

## Protest Would Be "publicity-oriented": Dahal

**KATHMANDU, Nov 1 [2009]:** A day before launching protest programs for the restoration of "civilian supremacy", the Maoist leadership told the party cadres that the protest would be mild and peaceful in nature, and is publicity-oriented.

"It is just a preparation for the massive protests in the days to come. The current programs are just publicity-oriented," Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal told the party cadres. He also told the cadres that the government is unlikely to use force to suppress the Maoist protests.

On the eve of the protest programs, the Maoist Chairman had given an orientation to the party cadres of Newa State Committee that comprises Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts. The Maoists have announced a series of protests beginning Sunday -- the deadline issued by the Maoists for the ruling parties to address their demand.

During the program, Dahal briefed the cadres on why the current complex political situation had emerged, the necessity of launching the protests, the advantage the party is likely to get through the protests, and the party's future strategy.

"The goal of the protest is to form a Maoist-led national unity government," a Maoist source quoted Dahal as telling party cadres. According to him, the party has interpreted "civilian supremacy" as the right of the elected representatives to be at the helm of power.

The former rebel leader told the party cadres that Indian interference was behind the dissolution of the Maoist-led government. "India schemed to isolate the Maoists as it was getting successful in the country," he said, adding, "India's perception was that the success of the Maoists in Nepal will give a boost to the Maoist movement throughout South Asia."

According to the party chairman, another reason behind the differences between India and Maoist party was that the latter adopted equidistant foreign policy with the two bordering neighbors and India did not like it. He said India wants a government that dances to the Indian tune.

Dahal, however, said that his party has good relationship with a few coalition partners in India, and stressed the need for improving relation with all the ruling parties there.

The former rebel leader also said that the communists cannot achieve their goal just through armed struggle and argued that Maoists in Nepal have adopted the best communist strategy suitable in the contemporary world.

Dahal stressed on the need to maintain good relations with the international community, while giving rationale behind his recent China visit.

Dahal said his party was in favor of federal democratic republic. He argued that there is no difference between a federal democratic republic and a people's federal democratic republic. Party's hard-line faction led by vice chair Mohan Baidya is at loggerheads with the party establishment, and has pushed for a people's federal democratic republic.

During the two-week long protests beginning Sunday, the Maoists are scheduled to hold torch rallies, picket the government offices, and declare autonomous provinces. The Maoists have stated that they would put an embargo on Kathmandu Valley and encircle the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) on November 10.

Similarly, the party has stated that it would picket Singha Durbar, the government secretariat on 12 and 13 of November, bringing all official works to a halt. On Sunday, the Maoists are scheduled to take out torch rallies in villages.

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