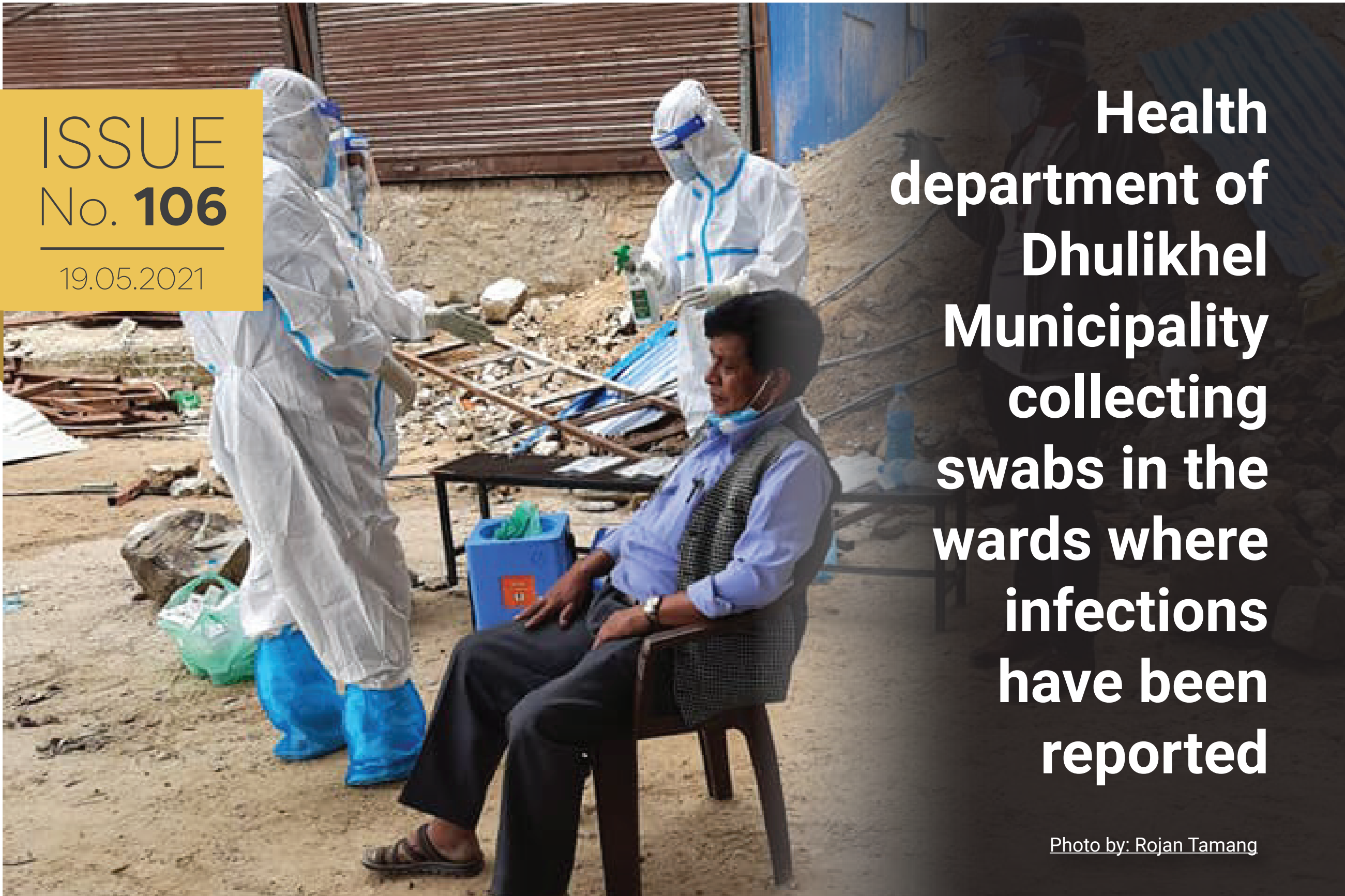


ISSUE
No. **106**

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Health department of Dhulikhel Municipality collecting swabs in the wards where infections have been reported

