UML, MJF Decide to Support Prachanda; Ink 7-pt Deal

Friday 15 August 2008, by DHUNGANA Chiranjibi (Date first published: 14 August 2008).

Kathmandu,

A meeting of the three major parties – CPN-Maoist, CPN-UML and Madhesi Janadhikar Forum today reached an agreement to field the CPN-Maoist chairman Prachanda, as a joint candidate for the post of prime minister.

UML general secretary Jhalanath Khanal told reporters that three parties reached a seven-point agreement to support Prachanda in the prime ministerial election. After the meeting, Prachanda filed his nomination for the post of PM.

Earlier, Nepali Congress parliamentary party committee decided that former PM Sher Bahadur Deuba would contest the prime ministerial election slated for Friday.

NC leader Prakash Saran Mahat said that Deuba filed his nomination at the election office this afternoon. Parties have been asked to submit the nomination papers by 5:00 pm today.

Power-sharing Deal

CPN-MAOIST: Prime Minister, Defence, Finance, Physical Planning and Works, Labour and Transport Management, Law and Parliamentary Justice, Education and Sports, Peace and Reconstruction and Land Reform (9)

CPN-UML: Home, Foreign Affairs, Local Development, Water Resources, Forest and Soil Conservation and Tourism and Civil Aviation (6)

MJF: Communication and Information, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Industry, Commerce and Supplies and Women, Children and Social Welfare (4)

Four other fringe parties will get one ministry each.