

## Nepal PM sends envoys to woo China, India

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda sent one of his trusted lieutenants from the insurgency period as a special envoy to China yesterday, seeking to clear confusion over the future of agreements signed by his predecessor.

The envoy, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, who is a deputy premier in charge of finance and a China expert, will carry a message from Prachanda that his new government is keen to develop cordial relations with China despite recent political changes.

Prachanda, 61, who led a decade-long insurgency that ended a feudal monarchy, replaced communist K P Oli this month amid uncertainty about a slew of deals made by Oli during a visit to Beijing in March, including allowing Nepal to use Chinese railways, roads and ports to trade with third countries.

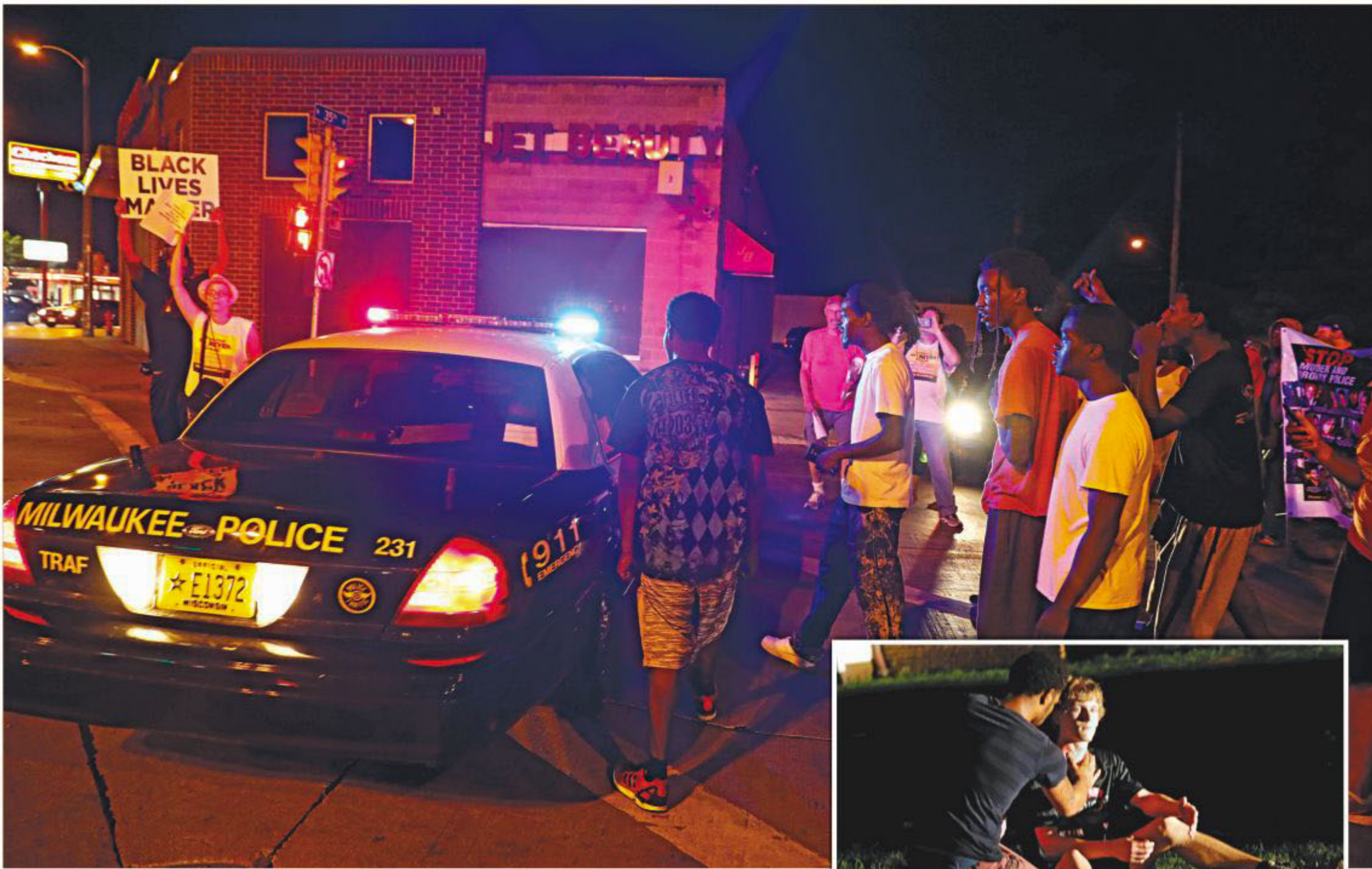
Those deals signaled a shift by the landlocked Himalayan nation away from its traditional reliance on overland trade with its southern neighbour India, which grew increasingly frustrated with Oli's rule.

