

2 members of the Maoist outfit, an encounter, which took place Friday

Releasing a press statement here on Saturday, Prachanda, President. CPN-Maoist has said, "today's attack is the centralised expression of mass rebellion

One policeman's body could be identified. The dead can either be Santa Karki of Parbat or Durga Prasad Khanal of Palpa.

"No constitutional procedures have been followed while raising the issue."

# In one cataclysmic moment, Bichaur turns into a crematorium

By Gokarna Khatiwada

**BICHAUR, LAMJUNG, July 7** - An icy chill ran through the spine of Pitamber Dawadi, when he saw his wife fall to the ground splattered with blood. And what was more agonizing to Dawadi was the thought that his wife could not even drink a drop of water while slipping into the dreary world.

The incident that occurred in a remote village of Bichaur in Lamjung district on Saturday morning will never be forgotten by the local residents. More so Pitamber Dawadi's family for whom what had transpired was beyond comprehension.

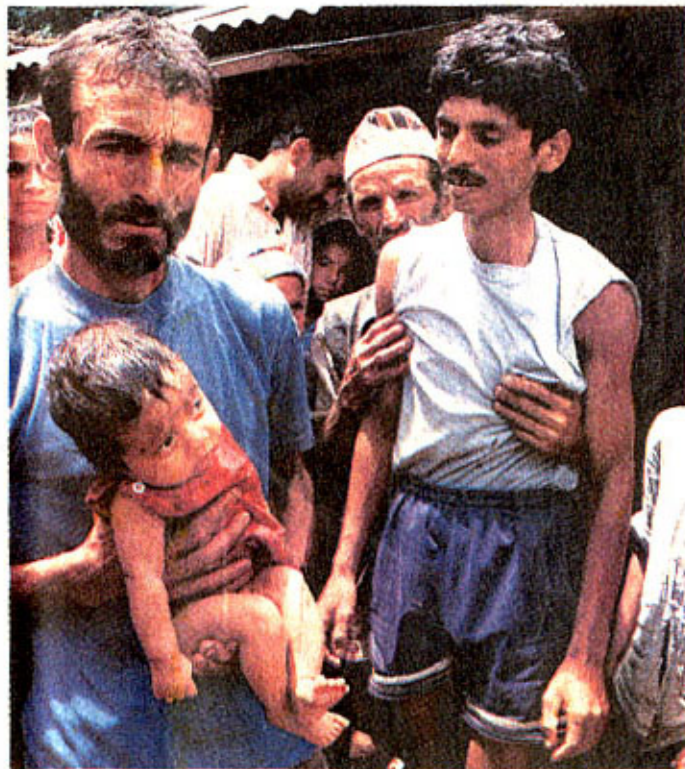
To Dawadi's family, the atmosphere of terror that had reigned the place from 2:15am after Maoist rebels attacked the Bichaur police post, had not subsided even after sunrise.

The Dawadi family, which lived 200 metres away from the police post, had not even slept a wink during the attack by the Maoist on the post in question as the whole ambience of the once serene village was pierced by the roaring sound of gunfire. But when the sound of the gunfire had subsided a bit, Parbati Dawadi had come out of the room to clean her yard.

Her husband, Pitamber, who had been bed-ridden with diarrhoea, followed his wife to find out what had transpired in the wee hours of the night. But lo! he was greeted by a strange sound as soon as he opened the door.

As he looked towards where the sound had come, he saw the walls of his house splattered with blood. And, what was more heart-rending was when he saw his better half lying on the ground in a pool of blood.

"Her left eye and ear was bleeding profusely and the sight was so horrendous that I just could not



Pitamber Dawadi, who had his wife killed by Maoist rebel's bullet in the crossfire between Maoist and the local police in Bichaur, Lamjung, is seen with his 2 month old child. Photo: Sagar/TODAY

look on. And, when I regained consciousness, I found the villagers all around me," Dawadi said in sorrowful tone.

Parbati Dawadi, who was killed in the crossfire between the police and the rebels, has been suspected of having been police hit by a bullet, which came from the rebel's gun.

Pitamber Dawadi, who eked out a living by working for others, in a painful voice, said, "Without Parbati around I won't be able to support this child of ours and life itself seems to have filled with pain."

Crying in front of the dead body of Parbati, her mother-in-law said, "Oh! Parbati why did you leave so soon, how in the world are we going to raise the children. Pitamber and Parbati Dawadi have three daughters, with the youngest being just two months old.

## Buffaloes, too, not spared

In yet another incident, it had been a year since Indra Lal Neupane and the family had kept away from house, which abuts on the police station. They are currently living in rent in a house 300mts away from the post fearing incident of this magnitude. And he had not been able to sleep as well during that fateful moment.

Indra Lal Neupane, who had gone to his house, when the mayhem had subsided, was greeted with a sight of his cattle-shed burning. He could not see his two buffaloes, too. "There was something burning in the place where buffaloes were tethered and something was stinking as well. And as I poked it with a stick, I saw a carcass burning," said Indra Lal Neupane.

As it later transpired, the Maoist rebels had burnt one of their dead accomplices in the cattle-shed of Indra Lal Neupane after they had killed the police.

"In one cataclysmic moment, this village once so serene has turned into a crematorium," said one local, who did not want to be identified for security reasons.