

Masters of sky



The 'Surya Kiran' aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force performs precision manoeuvres during an air show near Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh on Saturday. PTI

BJP conspiring to loot and destroy West Bengal, says Mamata Banerjee

Shrabana Chatterjee

KOLKATA

The BJP is trying to “loot” West Bengal and take over the State, said Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee at an election rally on Saturday.

“They [BJP] will change our food habits, snatch our land, bulldoze and destroy everything... They are conspiring to end Bengal and make the State cease to exist,” she said.

Murshidabad violence

Referring to the violence that broke out during a Ram Navami celebration in Murshidabad’s Raghunathgunj on Friday, Ms. Banerjee said that she had been left powerless and could not take any action as all the officers working under her had been changed by the Election Commission (EC) after the polls were announced.



Mamata Banerjee

“Please don’t blame me for the law and order situation. I don’t have any power left with me since all the officers have been changed. The BJP has cherry-picked officers for the State,” Ms. Banerjee said at a rally in Pashchim Bardhaman’s Raniganj. She further said that she will not spare any of the accused in the long run, and will hold them accountable “today or tomorrow”.

Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal said the State Election Commission

had received a report of the incident and confirmed that 29 people were arrested in relation to the violence.

In an appeal to the audience, Ms. Banerjee said if they vote for the BJP, it will force them to eat vegetarian food, take away their freedom to choose clothes, destroy the education system, and stop all the social schemes that were started by her government. “If you do not want these things to stop, do not vote for anyone other than Trinamool,” she added.

At the three rallies she attended on Saturday, the Trinamool chairperson sharpened her attacks on the EC and the special intensive revision (SIR) process. Alleging large-scale “targeted deletions”, she wanted to know how the deleted voters would seek redressal if the supplementary lists are not made public. She also said

that women, Muslims, Adivasi, and other marginalised community voters had been targeted in the SIR process.

The supplementary lists with the names of 60 lakh voters who were put under adjudication are being published in phases. Two lists have been published till now. Though the polls are only three weeks away, lakhs of voters in multiple districts are still uncertain about their voting rights.

At a rally in Birbhum’s Labhpur, Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, the party’s second-in-command, urged voters to bring down the BJP’s Assembly seats below 50 (from the 77 at present). “This election is not just about bringing Mamata Banerjee to power for a fourth term, but about reducing the BJP seats. Whoever they win, poor people suffer the most,” he said.

Avalanche toll hits 7; Zojila Pass traffic comes under scrutiny

Body of a missing person recovered on Saturday while one dies in hospital; authorities issue avalanche warnings; officials question traffic timing, mixing of light and heavy motor vehicles in one of the most dangerous highways in the country

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The death toll in the Zojila Pass avalanche touched seven on Saturday, even as questions were raised over traffic regulations along the Ladakh-Kashmir axis, one of the most dangerous and unpredictable highways in the country at an elevation of 2,528 metres.

The body of a missing civilian, identified as Ali Akbar Shadab, was recovered on Saturday during the search operation which resumed at 6 a.m. before concluding later in the day. Two women were among the dead, officials said.

“A total of 13 people were impacted in the avalanche. Five people were reported dead on Friday. One critically injured was shifted to the Kargil hospital, but died on Saturday. The seventh body was recovered from the avalanche site in the morning. Six people remain under treatment,” said Dr. Sajjad Hussain, Block Medical Officer, Drass.

Officials said the rescue operation was carried



A snow-cutter blower clearing snow following multiple avalanches that hit the Srinagar-Leh national highway near Zojila Pass, in Jammu and Kashmir. PTI

out by teams of the civil administration, Army, and Border Road Organisation (BRO). Several vehicles buried under snow were tracked and removed from the Srinagar-Leh highway, the only surface link between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The highway remains highly prone to avalanches, landslides, and shooting stones for the most part of the year.

Authorities in Kashmir on Saturday warned of a potential avalanche risk over the next 24 hours in

Ganderbal district, home to the Zojila Pass, and in Bandipora district.

The advisory issued by the Ganderbal Deputy Commissioner warned that “there was a medium intensity risk of avalanche above 2400 metres in Ganderbal”.

