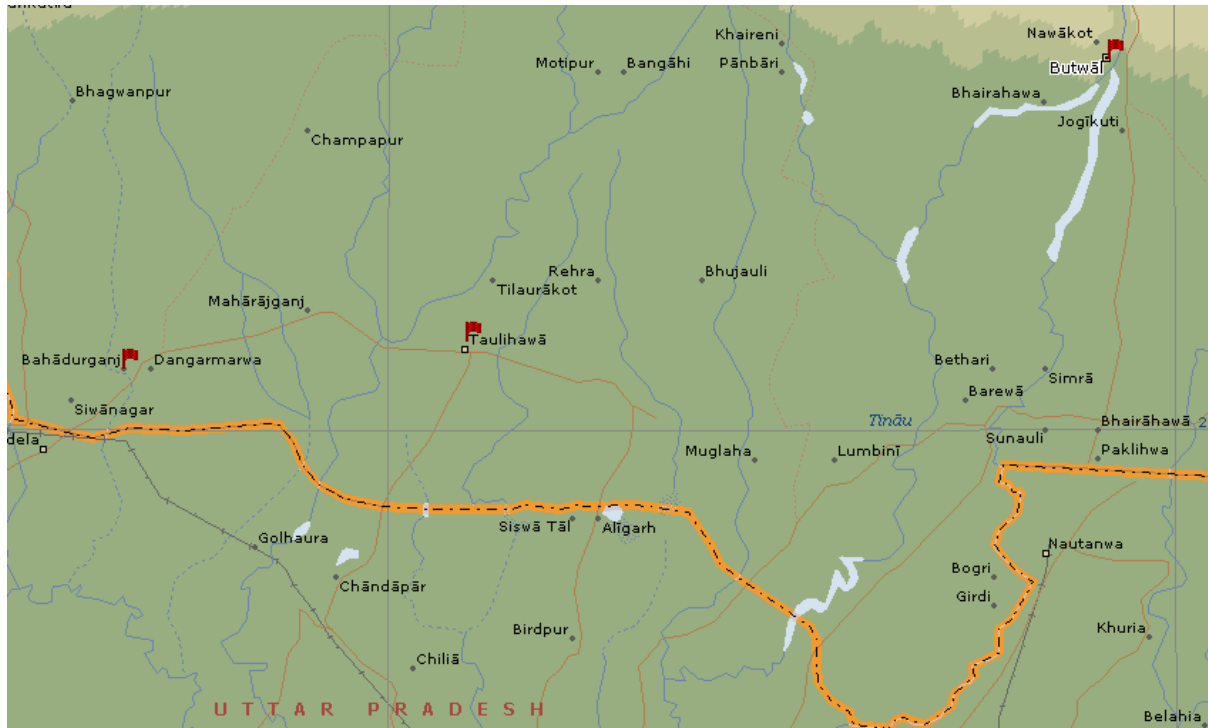


07 NEP 2 - 07-09-16 Kapilavastu

Laboratoire des frondeurs.org



Distance Bahadurganj - Taulihawa \approx 23 km.



Segment horizontal du quadrillage \approx 100 km.

Situation improves in some parts of Kapilvastu; curfew continues

Kantipur Report

KAPILVASTU, Sept 16 - Situation at Taulihawa, Chandrauta and some other affected areas in Kapilvastu district has come under control after the flare-up following murder of a former vigilante leader, the local administration informed.

Security forces conducted aerial survey of the affected area since late afternoon.

The local administrations have not relaxed indefinite curfew in several places of Kapilvastu district, including all major urban centers and the district highway stretch of the East-West highway and Butwal in Rupandehi district and surrounding areas.

Security reinforcement from Dang, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi district has also been arrived in the affected areas in the district.

However, fresh violence has flared up at Bahadurgunj and neighbouring villages, the Kapilvastu district administration informed.

Chief District Officer of Kapilvastu Narendra Dahal said that the curfew would continue until the violence comes under total control.

Two persons, including one Armed Police Force man have been killed in Kapilvastu as violence flares up after murder of former vigilante leader Sunday morning.

The curfew was imposed in Kapilvastu from 1:30 pm after tension in district headquarters Taulihawa and surrounding areas escalated from early morning following the killing of Mohit Khan, former chairman of the district vigilante group set up against the Maoists during the armed conflict.

Two unidentified persons, who came on a motorcycle, had shot dead Khan at Birpur village at around 8:30 am.

There was exchange of fire between the police and the angry locals for half an hour.

Some of the demonstrators claimed that the two involved in Khan's killing were Maoist cadres.

But, late in the evening Home Ministry spokesman Baman Prasad Neupane informed that the assailants are yet to be identified.

He also informed that the police was collecting the details of the losses of life and properties.

The Maoists had imposed a weeklong bandh in the district three months back demanding relocation of a security base camp set up at Khan's brother's house.

The District Administration Office of neighbouring Rupandehi district has also imposed indefinite curfew in Butwal from 2 pm to contain the spreading violence.

One Armed Police Force policeman and one driver were killed in course of the violence in Kapilvastu, the police said. But it has not independently verified it so far.

The irate mob set ablaze at least a dozen vehicles, including two vehicles with Indian registration number and over two dozen houses at Birpur and other affected areas. The angry demonstrators also torched a police van heading towards the incident site. The policemen have just arrived at Birpur.

But, local residents said that casualties could be much higher as scores of houses and vehicles have been raided, vandalized and torched.

Demonstrators also set ablaze a Maoist contact office in Taulihawa.

Near a dozen hotels and shops at the border town of Krishnagar have also been looted during the violent protest, informed CDO Dahal.

Armed groups from Indian side have infiltrated into the protests, they added.

The demonstrators are reportedly targeting Maoist sympathizers and the people of hilly-origin. Some religious sites have also been attacked.

This has increased the chance of communal riot in the area, local administrations have cautioned.

The Home Ministry and leaders of the major political parties have urged the people to maintain communal harmony in the districts.

Posted on: 2007-09-16 07:38:53 (Server Time)

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Murder_of_royalist_leads_to_riots_in_south_Nepal/articleshow/2375089.cms

Murder of royalist leads to riots in south Nepal

17 Sep 2007, 0100 hrs IST, TNN

KATHMANDU: The murder of a local strongman, alleged to have mafia links and backed by the royal regime, triggered raging riots in southern Nepal on Sunday, with two more people feared killed and dozens of houses, hotels and vehicles attacked by mobs.