Photo by: Rojan Tamang

IN THIS ISSUE

Scenario of violence against women and children during the pandemic

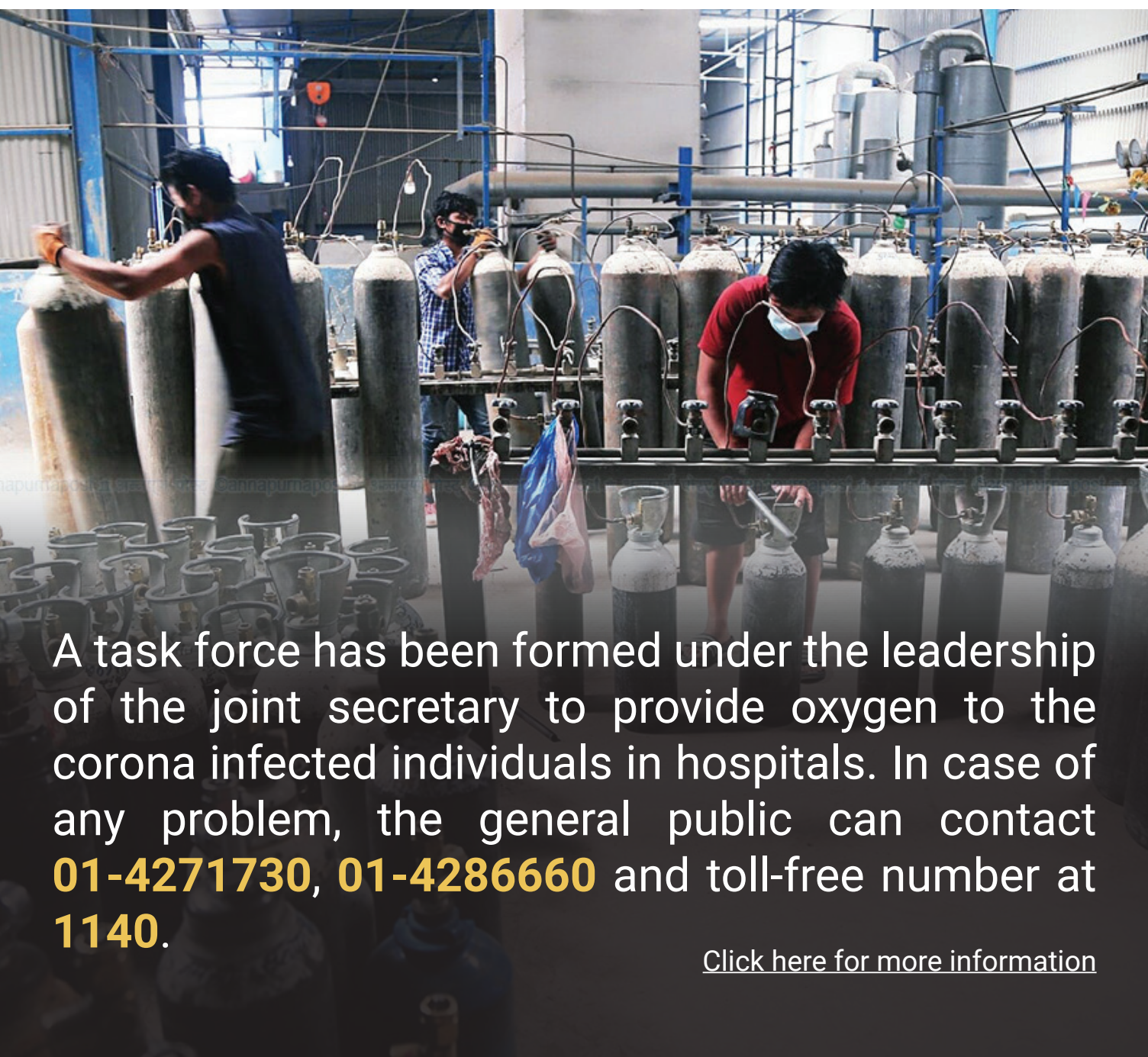
The number of suicide cases is about 30 times higher than the number of deaths due to COVID-19.

Online form can be filled out for vaccine against COVID

The government introduced this facility hoping to make the vaccination process easier as per the received details after the availability of vaccines.

Campaigners help the critically ill COVID patients to breathe

A doctor who couldn't manage oxygen for the treatment of his own mother appealed to this group.



A task force has been formed under the leadership of the joint secretary to provide oxygen to the corona infected individuals in hospitals. In case of any problem, the general public can contact **01-4271730, 01-4286660** and toll-free number at **1140**.

[Click here for more information](#)

FACT SHEET

Violence and suicide rates accelerated during the 1st lockdown. Will this tragedy repeat again?

Incidents of violence against women and children recorded during the time of the first lockdown between 24th March 2020 to 25th July 2020.