“People have been strictly advised to avoid venturing into avalanche-prone areas, including steep slopes, hilly terrain, and higher reaches, until further orders are issued. The administration has al-

so appealed to residents, tourists, and nomadic communities to adhere to official guidelines and cooperate in ensuring public safety,” the advisory said.

The civilian deaths in Friday’s avalanche have brought the traffic management on the Srinagar-Ladakh highway, which remained closed for traffic on Saturday, under a scanner.

The avalanche was apparently triggered due to a rise in the temperature

due to the hot sun at noon. The accident took place between half past noon and 1 p.m., officials said.

“March is an avalanche-prone month. We local people understand that allowing traffic around 5.30 a.m. from the Kargil side for two hours and then from 8 a.m. up to 10 a.m. from the Kashmir side makes it safe. Because chances of avalanche during the morning hours are minimum,” said Mohammad Jaffer Akhoun, Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil.

At present, traffic along the 25-kilometre stretch is allowed after 8 a.m.

Mr. Akhoun also flagged the issue of mixing up heavy motor vehicles with light motor vehicles. “Advisory suggests that heavy motor vehicles are only allowed after the light motor vehicles. However, both were present when the avalanche hit on Friday,” he said.

The CEC said the issue will be raised with Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and officials in Jammu and Kashmir.

March economic data shows slowing growth

The Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review reports a 'moderation in economic momentum' due to the West Asia war; despite softening in output growth, demand appears relatively resilient

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Economic indicators are beginning to show signs of slowing growth in response to the constraints created by the war in West Asia, the Ministry of Finance has said in a new report.

The Monthly Economic Review for March, released on Saturday by the Department of Economic Affairs, noted that the evolving conflict has "introduced a complex and multi-layered set of risks" for India, which is a major energy importer with strong trade, investment, and remittance linkages with West Asia.

Initial indicators

"Early high-frequency indicators for March 2026 sug-

Slow but steady

The Department of Economic Affairs has released its Monthly Economic Review for 2026



■ The report states that developments in West Asia may cause a **slowdown in economic momentum for India**

■ It cites deceleration in indicators such as **e-way bill generation, Purchasing Managers' Index, and rural sentiment indicators**

■ Macroeconomic impact include **higher petroleum import bills, reduced exports and potential reduced remittances**

■ Sectors such as **textiles, leather, and gems & jewellery** are facing reduced competitiveness

gest a moderation in economic momentum, reflecting the initial impact of these global developments," the report said. "E-way bill generation declined by 5.3% on a month-on-month basis up to March 22, indicating some moderation in goods movement, although it remained higher by 9.4% on a year-on-year basis."

"Flash PMI [Purchasing Managers' Index] estimates for March 2026 point to a softening in output growth following the energy price shock," it added.

However, the report noted that demand appears "relatively resilient".

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Two Indian LPG ships cross Strait of Hormuz

CHENNAI

BW Tyr and *BW Elm*, two Indian-flagged LPG carriers, crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, as per tracker websites. A Greek-owned ship chartered by Pakistan has also crossed the strait. » **PAGE 12**

Israel reports missile attack from Yemen

JERUSALEM

Israel's military reported a first missile launch from Yemen since the West Asia war began, after Iran's Houthi allies threatened to join the fighting. There were no reports of any casualties in Israel. » **PAGE 16**

Two Indian LPG ships, one Pak. oil carrier cross Strait of Hormuz

M. Kalyanaraman

CHENNAI

BW Tyr and BW Elm, two Indian flagged LPG carriers, crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, as per ship tracker websites.

They were among the five Indian LPG carriers anchored north of Dubai-Ras Al Khaima on Friday.

P. Aliko, a Greek-owned crude oil carrier of more than 1 lakh tonne capacity, also crossed the strait on Saturday. P. Aliko, chartered by the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, loaded at Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia, and is scheduled to dock at Karachi in Pakistan for discharging. Tyr and Elm, owned by BW LPG India, a subsidiary of the well-known BW Group, have a combined cargo carrying capacity of more than 1,06,000 tonnes.

The two together are said to be carrying cargo of about 93,000 tonnes, as per a reliable source – equivalent to three days of current LPG import requirements. While BW Elm's intended destination as of last week was New Mangaluru Port, Tyr's was Mumbai.