Mohit Khan, who had run a vigilante group during Gyanendra's government in Kapilavastu district, where 12 Maoists were killed in the second month of the Gyanendra's takeover but was never prosecuted despite campaigns by rights groups, met his nemesis at a market square in the morning when two men riding a motorcycle gunned him down.

Khan was also the father-in-law of controversial minister Mirza Dilshad Beg, who belonged to the royalist Rastriya Prajatantra Party, and was said to have links with the ISI and Dawood Ibrahim, and was also shot dead in the capital in 1998 with his driver.

Despite his unsavoury reputation, Khan had a strong base in the area and earlier this year, the Maoists had called a week-long strike in Kapilavastu, demanding the pullout of the army from its base in Khan's brother's house.

As news of the murder spread, Khan's supporters began rioting, attacking suspected Maoist sympathisers, houses, hotels and passing vehicles. A policeman was also killed by the protesters. There were reports, not immediately confirmed by the government, that a third man was also killed in the violence.

<http://newspostindia.com/report-15356>

Indefinite Curfew In Terai As Nepal Riot Toll Rises (Lead)

MONDAY 17TH OF SEPTEMBER 2007 The death toll in the violence triggered in south Nepal after the murder of a powerful local leader rose to four Monday, resulting in closures by his supporters and an indefinite curfew clamped by the administration.

Shops, markets and educational institutions remained closed and roads were deserted a day after unidentified gunmen shot dead Abdul Moit Khan, father-in-law of late controversial minister Mirza Dilshad Beg, who was alleged to be the front man of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim in Nepal.

Soon after King Gyanendra seized power with the help of the army in 2005, the royal regime had armed Khan to form a vigilante group that began attacks on suspected Maoists.

Though at least 12 people were killed by the vigilantes and rights groups demanded action, no step was taken against Khan, who enjoyed the support of the palace, army and politicians.

Khan's murder, for which his supporters are blaming the Maoists, caused the volatile plains to erupt in violence that soon started taking a sectarian colour.

Mobs set fire to nearly 100 vehicles, looted shops and attacked over three-dozen houses and hotels. They also attacked Maoist offices in Taulihawa, the district headquarters, and blocked the highway.

The violence spread to Butwal town in neighbouring Rupendehi district where retaliatory attacks resulted in two mosques being torched.

There were indications that the attacks were developing into sectarian violence and the administration imposed curfew in the affected areas in Kapilavastu and Butwal.

An Armed Police Force member, Hasan Puri, who was caught in the melee, was beaten to

death along with three more men. While two of the victims were identified Monday as Hiramani Kharel and Dhan Bahadur Thapa, no details were available about the third, said to be a vehicle driver.

Curfew remained in force in parts of Kapilavastu though it was lifted early Monday morning in Butwal. Religious leaders and top political parties called for restraint and said they would lead a goodwill rally in Butwal to ease the situation.

Khan's supporters, who had called an indefinite closure in Kapilavastu, also shut down Nawalparasi district.

The fresh violence comes with a critical election just 65 days away. A fortnight ago, unidentified miscreants set off three bombs in the capital that killed three and injured 26 people.

The Terai plains in south Nepal have become a hotbed of violence, resulting in the death of nearly 150 people this year.

A group of former Maoists, the Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha led by Jwala Singh, has called a two-day Terai shutdown from Sunday to oppose the Nov 22 election and has threatened to start further disruptions.

An ultimatum given by the Maoists to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala also ends Monday.

The rebels, who signed a peace pact and joined the ruling alliance, have warned they would walk out of the government and wage a new revolt if their new demands were not met by Monday.

The major demand of the guerrillas, who fought a 10-year civil war trying to overthrow Nepal's constitutional monarchy, is to have a special session of parliament abolish monarchy ahead of the election.

Though they had earlier agreed to let the election decide the fate of the king, now they have changed their stand, alleging that royalists were trying to sabotage the polls.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/108755.html>

Government calls for calm as toll rises in south Nepal rioting

Posted : Mon, 17 Sep 2007 05:26:07 GMT

Author : DPA

Category : Asia (World)

Kathmandu - The Nepalese government called Monday for calm in south-western Nepal as the death toll from rioting there rose to at least five. Police said two more people died Sunday night after a day of rioting that showed signs the violence might be turning communal.

"Stern action will be taken against individuals or groups involved in anarchic activities with the aim of destabilizing communal harmony," the Home Ministry said in reference to an attack on a mosque in the town of Butwal, about 180 kilometres south-west of Kathmandu.

"Such incidents are part of a conspiracy to derail the country from holding elections, and people should remain vigilant," the ministry said.

The violence flared after unidentified gunmen early Monday shot and killed local politician Mohit Khan, a Muslim who headed the disbanded Maoist retaliation committee set up by the previous Nepalese government during the height of the 10-year Maoist insurgency.

The violence soon spread to neighbouring towns with irate mobs burning dozens of vehicles and shops and looting stores and hotels.

At least two people, including a police officer, died in the initial violence. The situation remained out of government control until late Sunday in several parts of the Kapilvastu district.

A number of towns remained under curfew for a second day Monday, and additional police reinforcements were rushed to the affected areas.

There have been no claims of responsibility in Khan's shooting, but locals said they believed the Maoists were behind the killing.

The Maoists have not commented on the allegations. The Maoists had previously accused Khan of continuing anti-Maoist activities after disbanding the retaliation committee.

Southern Nepal has seen frequent violence since the beginning of the year with rival political groups vying for control of supporters and territory. The violence has left at least 73 people dead.

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=26956>

Riots, curfew hit Kapilvastu life [2007-9-18]

By Our Correspondent

Kapilvastu, Sept. 17: Four people died in the riots by Monday after Sunday's killing of Moit Khan in Kapilvastu. More than 20 others have been injured, two of them seriously.

The situation Monday was somewhat subsided but the local administration has continued the curfew not to let the riot flare up again.

Those who have lost their lives in the clashes were Hiramani Kharel of Ganeshpur, and a 10-year-old boy in Krishnanagar. A driver was also died in the mob violence at Chandrauta of Kapilvastu.

Most of the injured are being treated at Bahadurgunj hospital and two of them Dal Bahadur Thapa and Tul Bahadur Thapa are in serious condition.

According to Chandrauta Area Police Office, the rioters had torched 150 houses of the pahadis (hill people) at Birpur and Bishanpur areas. The people had fled towards the jungles to save their lives at night. Police said they had come in contact with the police Monday morning and they have been given shelter at the Gorusinghe barrack.

The police office said the mobsters after vandalising and torching about 22 vehicles, had looted more than 40 hotels and houses.