Rape
717



Attempt
to rape
199



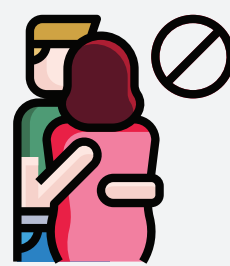
Polygamy
122



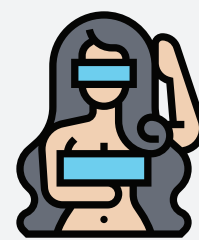
Child
marriage
17



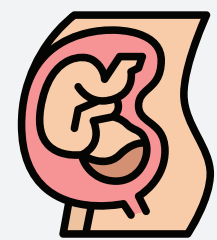
Child sexual
abuse
79



Unnatural
sex
14



Witchcraft
blaming
10



Abortion
9



Untouchability
7



Domestic
Violence
1931



Suicide
1343

Total cases:
4448

The above statistics show that there were a total of 4448 incidents of crime against women, children, and senior citizens during the span of lockdown enforced by the government from the 24th of March to the 25th of July in 2020. Of these, 1343 cases were suicide cases. During the same period, the number of deaths due to Covid-19 was 45. These statistics are based only on incidents registered in Nepal Police. Currently, the majority of the districts are facing a prohibitory order. There is a strong possibility that such incidents will reoccur. **In just 13 days (between 28th April to 11 May 2021), 22 cases of domestic violence and 10 cases of violence against women have been registered in National Women Commission.** Therefore, it is equally important to pay attention to the violence against women, children, and senior citizens while making decisions to combat the ongoing pandemic.

Source: <https://cid.nepalpolice.gov.np/index.php/cid-wings/women-children-service-directorate>

RUMOURS & FACTS



It is heard that the government has opened an application form to vaccinate against COVID? When will the vaccination start?

The Ministry of Health and Population has urged individuals aged 18 and above to fill an online application form for the first dose of vaccine against COVID-19. The details can be filled in the following link: www.vaccine.mohp.gov.np. Getting vaccinated isn't ensured as soon as the form is filled. However, the government has arranged for this facility hoping to make the vaccination process easier as per the received details after the availability of vaccines.

Source: <https://vaccine.mohp.gov.np/>



The individuals who have received the first dose of Verocell (Chinese) vaccine will be vaccinated again from 10 am to 4 pm at the nearest ward vaccination centers from May 16 to May 26. In view of the current prohibition order, the individuals receiving vaccines are required to go to the vaccination centers with the vaccination card based on the date of the first dose of vaccination. Click the link below to see the date-wise vaccination schedule.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/ibVWVEk>

It is said that the individuals who had received the first dose of the Chinese vaccine are receiving the second dose. But, there is also a lockdown in place. Where, how, and when will they receive the vaccine?



It is heard that only transactions over 50,000 are accepted in the bank now. Isn't it possible for those with small amounts to withdraw and deposit?

Considering the risk in the current situation, the Bankers Association has set some criteria to avoid overcrowding in the banks. According to it, the amount in an account can be withdrawn as per general requirement, but for a deposit, the amount should be above Rs. 50,000. Meanwhile, ATM, amount transfer (cheque, IPD, RGT), remittance, international trade-related transactions will continue as usual.

Source: <http://nepalbankers.com.np/press-release-30-baishak-2078/>

Government's COVID Response

PLAN VS IMPLEMENTATION

What is actually killing us? The virus? Or **corruption, lack of efficiency** and **honest leadership**?



May 5

Press release to be issued **every day at 5 pm** detailing the progress of the implementation of orders and directives issued by the Government for the prevention, control, and treatment of COVID-19



May 5

Arrangements to be made at the local level for **daily disinfection**

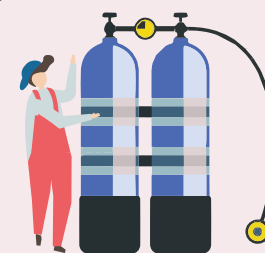


Arrangements to be made to **monitor the oxygen industry** across the country and **operate them at full capacity**

May 6

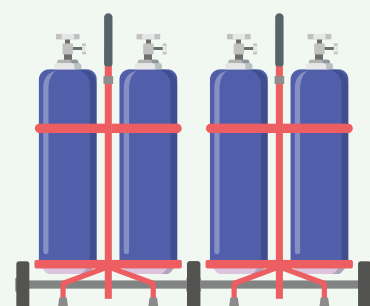
May 6

Provide **real-time** details on the **capacity and availability of beds** in COVID hospitals through the website for the public to be able to immediately take patients to the appropriate hospital



May 7

Bring the **oxygen plants** in the hospitals into operation with necessary **maintenance**



May 14

Bring the first batch of **oxygen cylinders** of the total 20,000 being received as a grant from the Chinese government (400 received).