The three other Indian LPG carriers anchored southwest of the strait have a combined cargo of some 80,000 tonnes of LPG. They are owned by Great Eastern Shipping Company of India and the Indian operations of Mitsui OSK Lines of Japan.

Iranian authorities who give explicit approvals for

Tyr and Elm, owned by BW LPG India, together are said to be carrying cargo of about 93,000 tonnes

ships to pass through the strait have been insisting that the ships hugged the Iranian coast and went around Iran's Larak Island so as to get visual confirmation of the affiliation of the vessel.

“Ship-tracking data shows the three vessels that transited on Saturday took the new IRGC-controlled route around Iran's Larak Island and through the Islamic Republic's territorial waters as they sailed outbound through the Strait of Hormuz,” says Toomer Raanan, maritime risk analyst at Lloyd's List, a provider of news, analysis and data to global shipping. Saturday's transit of two India-bound ships and one Pakistan-bound vessel, came as a surprise since, on Friday, Iran had apparently turned away three ships linked to China.

Two of them served Saudi ports. Iran had earlier indicated that ships with affiliations to India, Pakistan, Iran, Thailand, China and Russia can transit the strait. Meanwhile, Greek-owned crude oil tanker, Marathi, carrying some 1 million barrels of crude oil from Ras Tanura docked in Sikka on Thursday after transiting the strait earlier. So far, six Indian LPG carriers have crossed the chokepoint.

AGREEMENT INCLUDES EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE IN COUNTERING MISSILES AND UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

Zelensky signs defence deals with Saudi & Qatar, expands gulf drone cooperation

Iran claims strike on Ukraine-linked drone site in Dubai

Reuters
Kyiv, Cairo, March 28

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday made unannounced visits to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, as Ukraine seeks to use its drone expertise to help Gulf Arab states blunt Iran's attacks during the war in the Middle East.

Zelensky said that Ukraine has already signed 10-year security agreements with Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and expects to shortly finalize a similar agreement with the UAE.

Ukraine has quickly grown into one of the world's leading producers of cutting-edge, battle-tested drone interceptors that are cheap and effective. They are playing a key part in its defense against Russia's full-scale invasion, which began on Feb. 24, 2022.

In return for its aid to Gulf countries, Ukraine is seeking more high-end air-defense missiles that they possess and that Kyiv needs to counter Russia's attacks. On Thursday, Zelensky visited Saudi Arabia, and last week, he said that Ukraine is looking into whether it can play a role in restoring security in the Strait of Hormuz.

On Saturday, Zelensky and Emirati state media reported on a meeting between the



The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday. REUTERS

Ukrainian president and his Emirati counterpart, Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to discuss regional security amid the Iran war.

Later that day, Zelensky posted on X to say he had arrived in Qatar.

"Real security is built on partnership, we value everyone and remain open to supporting all those who are ready to work together for this goal," he wrote alongside a video of himself disembarking a plane and shaking hands with Qatari officials.

Zelensky told reporters that Ukraine seeks to build long-term strategic ties with Middle Eastern countries, including joint production, investment, energy cooperation and the sharing of battlefield experience.

"Simple sales do not interest

us," he said at a live briefing held on Zoom. Last week, Zelensky revealed that Kyiv is helping five countries — the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan — counter Tehran's drone strikes on their territory.

Also on Saturday, Iran claimed it had struck Ukraine-related drone warehouse in Dubai. Iran's military joint command made the claim in a statement run by state media. The Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters said over 20 Ukrainians were in the warehouse in the United Arab Emirates and their fate was unknown.

In a news briefing, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry spokesman Heorhii Tykhyi, however, called the Iranian allegations a "lie," according to Ukraine's public broadcaster.

A month into Iran war, Trump faces tough calls

Reuters
Washington, March 28

WITH GLOBAL energy prices up and his job approval ratings down, Donald Trump faces stark choices after a month of war against Iran: cut a potentially flawed deal and get out, or escalate militarily and risk a prolonged conflict that could consume his presidency.

Despite a flurry of diplomatic activity, Trump ends another week of the joint US-Israeli campaign struggling to contain a widening Middle East crisis as a defiant Iran maintains a chokehold on Gulf oil and gas shipments and continues missile and drone strikes across the region.

The central question now, say analysts, is whether Trump is ready to wind down or ramp up what critics have called a war of choice, one that has ignited the worst global energy supply shock in history and spread far beyond the region.