Dharma Raj Sunar of the Area Police Office, Chandrauta, additional security forces were airlifted to in the area till late Sunday night. The addition of the security personnel has brought the situation under control, but the local administration fears the resumption of violence if curfew is lifted.

In Krishnanagar, police inspector Kamal Nepal said the situation is under control of the police. The security has been tightened to avert possible clashes.

Chief District Officer of Kapilvastu Narendra Dahal said the curfew will continue for some more time as the situation was still not fully under control.

However, daily life has become troublesome because of the riot and the curfew.

Superintendent at the district police office Shashi Hajur Silwal said no one had yet taken responsibility of the killing. He said the police and administration was evaluating the damages and destruction of the violence and riot.

Meanwhile, the last rites of Khan were performed according to Muslim tradition. Attending the funeral, central member of Nepali Congress Dip Kumar Upadhyaya asked for maintaining harmony. He also visited the riot-affected areas of Chandrauta, Taulihawa and Krishnanagar.

In the meantime, rioters beat up and smashed the camera of photojournalist Radheshyam Verma at Krishnanagar. The rioters also vandalised and burnt more than two dozen vehicles.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/000200709191440.htm>

Riot toll reaches 13 in Nepal

Kathmandu, Sept. 19 (PTI): The death toll during the three days riots that broke following the killing of an anti-Maoist group leader in Nepal rose to 13 today after seven more bodies were recovered in the district, police said.

Curfew was relaxed for four hours today after administration had passed shoot at sight orders in the area for the past three days to control the situation, in southern Nepal town of Kapilvastu near Lord Buddha's birth place.

Property worth millions of rupees was also damaged in the riots that followed the killing of Mohit Khan, a former leader of an anti-Maoist group by an unidentified group, that sparked clash between the Maoists and anti-Maoist groups since Sunday morning.

According to the police, over 100 vehicles were either vandalized or torched and over 300 houses in various places were set ablaze by violent groups.

In Chandrauta Bazaar itself, 85 vehicles were torched. Currently, the situation has calmed down in the area.

Violence continues in Kapilvastu [2007-9-19]

By Our Correspondent

Kapilbastu, Sept. 18: The violence that erupted after the murder of Mohit Khan on Saturday continued Tuesday.

Police said that dead body of Arjun Thathera, 11, was recovered at Krishna Nagar on Monday evening. He died when the roof of his house caved in, police said.

On Tuesday irate crowd torched the houses in Patthardehia, Ganeshpur, Khurkhuria, Bishanpur, Krishnanagar, Birpur and Chunai. The residents of more than 12 villages have left their abodes and arrived at Shivapur.

The security personnel have not reached at the place and a dead body of Dhan Bahadur Thapa was still lying in Khurkhuriaya village until afternoon.

An unidentified group torched three buses and a jeep at Jitpur section of East West Highway at about 10 PM on Monday.

In Chandrauta of Birpur VDC, transport workers and victims of violence defied the curfew orders and torched over six houses. The Armed Police Force fired in the air and baton charged to disperse the crowd.

Regional vice president of Truck Entrepreneurs Federation Dhundi Raj Panta said that the vehicles worth Rs. 600 million were damaged and two transport workers had been missing.

Meanwhile, eight-party meeting held in Taulihawa has decided to distribute relief aid and Rs. 10,000 to each family losing a member in the violence.

The curfew imposed in Taulihawa and Krishnanagar was lifted for five hours during the day, Chief District Officer Narendra Dahal said.

Kapilvastu death toll reaches 14 [2007-9-20]

By Our Correspondent

Kapilvastu, Sept. 19: The death toll in riot that erupted following the death of Abdul Mohit Khan in Kapilvastu reached 14 while at least 30 persons are still unaccounted for.

It was disclosed after a monitoring by the different organisations including of District Administration office, human rights activists and journalists.

Those killed in the three day violent incident are: Shobharam Sunar, 45, of Bishunpur VDC, Hari Basnet, 40, Jhabindra Khanal, 38, Dambar Thapa, 40, Ram Bahadur Thapa, 32, Indra Thapa, 16, Jhunta Kumal, 14, Hiramani Kharel, and Dhan Bahadur Thapa.

The others are an Armed Police Force personnel Hasan Puri, Arjun Thathera, 11, and two, one of them a transport worker, but whose identifications are yet to be ascertained. One of the unidentified was burnt to death.

The condition of most of the more than two dozen injured is normal and they are undergoing treatment at the nearest hospitals and Lumbini Zonal Hospital, according to Chief District Officer Narendra Dahal.

A total of 582 households have been displaced during the arson and vandalism took place in different eight VDCs Patthardeiya, Khurhuriya, Bisanpur and Ganeshpur.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/003200709201523.htm>

Nepal violence: toll rises to 19 as police find more bodies

Kathmandu, Sept. 20 (AP): Police found more than a dozen additional bodies as they reached remote villages in southern Nepal wracked by weekend rioting, bringing the death toll to 19, officials said on Thursday.

Authorities had earlier said only three people were killed in the rioting, which occurred Sunday and left hundreds of people wounded and scores of homes and vehicles damaged.

The violence was the latest to hit southern Nepal, where at least 90 people have been killed this year in unrest as ethnic groups, some of them armed, have held protests and strikes to demand greater rights for their region, which they say has been sidelined in favor of the more populated, mountainous north.

The fighting erupted after gunmen killed a local politician, Mohit Khan, in the Kapilbastu district, said the area's chief administrator, Narendra Dahal. Police were still investigating the outbreak of violence and could not say exactly who was battling whom.

Khan was the longtime head of a militia group that had once fought Nepal's former communist rebels, who last year declared a cease-fire but are widely believed to still be exacting revenge on perceived enemies. The communists, known as the Maoists, denied any involvement in the killing.

The rioting ended after authorities imposed a curfew on the district and officials said three people had been killed. Officers, however, found 16 more bodies Wednesday and Thursday after reaching remote villages in the district, about 300 kilometers (180 miles) southwest of Katmandu, Dahal said.

He added that police might still find more bodies.

The United Nations also said Thursday that it was sending a human rights team to investigate the killings.

News of the killings came days after the Maoists pulled out of the country's interim government, a move that threatened to undermine Nepal's fragile peace process, which had been progressing despite the violence in the south.

The Maoists ended their decade-long insurgency last year after nearly a month of protests across the country forced King Gyanendra to end his royal dictatorship and restore democracy.