Not Implemented



Partially Implemented



Implemented

The Government started making immediate plans to fight COVID-19 as soon as the 2nd wave hit Nepal. But, the delay in implementation and a lack of measurable impact is causing frustration among the public. From the 6 plans made above, only 1 has been implemented. The lack of accountability in implementing own's plans or negligence in management to implement said plans increases the hardships faced by citizens on a daily basis. Even the information made public on monitoring the oxygen industry and bed availability in hospitals is not on a real-time basis. Also, the majority of citizens are still unaware of the information furthering casualties among the public. Is it enough to just make plans while being negligent in implementation? Is monitoring without an outcome sufficient? Have these plans helped the Nepali people fight the Coronavirus yet?

More restrictions for Nepalis in the Middle-East

UAE

- From June 1, the passengers coming from the green zone aren't required to stay in quarantine in Abu Dhabi. The green zone will be updated every week. Currently, Nepal isn't included in the green zone. Apart from its citizens and members of the diplomatic missions, the passengers from Nepal and four other countries have been barred.
- In Dubai, Al-Rafa police have arrested 24 beggars who had been begging on the side of the street and near Masjid. There is a fine of 5,000 dirhams and three months imprisonment for anyone who is seen begging on the streets.

Oman

- With the end of the night curfew, other restrictions are lightening in Oman as well. Bus services are coming into operation. Restaurants and cafes will operate at 50% capacity. However, gym centers, party halls and swimming pools have been closed until further notice.
- With the help of Nepalis from the Middle East combined with the effort of NRN, 560 oxygen cylinders were delivered to Nepal on May 15 after raising the amount of Rs. 10,720,000.



Kuwait:

- Kuwait will allow 1,000 migrants to return to Kuwait per day from May 22. However, direct flights from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are prohibited.
- A quick COVID booth is being set up at Kuwait Airport.
- In 2020 alone, the work permits of 447,000 individuals have been revoked.

Saudi Arabia

- From May 17, all checkpoints will be opened following the criteria against COVID and the arrival will be made easier.
- All the hotels and restaurants will be opened from May 17. However, the workers have to undergo a PCR test every 7 days and carry the negative report with them.

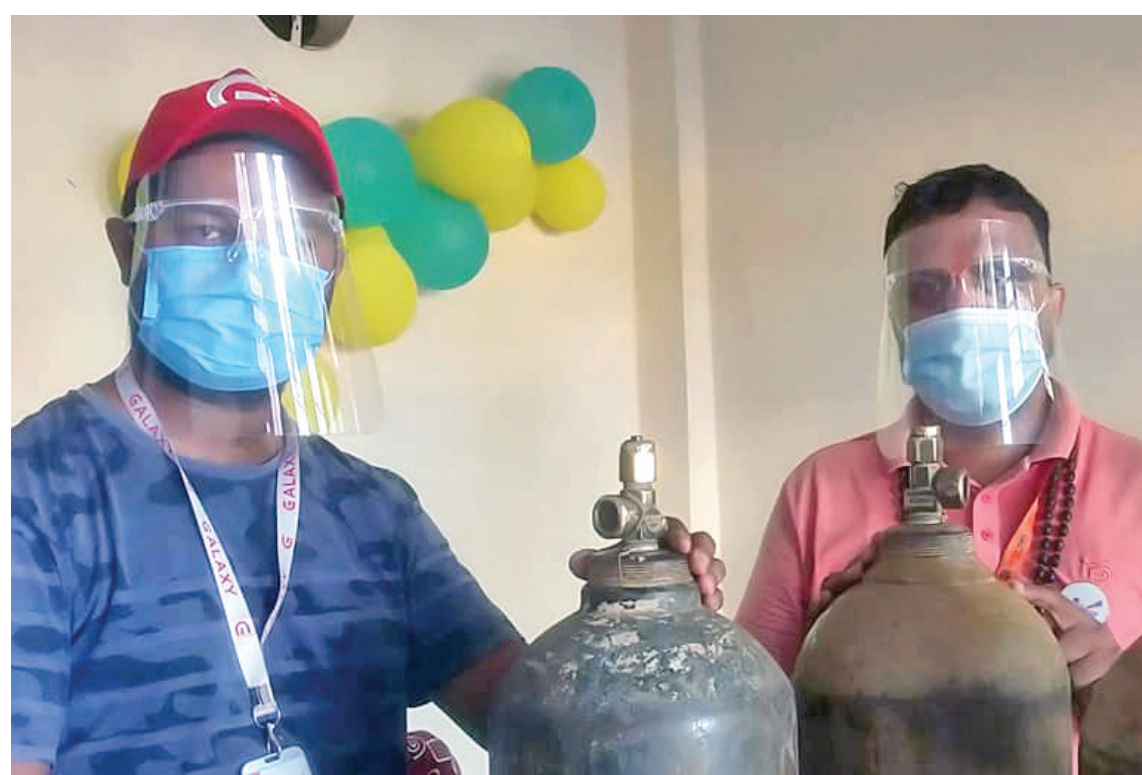
You can listen to our Facebook live at www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjala every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening UAE time (8: 00 PM), Kuwait (7: 00 PM) and Malaysia (12 Midnight).