Trump has told aides he wants to avoid a "forever war" and find a negotiated exit, urging them to stress the four-to-six-week duration of hostilities he has outlined publicly, a senior White House official said, adding that such a timeline appears "shaky."

At the same time, Trump

has threatened a major military escalation if talks fail.

Trump's diplomatic overtures to Iran, including a 15-point peace proposal sent via a backchannel with Pakistan, appeared to demonstrate an increasingly urgent search for an off-ramp. But it remains unclear whether there are currently any realistic prospects for fruitful negotiations.

"President Trump has poor options all around to end the war," said Jonathan Panikoff, former US deputy national intelligence officer for the Middle East. "Part of the challenge is the lack of clarity related to what a satisfactory outcome would be."

A White House official insisted that the Iran campaign "will conclude when the commander-in-chief determines that our objectives are met" and that Trump had laid out explicit goals.

Apparently hedging his bets, Trump is deploying thousands more US troops to the region and warning Iran of an intensified onslaught, possibly including the use of ground troops, if it does not yield to his demands.

Analysts say such a show of force could be aimed at creating leverage for concessions from Tehran but risks drawing the US into a more protracted conflict.

US carrier Ford arrives in Croatia for repairs

Split: The US aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford, which had been deployed in US-Israeli operations against Iran, anchored in Adriatic port of Split on Saturday for repairs and maintenance.

The Ford, America's newest and the world's largest carrier, was operating in the Red Sea in support of Operation Epic Fury when a non-combat fire broke out in a laundry room on March 12, injuring three sailors. Nearly 200 sailors were also treated for smoke-related issues, a US official said at the time. REUTERS

15 U.S. troops wounded in Iranian strike on Saudi base in past week

Iran launched six ballistic missiles and 29 drones, seriously injuring at least five U.S. troops; attacks follow Trump's claim that war-ending talks were going 'very well'; Iran's military claims it destroyed a Ukrainian anti-drone system depot in Dubai

Associated Press

DUBAI

More than two dozen U.S. troops have been wounded in Iranian attacks on Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Air Base in the past week, according to two people who have been briefed on the matter.

Iran fired six ballistic missiles and 29 drones at the base on Friday, injuring at least 15 troops, including five seriously, according to the sources who were not authorised to comment publicly.

The soldiers were inside a building at the base when it was struck, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.



Critical strike: A satellite image shows planes at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. REUTERS

Several aerial refuelling planes also suffered damage in the attack, the reports said.

The base, about 96 km from the Saudi capital of Riyadh, came under attack

twice earlier in the week, including a strike that wounded 14 U.S. troops, according to the people briefed on the matter.

The base is run by the Royal Saudi Air Force but is

also used by U.S. troops.

The latest attacks happened after U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that talks on ending the war were going "very well". He said he had given Tehran until April 6 to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran says it has not engaged in any negotiations.

Elsewhere, Iran's military said on Saturday it had targeted a Ukrainian anti-drone system depot in the United Arab Emirates which it said was used to assist U.S. forces.

"As the hideouts of American commanders and soldiers in Dubai were targeted... a Ukrainian anti-drone system depot that was located in Dubai to as-

sist the U.S. military ... was targeted and destroyed," Iran's military central operational command Khatam Al-Anbiya said in a statement carried by state TV.

Earlier on Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on an unannounced visit to the UAE that the two countries had agreed to cooperate on defence.

Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Thursday they had found and dismantled more than 120 unexploded cluster bombs, alleging they were dropped during U.S. and Israeli attacks on a southern province.

(With AFP inputs)