They joined the interim government earlier this year and have since pushed hard for the monarchy, which currently holds no power, to be completely abolished and a republic declared.

But the other political parties in the government have said such a decision should be left for a special assembly slated to be elected in November that will rewrite Nepal's constitution.

Unhappy with the situation, the Maoists pulled out of the administration and said they would organize protests and disrupt the election of the special assembly. But their leaders say they have no plans to renew their insurgency.

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=27166>

Kapilvastu toll more: Locals [2007-9-21]

By Our Correspondent

Kapilvastu, Sept. 20: Eighteen people have been confirmed killed in the riots that started at different parts of Kapilvastu after Abdul Moit Khan was shot dead by unidentified persons on September 16.

A team of the representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, human rights activists and journalists that visited the area said that at least 30 others were still missing.

However, local people suspect the number of deaths could be more. The human rights team found severed heads, rotting bodies and some were burnt beyond recognition and buried. Some bodies were also thrown in sugarcane field. The local administration lifted curfew in some Kapilvastu from 6 to 6 during the day but again imposed the ban for the night. But in Chandrauta there is still round the clock curfew.

Two more persons were killed in a clash between two factions at Chandrauta Thursday. Twelve persons, five of them policemen, were injured. The preliminary estimation has put the total damages to physical properties at Rs. 2.5 billion.

Most of those who died are of Bishunpura VDC and more than 40 people in the village are still missing. In Birpur, Chandrauta also at least 12 people, including five women and a five-year-old boy are still missing.

Life in Birpur, Krishnanagar, Chanai, Bishanpur, Shivapur, Patthardehiya, Ganeshpur, Gugauli and others VDCs has still not come to normal. More than 5,000 people in those villages are displaced from their villages and are taking refuge outside the village.

About 3,000 of them are taking refuge in the base camp of the Armed Police Force at Gorusinghe and Chandrauta. According to local people, about 150 Muslim families, who were also displaced, are taking refuge at Jawabhari and about 500 more have crossed over to India.

Today, families of the dead, displaced and the victims of the riot tried to attack parliamentarians Dip Kumar Upadhyaya of NC (D), Dan Bahadur Chaudhary of UML and Ramlotan Chaudhari of CPN-Maoist in Charauta. The irate people said they do not want leaders who cannot protect them. The MPs were saved from people and were taken to the APF base camp. The people also attacked several journalists who had reached there. The journalists were escorted by the APF towards Butwal. The victims said the journalists did not do anything for them. They also obstructed vehicles on the Mahendra Highway. Their grouse was the state has also been treating them as refugee from outside.

More than 500 houses were torched, looted and vandalised and about 5000 people have fled after mobs led by Nagendra Upadhyaya, Niruddin Musalman, Pataraku Kalwar, Raju Dhoni, Munik Mushalman, all supporters of Moit Khan created mayhem at Birpur, Chandrouta and other areas of Kapilvastu. Many of those killed are people of hill origin and local people said there were also cases of rape.

Dozens of people were also injured and they are being treated at Lumbini Zonal Hospital and local clinics, chief district officer Narendra Dahal.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5giqQ5yM16x5AMoPKT5OZBHQFF3oQ>

Violence 'escalating' in southern Nepal

AFP - Sep 21, 2007

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Communal unrest in southern Nepal is worsening and authorities need to act quickly to prevent all-out violence in the ethnically tense region, police and rights activists said Friday.

The unrest in the Indian border district of Kapilvastu erupted after the murder this week of local Muslim politician Mohid Khan, who headed an anti-Maoist vigilante group during Nepal's civil war.

Police said the clashes in the impoverished Terai lowlands had left at least 22 people dead, while Maoists accused the country's embattled monarchy -- which they are trying to oust -- of stirring up the unrest.

"People are being terrorised. The attacks are taking the shape of communal violence," district police deputy superintendent Kuber Kadayat told AFP from the area, around 230 kilometres (145 miles) southwest of Kathmandu.

"The death toll could rise still further as police are yet to reach remote villages where there have been reports of violent clashes in the past few days," said another local official, Narendra Dahal.

News reports said the warring parties in the area had divided along political, religious and ethnic lines.

"There was a tussle between Khan's supporters and Maoists because of past antagonism," the Nepali Times wrote Friday.

It said violence had also broken out between Pahadis, or hill people who have settled in the Terai, and ethnic Mahadhesi natives of the lowlands. The paper said there was also "potential this would turn into a Hindu-Muslim riot."

The leader of Nepal's former rebel Maoists blamed "regressive elements" -- a term used to describe supporters of the embattled monarchy -- for provoking the bloodshed.

"Our party strongly condemns the deliberate conspiracy of regressive and reactionary forces," Prachanda said in a statement calling on "all people including Hindus, Muslims, Mahadhesi (natives) and Pahadis to unite together."

The ultra-leftists quit the government earlier this week and have threatened mass street protests and work stoppages to push for the immediate abolition of the Himalayan nation's monarchy.

Under the terms of last November's peace deal, that issue was supposed to be decided after a popular vote scheduled for November 22 -- which the Maoists have also vowed to disrupt.

"There is a danger that regressive forces are conspiring to mobilise the army by using the communal riots as an excuse," Prachanda claimed.

At least 100 people have been killed in the Terai region this year, clouding a peace deal reached late last year between the government and the Maoists.

Around a dozen armed ethnic groups have emerged who say they are fighting for greater autonomy for the Terai, home to around half of Nepal's 27 million people. They have long been sidelined by Nepal's Pahadi-dominated elite.

The head of a leading local rights group said the situation was a "serious human tragedy."

"The government has not been able to maintain law and order," said Kundan Aryal, general secretary of the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC).

"Both Muslim and Hindu community people have been affected and we think some criminal elements are taking advantage of the situation. There is a danger that communal disturbances could spread in other areas if the government doesn't take prompt action," said Aryal, who visited the area Thursday.

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=27254>

Three fresh deaths in Kapilvastu clashes [2007-9-22]

By Our Correspondent

Kapilvastu, Sept. 21: Three people died and 10 others were injured in a clash between the people of hill-origin and the Muslims at Jagadishpur of Pathardehiya VDC of Kapilvastu.

Those who died are Nairuddin Musalman, 41, Raj Kumar Chaudhary, 38, and Rameshwore Chaudhary, 35, of Ganeshpur VDC.

Of those injured, Shiva Kumar Gupta, a Nepali Congress worker, is in serious condition. He was shot three times. The injured are getting treatment at Lumbini zonal hospital.

