

4 shot dead in Myanmar anti-coup protests 8 hurt in bomb blast in Nepal

AP ■ YANGON

At least four people were shot dead during protests in Myanmar on Sunday, as security forces continued their violent crackdown against dissent following last month's military coup.

Two of the victims were killed in Yangon, the country's largest city. One of them was shot in the head and another was shot in the abdomen, according to local media covering the demonstrations in Hlaing Thar Yar Township.

A third person died in the northern city of Hpakant when police fired into a crowd of demonstrators, local media reported. A fourth victim, a woman, died after being shot in the head in Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, as security forces were conducting clearance operations.

In Yangon, video posted on

social media showed crowds of people, some wearing hard hats and gas masks, running down a street amid sounds of gunfire. The demonstrators quickly sprayed vapor from fire extinguishers as they retreated.

The use of fire extinguishers - common now in protests across Myanmar - is intended to smother tear gas and also create a vapor screen that makes it harder for police to pursue or shoot demonstrators.

There were also reports of injuries from live rounds and rubber bullets in other parts of Yangon, including Insein district, where billows of black smoke could be seen after security forces reportedly set roadblocks on fire.

On Saturday, the civilian leader of Myanmar's government in hiding vowed to continue supporting a "revolution" to oust the military leaders who seized power in the



An anti-coup protester raises his hand with clenched fist in front of a crowd during a candlelight night rally in Yangon, Myanmar on Sunday. AP

February 1 coup. Mahn Win Khaing Than, who was named the acting vice president by Myanmar's ousted lawmakers and is a member of deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi's political party, addressed the public for the first time since the coup.

"This is the darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close," he said in a video posted on the

shadow government's website and social media.

"In order to form a federal democracy, which all ethnic brothers who have been suffering various kinds of oppres-

sions from the dictatorship for decades really desired, this revolution is the chance for us to put our efforts together," he said.

He added: "We will never give up to an unjust military, but we will carve our future together with our united power. Our mission must be accomplished."

At the end of the message, he flashed the three-finger salute that has become a symbol of resistance to the military rulers.

Also Saturday, security forces again opened fire on demonstrators, killing four in Mandalay, two in Pyay in south-central Myanmar, and one in Twante, a suburb of Yangon. Details of all seven deaths were posted on multiple social media accounts, with some accompanied by photos of the victims.

The actual death toll is likely to be higher, as police apparently seized some bodies, and some of the victims suffered serious gunshot wounds that doctors and nurses working at makeshift clinics would be hard-pressed to treat.

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

At least eight persons were injured on Sunday when a "pressure cooker bomb" exploded at a crowded Government office in Siraha district's Lahan in south-eastern Nepal, according to media reports.

The pressure cooker bomb exploded on the first floor of the Land Revenue Office at 12.40 pm, Assistant Chief District Officer Krishna Kumar Niraula was quoted as saying by *The Kathmandu Post* newspaper.

Eight employees - five men and three women - of the land revenue department were injured in the blast, the paper said.

"Three of the critically injured are undergoing treatment at Saptarishi Hospital, Lahan while the others are admitted at Lahan Hospital," said DSP Tapan Dahal.

Meanwhile, police said that they have recovered pamphlets

Eight employees — five men and three women — of the land revenue department were injured in the blast

published by the Janatantrik Tarai Mukti Morcha (Revolutionary), an armed outfit led by Jaya Krishna Goit, from the blast site, *My Republica* newspaper reported.

According to police, several pieces of pamphlets were found from the blast site but it is hard to read what is written on them.

"We can, however, see the signature of Jaya Krishna Goit," a police officer said.

Police has been investigating the case.

The Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha is a group agitating for greater political and economic rights for the people of the Terai plains bordering India. PTI

Myanmar civilian leader vows 'revolution' against junta

Mandalay: The civilian leader of Myanmar's Government in hiding vowed to continue supporting a "revolution" to oust the military that seized power in last month's coup, as security forces again met protesters with lethal forces, killing at least seven.

Mahn Win Khaing Than, who was named the acting vice president by Myanmar's ousted lawmakers and is a member of deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party, addressed the public on Saturday for the first time since the February 1 military takeover.

"This is the darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close," he said in a video posted on the shadow government's website and social media.

"In order to form a federal democracy, which all ethnic

brothers who have been suffering various kinds of oppressions from the dictatorship for decades really desired, this revolution is the chance for us to put our efforts together," he said.

He added: "We will never give up to an unjust military but we will carve our future together with our united power. Our mission must be accomplished."

At the end of the message he flashed a three-finger salute that has become a symbol of resistance to the military rule.

Earlier Saturday, security forces opened fire at demonstrators, killing four in Mandalay, the second biggest city, two in Pyay in south-central Myanmar, and one in Twante, a suburb of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city. Details of all seven deaths were posted on multiple social media

accounts, some accompanied by photos of the victims.

The actual death toll is likely to be higher, as police apparently seized some bodies, and some of the victims suffered serious gunshot wounds that doctors and nurses working at makeshift clinics will be hard-pressed to treat. Many hospitals are occupied by security forces, and as a result are boycotted by medical personnel and shunned by protesters.

The independent UN human rights expert for Myanmar, Tom Andrews, said last week that credible reports indicated at least 70 people had died so far, and cited growing evidence of crimes against humanity by the military.

