

Press Release

The government of Nepal on 20th February announced the date of local level election to be held on May 14. The Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha, an alliance of seven Madhes-based parties, announced protest program shortly after the Cabinet decision of holding election.

Morcha protested with torch rallies all across the Terai districts on 21st February and general strike (band) in 20 districts of Terai on 22nd February. The protest rallies started peacefully and no untoward incidents have been reported. As per the information received from Human Rights Monitors, the strike was very effective in Rajbiraj, Biratnagar, Nawalprasi, Siraha, Nepalgunj, Sarlahi, Parsa, Rupandehi, Dhanusha, Bhairahawa etc.

As per the report cadres of Madhesi Morcha were marching in a rally from Budha chowk in Janakpur, where Morcha cadres claimed that "some stones were pelted by the cadres of CPN-UML on the rallies from the house of UML leader Raghubir Mahaseth" and the clash between the Madhesi Morcha and UML cadres took place. Two cadres of Madhesi Morcha got injured in the clash. Kuldip Sah, got hurt in his ear and Raju Sah got his left leg fractured. The Madhesi Morcha protest was centered on Budha Chowk and on a counterattack UML Regional Chairperson of Region-5 sustained injury on back of his head and got 3 stitches.

UML Senior leader Bam Dev Gautam, was residing in the house of Raghubir Mahaseth and the cadres of Madhesi Morcha surrounded the house and protested. He returned back to Kathmandu at around 2 PM in a heavy police escort.

However, the rallies and protest was peaceful and the strike called by Madderhi Morcha was very effective as no vehicles were seen on the road except for few motorbikes, bicycles and E-Rickshaw in all over Terai districts.

On most parts of Terai region, shops were closed, no vehicles were observed on road. The protesters were seen on the road protesting through various means like shouting slogans and burning tyres. The Nepal Police were on duty in all the probable places where the protesters had gathered.

In Biratnagar, no big vehicles were observed and all the big malls and marts remained closed. However, small shops and few vendors were open. Motorbikes, E-rickshaw and cycles were seen on the road. Thus, it can be concluded that the protest was peaceful and the strike was effective.