MILITARY OPS SET TO CONCLUDE IN WEEKS: RUBIO

Iran war expands as Yemen's Houthis fire missiles at Israel

12 US service personnel injured in attack on base in Saudi Arabia

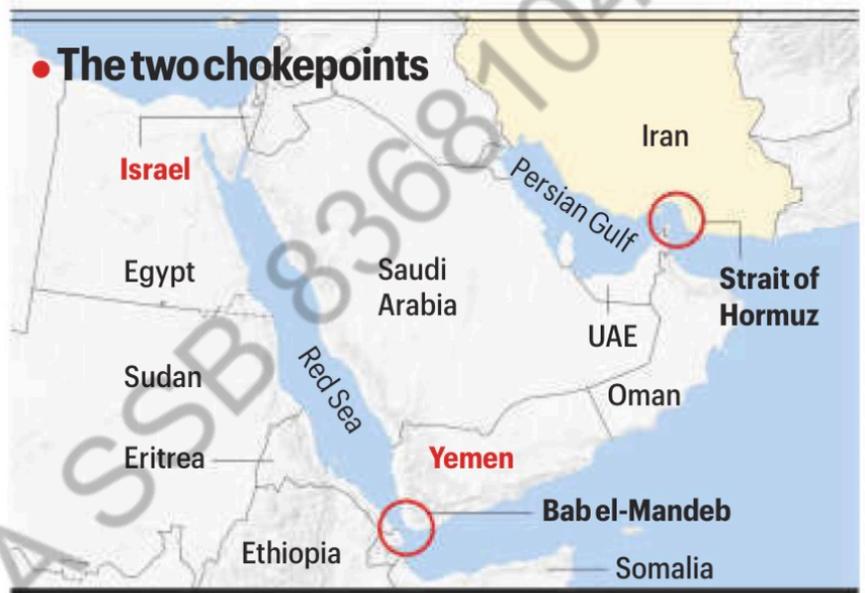
Menna AlaaEldin,
Nayera Abdallah
& Humeyra Pamuk
Cairo, Dubai, March 28

YEMEN'S IRAN-ALIGNED Houthis launched missiles at Israel on Saturday, their first such attack since the start of the Iran war, heightening the risk that a conflict now in its fifth week could expand further across the region.

Speaking before the strike, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States expected to conclude military operations within weeks, but the Houthis said they would continue their operations until the "aggression" on all fronts ended.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian spoke to Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, whose government hosts a meeting with the Turkish and

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Sri Lanka's supplies hit, India sends fuel shipment

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, March 28

IN A significant outreach, India has sent a shipment of fuel to Sri Lanka, days after the phone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

Fuel shortage and panic buying have led to queues in the island nation, which depends on

imports for its energy demand.

"...A shipment of 38,000 MT (metric tonnes) of petroleum, of which 20,000 MT is diesel and 18,000 MT petrol, has arrived in Colombo today 28th March, 2026," the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a statement.

"Lanka IOC had earlier
»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS, P7,9,14

Sri Lanka

secured fuel supplies for March from the Middle East and Singapore. However, suppliers with whom the contracts were placed, expressed their inability to deliver the product and invoked force majeure, in view of supply disruptions and vessel unavailability due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East,” it said.

“Due to the above disruptions, rescue supplies were requested from India from IOCL. The current shipment of

38,000 MT is part of these supplies. Government of India, through Lanka IOC, has extended support to Sri Lanka for maintaining continuity of fuel supply,” it said.

According to experts, the shipment can help fuel 800,000-1 million vehicles, assuming an average tank capacity of 45-60 litres.

On March 23, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a telephone conversation with his Lankan counterpart, Vijitha Herath. This was followed by Dissanayake’s phone call to Modi the next day, where they discussed the situation in West Asia.

Iran war

Saudi foreign ministers on Sunday to seek to ease regional tensions.

But there is no sign of an immediate diplomatic breakthrough and the war has spread across the Middle East, killing thousands and hitting the world economy with the biggest-ever disruption to global energy supplies.

On Saturday, Israel said it had carried out a wave of attacks on Tehran, targeting what the military said were infrastructure sites belonging to Iran's government. It also hit targets in Lebanon, where it has resumed its war against Iran-backed Hezbollah,

lah, killing three Lebanese journalists in a strike on a media vehicle, Lebanon's Al Manar TV reported, as well as a Lebanese soldier.

Iran also kept up attacks after hitting an air base in Saudi Arabia on Friday and wounding 12 US military personnel, two of them seriously, in one of the most serious breaches of US air defences so far.

Israel, which regularly faced missile attacks from the Houthis before the war, confirmed a missile had been fired at it from Yemen. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

The attack pointed to a potential new threat to global shipping, already hit by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the conduit for about a fifth of

global oil and liquefied natural gas supplies.