Police Superintendent Shahi Hajur Silwal said about 30 persons on motorcycles had first attacked the people of the hill-origin accusing them of kidnapping their people. But the latter retaliated with spear, khukuri and knives killing the three. Five motorcycles were also burnt during the clash. The Armed Police Force had to fire dozens in the air to control the mob.

The victims of the attack handed over a cadre of the Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha to the rights activists demanding for action.

Meanwhile, the victims of the riot in Kapilvastu have complained of not receiving any relief from the government.

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullstory.asp?filename=6a1Pa0sfo2am8&folder=aHaoamW&Name=Home&dtSiteDate=20070923>

Security Forces Sheltering Riot-displaced

THT Online

Dang, September 23

Security forces are providing protection to over 500 persons, who have been displaced from their homes due to violence that erupted in Dang district following the murder of Democratic Madhesi Mukti Morcha president Moin Khan in Balapur of Kapilvastu district last Sunday. The displaced have been kept at the Tulsipur airport, Tulsipur central school and the Lamhi area police office. Nepal Army captain Bikas Khadka said 270 displaced persons were brought to the Tulsipur airport yesterday after rioting and arson broke out. Nepal Army personnel of the 19th brigade are providing them security.

Some 185 persons have been kept at the Lamhi area police office, with police providing them security. The 19th brigade of the NA has also arranged for free check-up, medical treatment and medicines for the injured. Most of the displaced are from riot-hit Chandrauta and Krishnagar of Dang.

Meanwhile, the situation in the district is limping back to normal after three days of widespread rioting and violence in Ghorahi, Lamhi and Tulsipur. Curfew remained in force for the third on Saturday in Tulsipur and Lamhi. No untoward incident was reported in Ghorahi, the district headquarters of Dang. Curfew was relaxed from 3 pm to 5 pm in Lamhi and for a while in Tulsipur also. Vehicles did not ply on the Ghorahi-Tulsipur road.

Dang district president of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists KB Mashal said the FNJ district chapter would organise a door-to-door peace and communal harmony programme in Lamhi and Tulsipur tomorrow.

Muslims displaced, Taxi drivers clash with students

By Kashish | September 2007



A driver checks a damaged taxi in Pulchowk.

September 21, 2007: Ramadan, one of the most important months in the Islamic calendar, is being observed between 13 September and 12 October this year. However, ethnic riots today have forced local authorities to temporarily evacuate the entire Muslim community of Tulsipur, Dang, and relocate them in nearby security forces' camps. The measure was taken after riots targeted at the community flared in this western district yesterday, when several Muslim-owned shops were looted and their homes vandalized. One was even burnt down, and was still smoldering late this evening.

"Tulsipur has never had any ethnic or religious tension in my memory," a long-time resident said, requesting anonymity, "But most of these rioters seem to be from nearby villages, and not our bazaar, and maybe even YCL (Young Communist League) members."

An indefinite curfew in the area has been imposed since late afternoon yesterday. However, a mob of young men defied it this morning and attempted to burn down the local mosque, forcing security forces to blank-fire and disperse the mob. Yesterday a similar mob dragged a man through the bazaar and left him there after he fell unconscious.

The cause of the riot has been understood as a ripple effect of the assassination of Mohit Khan, an influential Muslim member of the community in Kapilvastu, on Sunday. During his years as an armed leader of an anti-Maoist resistance group, Khan's younger brother was killed in an attack on his home by the Maoists. The assassination prompted immediate rampages in Kapilvastu and neighboring Butwal on the same day, resulting in deaths of civilians as well as an Armed Police Force officer. The National Human Rights Commission reported that 119 homes were burnt down and about a total of 500 homes vandalized.

Khan had recently been associated with the Madheshi Democratic Forum, and it has been reported that many rioters and instigators came from the Indian side of the border town.

While Nepalgunj, a predominantly Muslim town, has yet to feel consequences of incidents in Kapilvastu and Dang, “the Muslim community is already very edgy,” a local human rights officer said.

This isn't the first major ethnic riot associated with the Nepali Muslim community in recent years. On 1 September '04, Kathmandu experienced violent attacks against its Muslims from early morning because news had arrived the day before that 11 Nepalis had been killed in Iraq by a radical Islamist group. By late morning, Nepalgunj had been brought to a stand still too and the situation remained tense in most of Nepal's urban centers in the Terai, where the Muslim community makes for a large demography. Curfew had been imposed in Kathmandu and several other volatile regions.

Today, Home Minister Krishna Sitalua has hinted that there are certain groups inciting the unrest for their vested interest. On the other hand, the CPN- Maoists, of which the YCL is a sister organization, has blamed the local authorities for letting the riots get out of hand and blamed “regressive” forces for the unrest.



Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai speaks at a mass meeting.

During a mass meeting in Khula Manch on Tuesday, the radical Communist party declared that they had left the government and was starting another people's uprising. The government's inability to agree to their demands, including declaring a republic Nepal before the elections, was cited as the reason.

“The next three weeks is a trailer and then after that you'll see the full film,” Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, the senior party leader declared. The ‘trailer’ includes street agitation, disruption of activities by the government and the electoral commission and a public relations campaign amongst other ideas. They have also vowed to disrupt the planned Constitutional Assembly election planned for November 22.

While locals confirm the participation of YCL cadres in the Tulsipur riots yesterday, their party cadres in Kathmandu were involved in an incident of their own. Taxi drivers in the city had staged a protest against the government's inability to supply fuel, which has, for the last three months, forced all vehicle owners to wait in line for more than twelve hours to get a limited supply. Though the protesters largely consist of genuine taxi drivers, it is common knowledge that many YCL cadres have now taken up the profession in the city



Police officers move damaged taxis.

Several of them were present at one such street-blocking protest outside the Pulchowk Engineering Campus, where a student was assaulted by a taxi driver. Within seconds, a mass of such drivers were hurling bottles and bricks into the campus. The students inside, who have been historically affiliated with non-Maoist political parties, if any, retaliated with an experienced ease. By the end of the hour-long showdown, five taxis were severely damaged though no injury was reported. “We have called for more party workers,” a YCL cadre had declared early on. “If you are not going to go in then let us go inside and take care of those students,” his colleague later yelled at a police officer trying to diffuse the situation. The police had convinced the students to stop pelting rocks by this time despite the initial obstinacy. The college was, in fact, distributing admission forms, so many would-be students were in the premises during the clash.