"There is no doubt that the new government will continue all positive agreements signed by the previous government," Mahara told Reuters before his departure.

Mahara also said he was carrying an invitation from President Bidhya Devi Bhandari to the Chinese leader to come as planned.

Officials said Prachanda would send another deputy, Bimelandra Nidhi, a member of the Madhesi minority community, as an emissary to India this week to give reassurances that closer ties with Beijing would not come at the cost of New Delhi.

Nepal's relations with India have remained frosty since it adopted its first republican constitution in September, triggering deadly protests by minority Madhesis in the south and leading to a border blockade the caused acute fuel shortages.



Protestors confront the police during disturbances following the police shooting of a man in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US on Sunday night. A man, *inset*, attends to a young man who was shot during the protest.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tensions flare in US city

One person shot, officer injured in second night of protests in Milwaukee; state governor activates National Guard

AFP, Washington

Protesters threw rocks and fired guns in a second night of violence in a tense neighborhood of Milwaukee following the deadly police shooting of an armed black man.

Police in riot gear moved in on the Sherman Park neighborhood in the mid-western city around 11:00 pm on Sunday (0400 GMT yesterday) to disperse an angry crowd and restore order, eager to avoid a repeat of previous violence involving law enforcement that has shaken the nation.

Officers at one point used an armored vehicle to rescue a shooting victim and rush the person to the hospital.

A police officer was hospitalized to be treated for an injury after protesters threw a rock that broke the windshield of a squad car.

An unspecified projectile was thrown at another officer, who was protected by a helmet, according to police. One squad car was damaged by thrown bricks, rocks and glass bottles.

"Officers continue to have rocks thrown at them as they work to disburse small, disorderly groups in area around Sherman and Burleigh," police said on Twitter, add-

ing that armored vehicles were deployed to protect officers.

Multiple arrests were made, it said without giving further details. Some 125 members of the Wisconsin National Guard were activated and placed on standby early Sunday to prevent a repeat of the arson, rock-throwing and shootings that occurred the previous night.

But they were not called to the areas of the latest disturbances. Some locals reacted with shock at the degree of violence.

"I've lived here for 30 years, and I've never seen anything like this in my life," Dominic Lebourgeois told The New York Times. "I think it's crazy, it's ludicrous."

On Saturday, an angry crowd of at least 200 people took to the streets, torching at least six businesses, including a gas station and auto parts store that were destroyed, police said.

Individuals attending the rally fired dozens of shots, apparently in the air. Violence broke out following the fatal shooting of a local man, Sylville Smith, 23.

Even though Smith was said to be armed and had a lengthy police record, the shooting and its aftermath bore chilling echoes of a series of violent incidents involving law enforcement.

### POLICE SHOOTING OF BLACK MAN

## Turkish police raid courts after coup

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish police yesterday raided three major courts in Istanbul in search of more than 170 suspects wanted over last month's attempted coup, reports said.

Police began searches of the city's main Caglayan court and courts in the districts of Gaziosmanpasa and Bakirkoy with arrest warrants for 173 prosecutors and other judicial staff working there, the Dogan news agency said.

The accused are suspected of links to the US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen who Ankara blames for the June 15 failed putsch against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

It was not clear how many suspects had been detained in the raids.

Erdogan has said the purge is needed to wipe out what he calls the "virus" of Gulen from Turkish institutions. But critics have expressed alarm that its sheer scope has turned it into a witch hunt.

In a separate development, the former chief prosecutor for the eastern region of Erzurum was detained late Sunday while trying to cross into Syria.

Ekrem Beyaztas was caught by border guards just south of the Turkish town of Kilis, a Turkish official said, asking not to be named. There was no indication over why he had been heading to Syria.

