

INSEC INFORMATION: 13th Day of Strike, Protests continue

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Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly

One person has been killed and over hundred persons were injured on the 13th day of the nationwide demonstrations on April 18.

Seti BK of Bageshwari VDC-3, [Banke](#) succumbed to the injuries sustained during the police baton charge on April 18. She died at Nanpara of Baharaich district in UP, India as she was being taken to Lucknow for treatment at night on the same day. Over 39 demonstrators and 14 security men are injured in a clash at Gyanendra Chok that lasted for two hours. Condition of one police constable is also said to be in critical condition. Over 1,00,000 participated in the rally. Demonstrators demolished the under construction Gyanendra Chok and vandalised the king's statue.

Two people were injured when police opened fire at a group of demonstrators at Shram Marg, Buddhanagar, [Kathmandu](#) at 10.15 am on April 18. The injured are identified as Sushmita Khatri of Patan and Subhas Dhungel. Khatri was taken to Everest Nursing Home for treatment. Injured Dhungel and a journalist Mitra Bhandari along with other three were arrested by the police, the witnesses said. Police had opened fire immediately after arriving in a van.

Kushal Babu Basnet from [Udayapur](#) says one person was shot injured and over 20 injured when police fired and charged batons on the demonstrators on April 18. Basu Khadka, affiliated to NSU was shot in the leg. Even the Red Cross staffs including Angat Poudel providing first aid on the spot were targeted by the police. Poudel and Najbul Khan of Mainstreaming of Women chairperson were taken to BP Koirala Institution of Health Sciences, Dharan. Khadka along with another Red Cross staff Khila Prasad Guragain, Tanka Dahal, Hira Prasad Dahal of NC and Krishna Parajuli of UML are undergoing treatment at District Hospital. The demonstrators vandalised the houses of nominated DDC chairman Bodhraj Singh Basnet and vice-chairperson Ram Chandra Gupta after a rally of professional coordination committee has a clash with the security persons. Five security persons were injured in the clash. Security forces arrested Baburaja Prajapati of Triyuga Municipality and a mule driver.

Tanka Prasad Khanal from [Kaski](#) says Pokhara remained tense throughout the day on April 18 after the seven political parties demonstrated defying the restriction order imposed by authorities in the Pokhara Valley. Some five demonstrators were hurt by the rubber bullets and 66 were injured from baton charge. Kirtan Raj Baral was shot in the chest at Mustang Chok and Ram Bahadur Mahat and Rishi Ram Poudel. The injured are undergoing treatment at Phewa City Hospital. The parties organised rallies from different places including Hallan Chok, Jarewar, Jirokimi, Srijana Chok among others. Police fired six blank shots and eight shells of teargas at Jarewar. Demonstrators clashed at places Birauta Chok, Hallan Chok, Jirokimi and Srijana Chok. Police also interfered and fired 12 teargas shells into the rally organised by Nepal Indigenous Nationalities Coordination Council-Kaski from Chipledhunga.

Meanwhile, the Kaski District Administration Office, issuing a notice today, said curfew would be imposed in areas lying between Seti River and Pardi (except Lakeside) in the west and up to Simpani in the north in Pokhara. In Lekhnath, the curfew would be imposed from Bijayapur to Talchowk, Shishuwa and Jyamirekuna. The curfew would be effective from 8 am to 7 pm on April 18.

At least 13 persons were injured when the police charged baton on the demonstrators at [Baglung](#) Municipality-2 on April 18, as reported by Govinda Gautam. The injured included Pushpa Sharma, Dhanpati Regmi, Rahul, Bohara and Hari Acharya among others.

In **Itahari**, 18 demonstrators were injured when the civil clothed police and vigilantes threw stones from the top of house of Remnath Puri on April 18. The injured included Raju Jha, Devraj Luintel, Indira Giri, Shakuntala Sardar and Sita Shrestha among others.

Similar protest rallies were organised by SPA and other groups including NGO Federation, civil society, artists' group, women's groups and professional groups in the districts of Surkhet, Sindhupalchok, Dhading, Pyuthan, Kanchanpur, Dhanusha, Sindhuli, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Kailali, Dolakha, Bardiya, Chitwan, Bara, Kavre, Gulmi, Kapilbastu, Dhankuta and Morang.

Staffs of Home Ministry, journalists arrested

Police arrested 25 Home Ministry staffs including six section officers for expressing support for the on going movement for democracy on April 18. It is said that out of 25 staffs all would be released except for the section officer Shekhar Poudel and non-gazetted officer Ram Prasad Koirala, Naindu Kumar Poudel, Kamala Regmi, Kamala Sherpa, Radha Gautam (Karki) and Laxmi Dhungana. The staffs were arrested from the ministry canteen after concluding the sit-in programme. Meanwhile, 14 staffs of Nepal Rastra Bank were also arrested.

Likewise, three journalists affiliated to Kantipur Publications and Kantipur Television along with their driver were arrested from Home Ministry on April 18. The arrestees included Bimal Gautam and cameraman Raju Timilsina of Kantipur Television and Balram Baniya and the driver Shivaram Thapa were arrested. They were arrested in direct order of Home Minister Kamal Thapa.

Political Prisoners Released on Supreme Court Order

Sixteen political prisoners kept at Women Development Training Centre, Jawalakhel were released on April 18 in the presence of Lalitpur District Court after the Supreme Court order.

The released political activists included Rajendra Shrestha, Kamal Koirala, Jagrit Prasad Bhetwal, Prof. Anand Dev Bhatta, Najir Miya, Devi Gyawali, Tikaram Rijal, Shanta Pradhan, Dambar Bahadur Singh, Narayan Silwal, Madhav Gautam, Mukti Khanal, Balram Banskota, Sri Krishna Bhushal, Mohan Bista and Rishi Gautam. Supreme Court had issued order on April 17 to release 145 political prisoners.

Similarly, 36 political prisoners including Ishwar Pokharel, Ashta Laxmi Shakya, Hridayas Tripathi, Rajendra Mahato, Bhishmaraj Angdembe, Krishna Gopal Shrestha, Shashi Shrestha, Kamala Parajuli, Binda Khatri, Devi Prasad Neupane, Dhruv Adhikari, Kiran Poudel, Shantiram Khatiwada, Sri Ram Lamichhane and Kalyan Gurung among others in the presence of Kathmandu district court on April 17.

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