Students stay on guard, prepared to re-engage if needed

Back in western Nepal, it is not yet clear when the Muslim residents of Tulsipur can go back home from the camp. The National Human Rights Commission estimates that about 3,000 people have been displaced from Kapilvastu alone. And now, transportation company owners and drivers have threatened a general strike in the region if they are not compensated for the damages done to their vehicles during and since Sunday.

Update:

Kantipur Report

DANG, Sept 22 - The District Administration Office, Dang clamped curfew in Lamahi bazaar and Tulsipur of Dang from 10 am Saturday.

Urging locals to exercise restraint and maintain communal harmony, the district administration prolonged curfew in a bid to avert any untoward incident.

Curfew that was clamped since Thursday was relaxed for two hours this morning.

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=123350>

Victims picket Home Minister in Chandrauta

Kantipur Report

KAPILVASTU, Sept 22 - Infuriated victims of violence in Kapilvastu have picketed the Bindabasini battalion of the Armed Police Force, where Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula reached Saturday after a week of unprecedented riots in the district.

The victims, carrying the carcasses and skeletons of the persons killed in the riots, are shouting slogans against the Home administration.

They have said that they would not let the Home Minister to move out of the battalion until Chief District Officer Narendra Dahal and chief district police officer Shashihajur Silwal are dismissed immediately for failing to act fast to avert huge loss of life and property in the district.

Inside the battalion, Minister Sitaula, leaders of major parties, security officers, human rights activists, media persons and the representatives of the victims are holding discussion on the fallouts of the violence in the district.

Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula is touring Chandrauta Bazaar and other affected places in the riot-torn Kapilvastu district today.

This morning, the victims had stopped the team, which was heading towards the Bindabasini battalion, and complained about their plights.

The Home Minister had reached Taulihawa, the district headquarters, for the first time after violence flared up in the district following killing of a former anti-Maoist leader in the district last Sunday.

Despite some respite in the recent days, Kapilvastu district is yet to come to terms with flare-up of violence that has left at least 31 dead and scores injured.

The curfew remains in place in sensitive areas such as Chandrauta Bazar, Ganeshpur, Birpur, Krishnanagar for the seventh consecutive day.

Normal life has been paralysed since the people are not able to come out of their houses and buy or manage essential commodities.

People are still under the shadows of fear, anxiety, frustration and nervousness and they are regularly complaining about their lost kin.

Communal clashes, robberies and other violent activities are still reported in some villages that are far from urban centers and the highway as security personnel are not readily available there.

Some cross-border criminals also detonated home-made bombs and robbed around one dozen houses in the southern parts of the district including Dohani and Rajpur villages, bordering India last night, said the local residents.

However, Chief District Officer Narendra Dahal claimed that no untoward incidents have been reported in the places and the district was limping back to normalcy.

Posted on: 2007-09-22 01:13:50 (Server Time)

<http://www.irinnews.org/fr/ReportFrench.aspx?ReportId=74482>

NÉPAL: Les affrontements intercommunautaires font plus de 5 000 déplacés dans le sud



Photo: INSEC 

Beaucoup de Pahades ont été déplacés dans le sud-est du Népal

KATMANDOU, 25 septembre 2007 (IRIN) - Les affrontements intercommunautaires qui ont eu lieu la semaine dernière entre Pahades et Madhesis ont fait plus de 5 000 déplacés dans le sud-est du Népal, selon un rapport publié le 24 septembre par le Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC), un forum tripartite d'organisations de défense des droits humains.

L'incident, qui s'est produit dans le district de Kapilavastu, peuplé majoritairement de Madhesis et situé à quelque 285 kilomètres au sud-est de Katmandou, est l'un des plus graves affrontements intercommunautaires qu'ait connus la région de Terai, selon les associations locales de défense des droits

humains.

Les Madhesis sont originaires du Terai, une région de plaines, située dans le sud et le sud-est du Népal, et devenue le grenier et le centre industriel du pays. Les Pahades, pour leur part, sont originaires d'une région de collines et ont migré vers le Terai à la recherche d'emplois. Les tensions interethniques sont fréquentes depuis que de très nombreux Pahades se sont installés au Terai, dans les années 1960, mais le récent incident est le premier affrontement entre les membres de ces deux communautés.

A en croire les associations de défense des droits humains, les actes de violence se sont

intensifiés depuis le 16 septembre, lorsqu'un responsable local de la communauté madhesi a été assassiné par des assaillants non identifiés.

Accusant les Pahades d'être responsables de cet assassinat, des Madhesis ont incendié et pillé leurs maisons et leurs boutiques, ont expliqué les associations.

Selon le HRTMCC, qui a dépêché une mission à Kapilavastu, 18 personnes – des Pahades, pour la plupart – auraient été tuées et des dizaines d'autres blessées ; Environ 50 personnes auraient également été portées disparues et quelque 500 maisons incendiées.

Le gouvernement critiqué

Les populations civiles et les défenseurs des droits humains de la région ont manifesté leur colère devant l'absence de réaction des autorités népalaises, qui n'ont apporté aucune assistance aux centaines de familles déplacées qui manquent de nourriture et d'abris adéquats.

« La situation des familles s'est aggravée et le gouvernement ne leur est pas venu en aide », a expliqué à IRIN, Subodh Pyakhurel, membre d'une association de défense des droits humains.

Selon lui, la police n'a pas ouvert d'enquête pour recueillir des informations précises concernant les maisons détruites et les familles déplacées.

« Le gouvernement devrait immédiatement commencer à réhabiliter les déplacés et demander aux autorités locales de faire preuve de vigilance pour éviter qu'il y ait d'autres victimes », a affirmé Kundan Aryal, membre d'une association de défense des droits humains.

Les victimes

« Nous attendons chaque jour que les autorités gouvernementales et les responsables locaux viennent aider les familles déplacées, mais où sont-ils ? », s'est demandé Rajendra Bikram Shahi, un habitant de Shivagadi, un village du district de Kapilavastu où des milliers de déplacés ont trouvé refuge après avoir fui leurs villages - Pathardehiya, Manpur, Aulaha, Chauha, Sisampari, Bisanpur Farlan, Katuwa, Tharuli et Khuruhuriya.

Les familles déplacées ont expliqué comment elles avaient réussi à échapper à la mort, contrairement à leurs parents qui ont été massacrés par les Madhesis.

« Près de 60 Madhesis nous ont attaqués et ont incendié notre maison ; nous n'avons même pas pu sauver nos biens et notre argent. Ils ont tué les membres de ma famille », a dit Bhuma Thapa, qui a affirmé avoir perdu trois membres de sa famille au cours de cette attaque.