GROUND NARRATIVES

The ones who works day and night to arrange oxygen for the sick

Sushil KC was admitted to the provincial hospital at Surkhet, due to COVID. After being discharged from the hospital he wrote in one of the messenger groups, "There is a problem of food for the COVID patients admitted in the province hospital. Is there anything that we can do to address this?" In the same group, he committed to contributing Rs. 2000 for the cause. Sudip Puri, the vice-chair of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, Surkhet, committed Rs.1,000. In this way, they collected Rs. 7000. Then the youths of the Surkhet started a campaign called "Covid-19 Self Help Group". Currently, five members - Sudip Giri, Dharmaraj Acharya, Khagendra Puri, Milan Shrestha and Prawas Kumar Shakya - are actively involved in it. Amid the pandemic, with the risk of themselves getting infected, these people are working to arrange oxygen in Surkhet. Sudip, Prawash and Milan are journalists by profession, Dharmaraj owns a business, and Khagendra works at a bank.



It was definitely not easy to run such a campaign especially when the risk of infection is high. But these youth of Surkhet dared to give life to the serious patients of covid. In the beginning, they started a campaign called "Mero Ek Hazar "

(My one thousand) on Facebook to purchase oxygen cylinders. Due to the campaign being virtual, it reached audiences at the national and international levels. Many showed interest and there was financial help from all over. To date, they have collected a sum of Rs. 800,000.



The campaign that was started to help gather nutritious food for the patients, caretakers, and the health workers for five days is now providing an ambulance service with an oxygen supply. After renting an ambulance that was not being used otherwise, they are moving forward with the process of operating a new ambulance.

The group has been supplying oxygen from Nepalgunj by managing a vehicle by themselves. They are also providing necessary items as per the demand of health workers. Khagendra, one of the campaigners, says:

“ At times of emergency the government is not ours. We friends are doing this in a hope that our work supports the infected. ”

Now they are very busy saving patient's lives.

VOICES OUT LOUD

We have been providing 100 ICU-level care in Karnali Province. If the cases continue to increase and we are not able to control the spread, if we cannot maintain social discipline (marriage, bratabandha, and others), then the health infrastructure we have will not be enough. We have learned lessons from the second wave of COVID. While working as a frontliner, I would like to make a request to the public to follow two things with priority. First, follow the guidelines and be disciplined, and second get tested once you start showing symptoms of COVID. Along with the available health infrastructures, if we focus on the above two things, then COVID control is possible.

DR. NAWARAJ KC

Karnali Province Hospital



PUSPA BHANDARI

Driver, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City,
Sanitation Department

Whenever there is a lockdown, most of the areas are closed, but we have to work even harder. Earlier, we had to work 12 hours a day but during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have even had to work for 24 hours. While collecting waste from each household and hospital, we are also working on quarantine management. During the first wave of COVID, the municipality had arranged masks and gloves in the beginning, but later we had to work without protective equipment and used polythene bags for safety. Due to that, I also got infected. The situation is the same right now. Yet, I am fulfilling my responsibilities selflessly.

FAIR FACTS

is a product of:



FAIR FACTS is an open platform that connects citizens, leaders and institutions; and exchanges authentic information to tackle misinformation and popular myths around Covid-19 in Nepal. The ongoing crisis of the Coronavirus pandemic demands quick, scientific and fair information around health services, livelihoods, and social security. With FAIR FACTS we build an ecosystem of changemakers and use the power of real stories and voices from all corners of the country for a disaster response mechanism that is fair and equitable.

Covid-19 is not just a health crisis but also exacerbates a lack of integrity and accountability in governance systems. To help beat this virus effectively, we track facts, share helpful information, and build unlikely networks.

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DISCLAIMER

The sources of rumors, information, and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations, government agencies, international organizations, news articles, social media, and Community Frontliners in all 7 provinces of Nepal, as well as the CivActs team based on their conversations with different people, directly and indirectly, over the past week. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and its potential impact on society. The information presented here is correct at the time of the issue.

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