Other unofficial but carefully compiled tallies put the number of deaths since the coup at around 90. AP

For Biden, there's no place like a weekend home in Delaware

Wilmington: As he stood in the Rose Garden celebrating his first big legislative win, President Joe Biden gestured to the White House and said it's a "magnificent building" to live in. Except on weekends.

Of the eight weekends since Biden took office, he has spent three at his longtime home outside Wilmington, Delaware, including this weekend. Tentative plans for another weekend visit were scrubbed due to Senate action on Biden's USD 1.9 trillion coronavirus relief plan.

Biden also spent a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland.

Many presidents have complained at one point or another about feeling confined in the

White House. Biden already has echoed earlier presidents in comparing the experience to living in a "gilded cage."

So trading the 132-room executive mansion for a less confining, more relaxing weekend hangout can help presidents unwind, said University of Chicago political scientist William Howell.

"What he wanted to be was president," Howell said. "It is not the White House per se that is the draw."

The White House defends Biden's leisure travel at a time when both he and federal health officials have been pleading with the public to take the coronavirus pandemic seriously, including by avoiding unnecessary travel.

"The president lives in Wilmington. It's his home. That's where he's lived for many, many years," press secretary Jen Psaki said recently.

"And as you know, as any president of the United States does, he takes a private airplane called Air Force One to travel there." "I think most Americans would also see that as a unique circumstance," she said of the government aircraft available to Biden.

No president travels alone, though, no matter how private the plane.

It requires that lots of other people travel as well. And the costs mount quickly.

Besides the Air Force flight crew, a president's travel party includes Secret Service agents,

White House staff, journalists and family.

Depending on the destination and purpose of the trip, lawmakers, Cabinet secretaries or other guests may fly with the president.

Biden occasionally brought some of his six grandchildren on trips when he was vice president, as well as during last year's presidential campaign.

Presidential travel doesn't come cheap.

Federal agencies spent an estimated \$13.6 million on four trips that then-President Donald Trump took to his waterfront Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, in February and March of 2017, the Government Accountability Office reported

in 2019.

The figure includes USD 10.6 million to operate government aircraft and boats, and USD 3 million for transportation, lodging, meals and other expenses for government personnel supporting the president on the road, the report said.

But not all presidential travel is the same.

Trump took the more familiar version of Air Force One, a modified 747, on the two-hour-plus flight to the commercial airport in West Palm Beach, Florida. Biden has flown a smaller version of the aircraft for the roughly half-hour flight to the Delaware Air National Guard Base. AP

Rashtriya Lokneeti Party will bring forward new thinking and leadership in a new perspective

New Delhi: Pandiya Rashtriya Lokneeti Party started for the reconstruction of the nation. Rashtriya Lokneeti Party will bring forward new thinking and leadership in a new perspective. Today we envisage a society and nation where even the last person of the society realizes that he also has an important role and stake in every development of the country. The euphoria of democracy and the emancipation of its sweat in the upliftment of the nation, only then the Ram-state of Lokshahi will be established in the true sense. A society that guarantees respect for elders, protection of women and golden future of navigators with transparent leadership, modern technology and noble intentions was to said Deepak Pandiya, Rashtriya Lokneeti Party's Convener. He said that where the government is not in the ego of the donor and the public as the petitioner, But the government should discharge its responsibility and ensure that all the necessary facilities are available to the doorstep of every citizen. On the occasion of the launch of the Rashtriya Lokneeti Party, the national officials of the Rashtriya Lokneeti Party were unanimously selected, including Brigadier B.



K. Khanna as Chief Convener, Deepak Pandia Convener Admin, renowned financial expert and former Sr. Public sector banker Sh. M.K. Sharma as Convener Finance, Dr. L. C. Sharma was appointed as Mentor and Renu Negi as Convener Media Relations. The party's National Advisory Board includes renowned Election Technology provider

AWAAZ's Managing Editor J. P. Singh, Sr. Media Correspondent and Ex Director ALL INDIA CONSUMER COUNCIL Sh. Alok Kumar, IAS Retired Gautam Marwah, Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi and Brigadier Vinod Dutta. Brigadier Khanna is an international personality, he has rendered his services to the country by staying in the army. M. K. Sharma said that

today's conditions have changed so much that all areas including education, health, administration, agriculture, industry, including individuals, family, society, have become completely new and different. In such a situation, politics based on our age-old administrative structure has proved completely meaningless. The aim of our party is to bring door to door services

with new reforms in Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and all other divisions so that people can function with 100 percent capacity in their services, employing 15 people from the same area in each Panchayat. Those who will provide every service at home, uniform arrangements, fee structure and other facilities in government and private schools are also to be made equal. It

is a big truth that India is the largest democratic republic in the world, which we are also proud of. But a country should be considered democratic only when there is good governance established through democracy, otherwise it would be a daydream. J. P. Singh said that if the system is changing then why should we not change, along with the leaders, the rating of citizens

should also be fixed, when other countries can do it, why should we not. The party's agenda is absolutely right, it is going to set a new direction. He gave the example of Prashant Manti Bhartoya Janaushdhi Pariyojana which is lacking mass acceptance in the country due to doctors not prescribing Generic drugs due to large multinational drug companies mafia like

hold and inducements prevalent through their system. This is gross violation of Supreme Court directions to Medical Council of India, the regulator of doctor's practicing certificate. JP Singh further stressed on the usage of IT and artificial intelligence methods to be implemented right from the beginning as effective utilization of data which is already existing with the govt.