

Health services govt's high priority, says PM

Contribution of Gangalal heart centre highlighted

By Our Correspondent

KATHMANDU, Jan. 28: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba said that the government had been taking the health sectors with high priority. He said that heart disease had become a major killer among Nepalese people.

Speaking at the ninth anniversary of Martyr Gangalal National Heart Centre, Prime Minister Deuba said that the centre had been providing important services to the people and helping to keep the national resources within the country.

PM Deuba also laid the foundation stone of the new 100-bed building of the hospital. The government has already provided Rs. 20 million for the hospital, and the Centre expects Rs. 100 million financial assistance from the government's health tax fund and individuals and organisations.

The Prime Minister also

inaugurated the newly built 'Gopal Kamala Surgical and ICU Wards'. Built at the cost of Rs. 20 million, it has two surgical wards and 10-bed surgical ICU. Social workers Gopal Raj Bhandari had donated Rs. 6 million and the remaining Rs. 14 million was borne by the centre.

At the programme, the Prime Minister also honoured Bhandari with certificate for his help.

Minister for Health Ashok Rai said that the health sector should be taken seriously. "The centre has provided a great service to the country's health sector," he said.

Dr. Bamshidhar Mishra, Minister of State for Health, said

that the hospital had ended the situation when people were forced to go abroad even for minor heart ailment. This has helped many people who cannot afford to go abroad, he added.

Dr. Mishra said that the government had provided 100 cardiac valves free of cost to the centre for the benefit of the poor people.

Dr. Bhagawan Koirala, executive director of the hospital, said that more than 1,500 cardiac surgery, 1,000 angiography, more than 200 PTMC, more than 50 angioplasty and more than 150 pacemaker implantation have been performed at the centre so far.

He informed that the hospital would start electrophysiological study for the first time in the country from this year.

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Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba after inaugurating the newly built surgical and ICU wards of the Martyr Gangalal National Heart Centre in Kathmandu, Friday.