With mid-term elections approaching in November, the increasingly unpopular war has weighed on President Donald Trump's Republican Party and he has appeared eager to end it quickly. Rubio said on Friday Washington was "on or ahead of schedule" and that military operations were expected to be concluded in "weeks, not months".

Rubio also told Group of Seven counterparts that European and Asian countries which benefit from trade through the Strait of Hormuz should contribute to efforts to secure free passage, echoing calls by Trump, who said the lack of support from NATO allies had implica-

tions for the military alliance. Washington's allies have been reluctant to be drawn into a war which could escalate further if Trump decides to deploy ground troops to try to open the strait.

Rubio said the US could achieve its aims without ground troops but acknowledged it was deploying some to the region "to give the President maximum optionality and maximum opportunity to adjust the contingencies, should they emerge".

Washington has dispatched two contingents of thousands of Marines to the region, the first of which is due to arrive in coming days on a huge amphibious assault ship. The Pentagon is also expected to deploy thousands of elite airborne soldiers. **REUTERS**

Trump declares 'Cuba is next', denies losing MAGA support

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday "Cuba is next" in his latest threat against the Caribbean island, as he dismissed concerns that recent American military actions would cost him political support.

Cuba's communist government has faced mounting pressure from Mr. Trump, who imposed a de facto oil blockade in January and mused about "taking" the country.

Speaking at the Saudi-backed FII Priority invest-



Donald Trump

ment forum in Miami, Mr. Trump said his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement wanted "strength" and "victory," citing the January raid where U.S. forces seized Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro. "I built this great

military. I said, "You'll never have to use it," but sometimes you have to use it," Mr. Trump said.

"And Cuba is next, by the way. But pretend I didn't say that."

Mr. Trump did not specify what he planned to do with Cuba, telling the media to "disregard that statement" before repeating "Cuba's next" to laughter from the audience.

Cuba's leader Miguel Diaz-Canel said last week that any external aggressor would face "unbreakable resistance," even as the country was hit with two nationwide blackouts.

Former Nepal PM Oli and ex-Home Minister Lekhak arrested over Gen Z protest killings

Sanjeev Satgainya

KATHMANDU

A new government installed in Nepal after earlier this month's seismic electoral shift has stoked political tensions with the arrest of former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli.

The police on Saturday arrested Mr. Oli and former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak on charges of culpable homicide during last September's Gen Z protests.

The arrests came a day after the new government led by Balendra Shah of the Rastriya Swatantra Party was sworn in, six months after the protests in which 76 people lost their lives, including 19 in police firing on September 8.

According to police, the arrests were made to im-

plement the recommendations of a probe commission that investigated the incidents during the Gen Z uprising.

Mr. Oli was taken into custody from his residence in Gundu, while Mr. Lekhak was arrested in Surya Binayak, Bhaktapur, a district adjoining Kathmandu.

The Gen Z protests overthrew the Oli government, in which Mr. Lekhak, a Nepali Congress leader, served as Home Minister.

Widespread protests

Tensions ran high in various parts of Kathmandu on Saturday as members of Mr. Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) took to the streets. Protesters demanding Mr. Oli's release clashed with police in Maitighar, the designated prot-



A demonstrator attempts to hurl a flaming tyre during a protest following Oli's detention in Kathmandu on Saturday. REUTERS

est site in the capital. Police stepped up security in and around Singha Durbar, the government complex.

The commission formed to investigate the incidents of September 8 and 9 recommended that Mr. Oli and Mr. Lekhak be prosecuted for negligent killings, stating that they failed to prevent lethal police firing

on the first day of the protests. The first Cabinet meeting of the new government, formed after the RSP's landslide victory in the March 5 elections, on Friday decided to implement the commission's report.

Home Minister Sudhan Gurung then moved quickly, holding a meeting with

the chiefs of Nepal Police and the Armed Police Force late Friday night to implement the commission's recommendations.

On Saturday morning, after police arrested the two leaders, Mr. Gurung posted on Facebook: "Aayo Gorkhali," which translates to "Gorkhali has arrived" but carries the connotation of courage and bravery.

The move to arrest the two leaders, however, has raised questions, with critics saying it reeks of vendetta politics.

The commission also recommended prosecution of Chandra Kuber Khapung, who was chief of Nepal Police at the time of the protests, along with other high-ranking officials. However, they have not been arrested.