

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Student Union Elections Held in Nepal Amid Clashes

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Photo from khabarhub.com

Nepal held the long-awaited Student Union Elections on March 19, 2023, but only in 44 of the 66 Tribhuvan University affiliated colleges due to clashes between members of different student unions. This issue has prevented the elections from taking place for 14 years.

Student unions play a crucial role in advocating for student rights and improving the quality of education. However, in Nepal, student unions are predominantly affiliated with political parties. Consequently, the agendas, conflicts, and fractions of the political parties also trickle down to these unions. This has resulted in student unions being limited to carrying political party flags, padlocking university and college offices over political appointments and decisions, instigating clashes, and so on.

Furthermore, the significance of student unions themselves has been questioned. They are intended to develop the political leadership of young people to prepare them to become better future leaders. However, their recent disregard for democracy suggests otherwise. Additionally, the results of the 2022 general elections have shown that young people who do not participate in student unions can also be elected and become popular leaders. It is time to reconsider the way student unions operate in Nepal, given the current circumstances.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#), [Khabarhub](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. Seventy-five farmers, including 66 women, who were victimized by loan sharks in Bardibas, are staging a symbolic protest by walking on foot to Kathmandu to meet Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, after their pleas for justice went unanswered by government institutions for nine months. The Struggling Committee Against Loan Sharks organized the march.

Read more: [eKantipur](#)

2. The latest national census indicates that the population of Nepal has reached 29,164,578. The 12th Census 2022 report published by the Central Bureau of Statistics reveals that the male population is 14,253,551 (48.98 percent), while the female population is 14,911,027 (51.02 percent). The population of other genders accounts for only 0.001% of the total population, which translates to 2,928 individuals.

Read more: [Setopati](#)

3. The Maoist-led Council of Ministers meeting has decided to allocate a relief fund of 200,000 Nepalese rupees per person to the 4,009 former Maoist combatants who were disqualified for integration into the Nepal Army during the UN verification in 2007. This decision is expected to cost the government treasury around 801 million Nepalese rupees. However, there are concerns about the distribution of the allocated amount.

Read more : [Onlinekhabar](#)

4. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology is proposing a new bill that would enable government officials to record the phone calls and social media conversations of the public without permission. While the current laws permit the recording of conversations of individuals suspected of committing a crime with court approval, this new proposal has drawn significant criticism for violating the constitutional right to the personal privacy of citizens.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

5. The Social Security Fund has introduced a contribution-based social security scheme for labor migrants working abroad. Under this scheme, workers can contribute anywhere from NRs. 2,000 to NRs. 28,000 to the fund, which will entitle them to a range of benefits, including accident treatment, disability pension, lifetime pension, and educational scholarships for their dependent families.

Read more: [Ekagaj](#)

The National Assembly has unanimously adopted a 19-point resolution following a member's experience of caste-based discrimination when attempting to rent a flat in Kathmandu. The aim of this motion is to increase pressure on the government to take strict action against all forms of discrimination in both private and public spheres.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

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