D'après un rapport du HRTMCC, sur les 5 000 personnes déplacées, près de 4 300 Pahades ont été installés dans des écoles, des camps militaires ou des terrains vagues.

Des Madhesis se réfugient en Inde

Néanmoins, d'après certains défenseurs des droits humains, de nombreuses familles madhesis - musulmanes, pour la plupart - ont aussi été déplacées au cours d'attaques perpétrées par des Pahades qui voulaient venger les membres de leur communauté tués la semaine dernière. Des centaines de familles madhesis ont ainsi fui en Inde par crainte de nouvelles représailles.

« Malgré le couvre-feu en vigueur à Kapilavastu, l'harmonie entre les communautés est compromise. Les affrontements entre les [deux] communautés n'ont pas cessé, même actuellement », note le rapport.

Entre-temps, les autorités népalaises ont indiqué qu'elles prendraient des mesures disciplinaires à l'encontre des responsables de la sécurité, qui n'ont pas su prévenir les affrontements entre les deux communautés et les déplacements qu'ils ont provoqués.

« Le gouvernement regrette cet incident. Nous allons fournir immédiatement une assistance humanitaire et une indemnisation aux familles déplacées et nous les aiderons à retourner dans leur village. C'est notre première priorité », a déclaré Krishna Prasad Sitaula, le ministre népalais de l'Intérieur, qui a rejeté les allégations selon lesquelles le gouvernement était resté insensible à la situation.

nn/at/ar/cb/ads/nh/ail



Photo: [INSEC](#) 

De nombreux membres de la communauté madhesi ont aussi souffert des attaques de groupes pahades

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=27573>

Legal action against 13 guilty of riot

[2007-9-27]

By Our Correspondent

Kapilvastu, Sept. 26: The Area Police Office in Chandrauta has found 13 out of the 37 arrested as guilty of the riot that started on September 30. Legal actions have been initiated against them, said inspector at the police office Dharma Raj Sunar.

But in Krishnanagar, inspector at the local police office Kamal Nepal said police is finding it difficult to make arrests in the area, as there have been no complaints registered.

None of the non-Madhesis staffs in the offices of Krishnanagar have returned to work even after 10 days of the riot. The internal revenue office, customs office are currently manned by

just three guards Some staff have gone to Butwal, some fled to India and some escaped the riot and gone home in other parts.

Meanwhile, the Home Ministry has provided Rs. 6.05 million to the Kapilvastu district administration office for relief to the victims of violence, killing, arson in Kapilvastu district.

Official at the Kapilvastu District Administration Office Megh Nath Upadhyaya said that the DAO had sent the Bidhyabasini battalion Chandrauta Rs. 2.4 million for relief works, but only Rs. 400,000 has been distributed so far. However, chief at the battalion said the distribution of relief was facing problem because the people are still angry with the administration.

In the meantime, the district administration has been relaxing the curfew after the situation is gradually eased up. The curfew was relaxed from 7 am to 3 pm in and around Chandrauta and curfew was relaxed from 6 am to 8 pm in Krishnanagar and Taulihawa areas.

Acting Chief District Officer Beni Madhav Gyanwali said the relaxation would be furthered up with the situation coming to normalcy. Similarly, the Nepal Electricity Authority has removed the two-hour loadshedding on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Chief at the NEA's branch in Taulihawa said that there would be no load shedding in the district until the situation becomes totally normal.

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=124373>

Kapilvastu bandh enters day three

Kantipur Report

KAPILVASTU, Oct 2 - The bandh called by the riot victims in Kapilvastu has affected the normal life in the district on the third consecutive day.

Locals and riots victims had called the general strike called to draw the government's attention to investigate the violent incidents, take actions against the culprits and provide relief to the victims.

The protesters have been obstructing the district stretch of the Mahendra Highway since Sunday. The general strike has forced the markets and institutions opened after the violence receded to shut down again.

On Monday, the cabinet meeting announced a compensation of Rs 10,000 each to all of the victims whose shops were set ablaze in the Kapilvastu violence. A minister had also informed that the judicial committee formed a week ago to probe the violent incidents has not been able to go to the sites due to some "practical problems". The judicial commission formed by the government two weeks ago to probe into the riots was scheduled to visit the riot-hit areas soon.

At least 31 persons were killed, thousands of people were rendered homeless, and hundreds of houses and buses were torched in the violence that erupted in the district following the murder of a local political leader Mohid Khan, who was also the Chairman of an anti-Maoist group formed during royal regime, on September 16.

Posted on: 2007-10-02 08:20:41 (Server Time)

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?nid=124467>

Kapilvastu riot victims call off highway banda, continue other protests

Kantipur Report

KATHMANDU, Oct 3 - Traffic on the east-west Mahendra Highway resumed Wednesday as Kapilvastu riots victims agreed to call of their highway banda.

However, the riot victims said that they would continue their other protest programmes until their demands were met.

The highway has been reopened till October 10, said Keshav Pandey, coordinator of the struggle committee, adding, all other protest programmes, however, will be continued till the demands are met.

The judicial committee formed by the government to probe the incident has reached the most affected Chadrauta area today.

In a meeting held today, the committee convinced the victims to call off their protest programmes including the highway banda. The meeting was attended by representatives of the political parties, local administration and locals.

The general strike had grounded all the vehicles plying across Chandrauta in the the Mahendra Highway.

Posted on: 2007-10-03 09:01:03 (Server Time)

<http://www.zeenews.com/znnew/articles.asp?aid=399632&sid=SAS&sname=&news=UNICEF%20to%20feed%20people%20in%20violence-affected%20Terai%20region>

UNICEF to feed people in violence-affected Terai region

Kathmandu, Oct 07: The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has pledged to provide food and essential goods to about 5,000 people in southern Nepal districts who have been displaced due to the recent communal violence and riot resulting from the death of the chief of the anti-maoist retaliation committee.

At least 31 people have been killed, hundreds of houses and vehicles were burnt and thousands of people have been displaced due to the violence that affected the Terai region last month.

Hundreds of people are still forced to sleep in the ground under open sky due to the violence. Not only houses, and vehicles but also schools, shops and temples were burnt during the

violence, UNICEF said.

The United Nations is still investigating the incident and monitoring the human rights situation in the area. UNICEF has already made available more than 70 metric tones of food grains in Kapilvastu and Dang districts, the most affected districts.

Other materials such as clothes, kitchen utensils and health materials were also sent to these districts, the UN agency said and added that thousands of displaced people have flown to neighbouring India and most of them have already returned home after the situation returned to normal.