Meanwhile, the editor-in-chief of Turkey's top opposition daily Cumhuriyet announced yesterday he was stepping down, saying he no longer had faith in the judiciary to hear an appeal in a controversial secrecy trial after the failed coup.

### AP ANALYSIS

## IS gets know-nothing recruits and rejoices

The jihadi employment form asked the recruits, on a scale of 1 to 3, to rate their knowledge of Islam. And the Islamic State applicants, herded into a hangar somewhere at the Syria-Turkey border, turned out to be overwhelmingly ignorant.

The extremist group could hardly have hoped for better.

At the height of Islamic State's drive for foot soldiers in 2013 and 2014, typical recruits included the group of Frenchmen who went bar-hopping with their recruiter back home, the recent European convert who now hesitantly describes himself as gay, and two Britons who ordered "The Koran for Dummies" and "Islam for Dummies" from Amazon to prepare for jihad abroad. Their intake process complete, they were grouped in safe houses as a stream of Islamic State imams came in to indoctrinate them, according to court testimony and interviews by The Associated Press.

"I realized that I was in the wrong place when they began to ask me questions on these forms like 'when you die, who should we call?'" said the 32-year-old European recruit, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. He said he thought he was joining a group to fight President Bashar Assad and help Syrians, not the Islamic State.

The European, whose boyish demeanor makes him appear far younger than his age, went to Syria in 2014. He said new recruits were shown IS propaganda videos on Islam, and the visiting imams repeatedly praised martyrdom. Far from home, unschooled in religion, having severed family ties and turned over electronic



devices, most were in little position to judge.

An AP analysis of thousands of leaked Islamic State documents reveals most of its recruits from its earliest days came with only the most basic knowledge of Islam. A little more than 3,000 of these documents included the recruit's knowledge of Shariah, the system that interprets into law verses from the Quran and "hadith" - the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad.

According to the documents, which were acquired by the Syrian opposition site Zaman al-Wasl and shared with the AP, 70 percent of recruits were listed as having just "basic" knowledge of Shariah - the lowest possible choice. Around 24 percent were categorized as having an "intermediate" knowledge, with just 5 percent considered advanced students of Islam. Five recruits were listed as having memorized the Quran.

The findings address one of the most troubling questions about IS recruitment in the United States and Europe: Are disaffected people who understand Shariah more prone to radicalization? Or are those with little knowledge of Islam more susceptible to the group's radical ideas that promote violence?

## IS suicide blast kills 30 rebels

AGENCIES

The Islamic State jihadist group yesterday claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed more than 30 Syrian rebel fighters in a blast near the Turkish border.

IS, in a statement published on Twitter and the messaging service Telegram, said a suicide bomber detonated an explosive belt among rebels "getting ready to fight the Islamic State".

The blast on Sunday night struck the Atme border crossing between Turkey and the northern Syrian province of Idlib, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The monitoring group said the anti-regime fighters were travelling by bus to Turkey then back into Syria towards the rebel bastion of Azaz, in Aleppo province.

The attack killed 32 rebels as they were entering Turkey, the Britain-based Observatory said, updating an earlier toll on Sunday evening of 15. Its head Rami Abdel Rahman said the toll could rise further as other fighters remained critically wounded, reports AFP.

IS's statement said the attack left "nearly 50" rebels dead, charging they took orders from the US-led coalition fighting IS in Iraq and Syria.

IS has tried to advance on rebel territory in Aleppo province -- particularly the towns

of Azaz and nearby Marea -- for several months.

Meanwhile, Syrian government forces yesterday repelled a renewed rebel assault southwest of the city of Aleppo, forcing opposition forces to retreat from positions they seized a day earlier in the latest territorial back and forth between the two warring sides trying to break each other's hold around Syria's largest city.

The development followed intense and deadly battles around Aleppo and stepped up airstrikes by the Syrian and Russian air forces in Aleppo and nearby Idlib province, reports AP.

Fighting in Aleppo, once Syria's largest city and commercial capital, has intensified in recent weeks. The city near the Turkish border has been split between a rebel-held eastern part and a government-held western part since 2012. It has become the focal point of the war, encapsulating the bloody stalemate of Syria's conflict, now in its sixth year.

The rebel assault targeted key army positions at a cement factory southwest of Aleppo. Fath al-Sham posted video that purported to show militants pounding government positions with artillery and tank fire.

### SYRIA WAR



MAIL ONLINE

Dani tribe chief Eli Mabel is pictured holding the remains of Agat Mamete Mabel in the village of Wogi in Wamena in West Papua, an island in the centre of Papua New Guinea.

The indigenous tribe, who live in a remote area of the Papuan central highlands, used to preserve their ancestors by smoking their bodies, which kept them in a near-perfect state for hundreds of years.

The smoking mummification is no longer practiced, but the Dani

tribes people still preserve a number of mummies as a symbol of their highest respect for their ancestors.

In recent years, the Dani tribe has attracted tourists from around the world, with some villages even showing their original customs and holding mock wars.

Every August the Dani hold mock battles with neighbouring tribes - the Lani and Yali peoples - to celebrate the fertility and welfare of the Papua province as well as upholding ancient traditions.

The people of Baliem Valley, the

Dani, Lani and Yali tribes, were discovered accidentally by American zoologist and philanthropist Richard Archbold, while on a zoological expedition to New Guinea in 1938.

In the Dani tribe, the men wear distinctive tribal attire, including face paint, feathers, animal bones and intricate penis sheaths named Koteka.

The women wear skirts made from woven orchid fibres decorated with straw and woven bags, worn from the head, named 'noken'.

## Mummified remains of Dani tribe leader

The hidden mountain people in Papua preserve their ancestors with smoke



Indian army troops take position inside a building after a gunfight in Srinagar yesterday. Nine people including a 16-year old protester and a police commander were killed in Kashmir as clashes and gun battles raged across the disputed Himalayan region on Indian Independence Day.

PHOTO: AFP

## Angry and THAAD

S Koreans shave heads to protest US missile system

REUTERS, Seongju

About 900 South Koreans shaved their heads yesterday to protest against a government decision to place a missile defense system designed to counter North Korean missile threats, in the southeastern county of Seongju.

Tension has run high since North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and followed up with a satellite launch and a string of test launches of missiles.

South Korea announced in July that a US THAAD anti-missile defense unit would be deployed in Seonju, but residents have protested, citing safety fears over the system's sophisticated radar and its potential to be a wartime target.

The plan has also angered China and prompted a North Korean warning of retaliation.

Seongju residents, many of them farmers cultivating a melon variety that has brought the county domestic fame, sat in somber silence as they had their heads shaved while a protest leader led a crowd in chants of "No



THAAD!

"THAAD should not be deployed at all, not just in Seongju, but anywhere in South Korea," said Yoo Ji-won, a 63-year-old melon farmer. "We residents gathered here and shaved heads to demonstrate against its deployment."

As many as 908 people joined in the head-shaving part of the protest, organizers said.

"This is the most powerful way of displaying protest," protest leader Kim An-soo said. "We cannot protest any bigger".

The South Korean defense ministry has vowed to minimize any impact from THAAD on residents and the environment.

## NEWSIN brief

### 33 people killed in Nepal bus crash

AP, Kathmandu

An overcrowded bus veered off a mountain highway in Nepal yesterday, killing at least 33 people and injuring 28 others in one of the country's deadliest bus crashes in recent years. Injured people were brought by helicopter to Kathmandu and were being treated in two hospitals, Home Ministry official Chiranjivi Nepal said.

### Saudi soldiers get Yemen war bonus

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi soldiers on the front lines of the war in Yemen are getting a month's extra salary from King Salman. King Salman "has ordered paying a month's salary to active participants at the front lines" of the Yemen operation, the Saudi Press Agency reported late Sunday. The handout comes after the 17-month-old war following suspension of peace talks with Yemeni rebels.

### S African woman jailed for baby kidnap

AFP, Cape Town

A South African court yesterday jailed a woman for 10 years for kidnapping a newborn baby and raising her as her own, before an astonishing coincidence reunited the girl with her biological family. The baby girl, named Zephany Nurse by her birth family, was taken from her sleeping mother at a maternity ward at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town in 1997. Her kidnapper, now 52, raised her for 17 years in a case that has attracted huge media interest in South Africa.