Bureau Report 78 more arrested in Myanmar despite global protests Yangon, Oct 07: A relentless crackdown on Myanmar's pro-democracy activists showed no sign of easing with the Junta announcing that 78 more people have been detained in spite of global outrage and new sanctions. The latest arrests, reported by a state-run newspaper, brought to nearly 1,000 the number of people the military regime acknowledges holding in detention centers. In addition, it says 135 Buddhist monks remain in custody.

But dissident groups and foreign governments say more than 6,000 people have been locked up after last month's protests, the biggest in nearly two decades against 45 years of brutal military rule.

Soldiers opened fire on demonstrators, who were led by monks, on September 26 and 27, bringing to an abrupt end all resistance. The government says 10 people, including a Japanese photographer, were killed in the violence.

However, other independent sources including foreign governments say the toll is likely to run into the hundreds. The state-run newspaper, a mouthpiece of the Junta, quoted investigators as saying 78 more people "who were involved in the protest" were being questioned. It did not say when they were detained.

These were in addition to 2,093 people who were detained earlier, of which 1,215 were released yesterday, the paper said. Authorities also took in 533 monks for questioning "to differentiate between real monks and bogus monks."

"Out of those taken, 398 monks have been sent back to their respective monasteries," it said.

Protesters across the world are demonstrating against Myanmar's bloody crackdown on dissent, with thousands gathering in London and there are smaller actions in Sydney, Stockholm, Bangkok, Paris and elsewhere.

Bureau Report

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=28394>

Govt distributes urgent relief to Kapilvastu victims [2007-10-10]

RSS

Kapilvastu, Oct. 9: The government has distributed Rs. 3,815,000 as immediate relief to the families of the people who died in and the families that were affected by the vandalism,

looting and arson attacks that took place in course of the Kapilvastu incident on September 16.

Hundreds of people were displaced as a violent and irate mob went on a rampage and started killing people, torching houses, and damaging property and carried out looting in the rural areas in course of the riots that flared up following the murder of local leader Abdul Mohid Khan.

The District Administration Office, Kapilvastu stated that the government provided cash as immediate relief to the families of the people killed in the incident for performing the last rites and to the families whose houses and property have been damaged in the riots.

According to instructions received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Rs. 10,000 was provided as relief assistance to the families of the people killed and whose houses were completely damaged in the violence while Rs. 5,000 per family was given to families whose houses were looted.

The families of 13 out of the 14 people certified by the local administration as having been murdered in the rioting have received the immediate relief.

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?nid=127320>

Riot-affected entrepreneurs call indefinite Kapilvastu banda

Kantipur Report

KAPILVASTU, Nov 3 - The entrepreneurs in Kapilvastu who were victimised in course of the deadly riots in the district have called an indefinite district banda starting Saturday, stating the government has not provide proper compensation to them.

The impact of the general strike has been felt the most in Krishna Nagar, Chandrauta Bazar and the East West Highway stretch of the district.

The general strike was called as the relief package of Rs 20 million pledged by the government to the victims do not match losses worth billions they incurred, said the banda protestors.

Keshav Pandey of the Victims Struggle Committee said that the compensation of 5000- 25000 rupees to the victims of the riots recommended by the government's judicial probe panel riots was not equitable.

Scores of vehicles planning to go through the district stretch of the highway are stranded in Butwal in the east and border of Dang and Kapilvastu districts in the west. The police had escorted dozens of vehicles stranded at Goringhe area to their respective destinations on Friday night.

However, the police have not provided security along the highway today.

The agitating entrepreneurs have obstructed the highway by felling trees and gathering stones at different places.

At least 31 persons were killed, thousands of people were rendered homeless, and hundreds of houses and buses were torched in the violence that erupted in the district following the murder of a local political leader Mohid Khan, who was also the Chairman of an anti-Maoist group formed during royal regime, on September 16.

Posted on: 2007-11-03 02:19:10 (Server Time)

<http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2007/nov/nov03/news09.php>

Riot victims announce indefinite bandh in Kapilvastu

Victims of the deadly riots that engulfed Kapilvastu district six weeks earlier have announced indefinite bandh (shutdown strike) in the district from Saturday demanding compensation, resettlement of displaced families and legal action against the rioters.

The bandh has badly affected normal life as marketplaces and transport service remain closed throughout the district.

The protesting riot victims have accused the government of failing to fulfill its commitment to properly compensate the families of those killed during the riots, and resettle the displaced families. They have also demanded that the government declare the dead as martyrs.

The riot victims had gheraoed the Ilaka Police Office in Chandrauta, the flashpoint of the mid-September riots, and submitted a memo that warned of renewed protest against government's inaction.

They had agreed to put their protests on hold twice in the past after requests from the government.

Nearly 20 people lost their lives and hundreds of families were displaced in the riots that erupted after the killing of Moid Khan, the leader of a formerly active anti-Maoist resistance group, on Sept 16. Study reports say property worth over 500 million rupees was looted and destroyed during the riots. nepalnews.com mk Nov 03 07

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=127419>

Kapilvastu riot victims call off indefinite banda

Kantipur Report

KAPILVASTU, Nov 4 - The local businessmen have called off the indefinite Kapilvastu banda Sunday after an agreement was reached between the Kapilvastu riot victims, local administration and representatives of seven political parties of the district Saturday evening. The local businessmen Saturday called indefinite Kapilvastu district bandh accusing the government of not providing enough compensation to the Kapilvastu riot victims.

The banda was called off for a few days as Tihar was around the corner, said Keshav Pandey, the Chairman of the Kapilvastu riot victims' struggle committee.

The agreement, reached during the meeting between the agitating group, local administration and representatives of the seven political parties, include severe action against those involved in the riots, declaring those killed in the riots as martyrs, immediate release of additional Rs 75,000 to the families of the riot victims and making arrangements to grant loans on lower interest to them.

It was also agreed that the local political parties and the administration would initiate efforts to ensure that the victims' families get compensation amount worth one million rupees. The government had already provided Rs. 25000 to the families of the dead.

The bandh had affected normal life in Krishnanagar and Chandrauta and surrounding areas yesterday while hundred of commuters were stranded as transportation in the East-West highway was also affected.

Transportation resumed today.

At least 31 persons were killed, hundreds of houses and vehicles were torched and thousands were displaced in the violence that broke out in the district on September 16, following the murder of a local political leader, Mohid Khan, also the former chief of an anti-Maoist group formed during the King's direct rule.

Posted on: 2007-11-04 01:28:43 (Server Time)