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VIEWPOINT
Dr. Tilak Rawal



OPINION
Dipak Gyawali



PROSPECTIVE
Prem Singh Basnyat, PhD

NEW SPOTLIGHT

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Aug 21, 2020

FORTNIGHTLY

NEA A Tale Of Transformation

INSIDE



DEV SHUMSHER RANA
Against Slavery



MELAMCHI PROJECT
Role Of Madhav Trio



NEPAL- INDIA
Towards A Thaw?



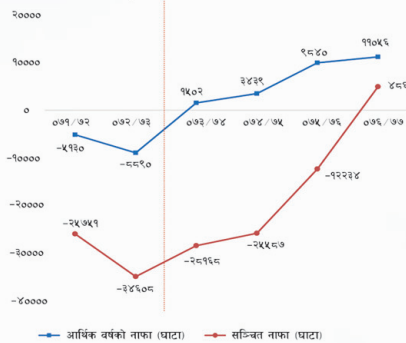
नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण Nepal Electricity Authority

३५औं वार्षिकोत्सवको अवसरमा प्रतिबद्धता

विद्युत् उत्पादन, प्रसारण र वितरण गर्दै आएको नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरणले ३५औं वर्ष पूरा गरेको छ। मुलुकले व्यहोरिरहेको दैनिक १४ घण्टासम्मको लोडसेडिङ अन्त्य मात्रै भएको छैन, आर्थिक वर्ष (आव) २०७२/७३ मा रु. ८ अर्ब ८९ करोड खुद घाटा बेहोरेको प्राधिकरणले त्यसयता लगातार नाफा गर्दै आएको छ। आव २०७६/७७ मा करिब रु. ११ अर्ब खुद नाफा कमाएर सबैभन्दा बढी नाफा कमाउने सार्वजनिक संस्थान बनेर गौरवपूर्ण इतिहास बनाउन पनि सफल भएको छ।

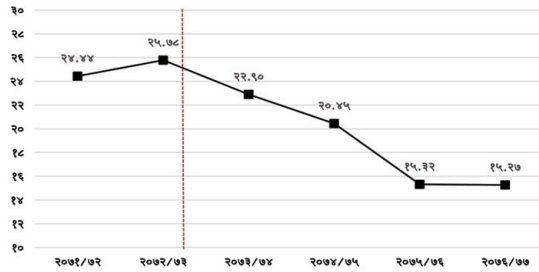
वित्तीय अवस्था (रु. १० लाखमा)

आर्थिक वर्ष २०७२/७३ मा रु. ३४ अर्ब ६१ करोड सञ्चित घाटामा रहेको प्राधिकरण आव २०७६/७७ मा करिब रु. ५ अर्ब सञ्चित नाफा कमाउन सफल।



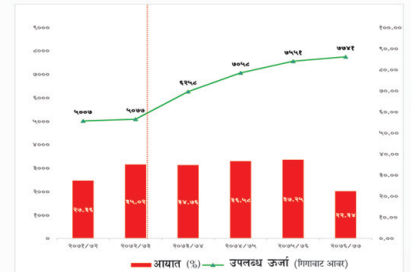
विद्युत् चुहावट (प्रतिशतमा)

आर्थिक वर्ष २०७२/७३ मा प्रणालीमा रहेको २५.७८ प्रतिशत विद्युत् चुहावटलाई घटाएर आव २०७६/७७ मा १५.२७ प्रतिशतमा सीमित गर्न सफल।



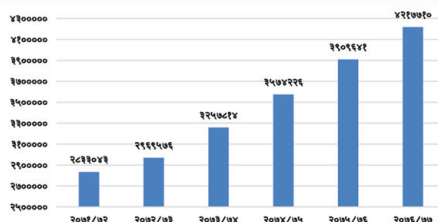
उपलब्ध विद्युत् तथा आयात

देश जति बेला १४ घण्टासम्म लोडसेडिङमा थियो, मुलुकभित्रको कुल विद्युत् खपतको करिब ३५ प्रतिशत विद्युत् भारतबाट आयात गर्नुपर्ने अवस्थामा थियो। तर, विद्युत् खपत करिब ८० प्रतिशतले बढेको अवस्थामा पनि आयातको प्रतिशत ३७ प्रतिशत हाराहारीमा थियो। गत वर्ष आयात २२ प्रतिशतमा सीमित भएको छ। आगामी वर्ष ५ देखि १० प्रतिशतमा सीमित हुनेछ।



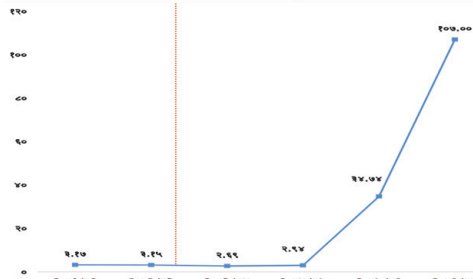
विद्युत् खपत वृद्धि

आर्थिक वर्ष २०७२/७३ मा ग्राहक संख्या २९ लाख ६९ हजार ५ सय ७५ रहेकोमा आव २०७६/७७ मा कुल ग्राहक संख्या ४२ लाख पुगेको छ। ग्रीडको विद्युत् पहुँच पुगेको जनताको संख्या चार वर्षअघि करिब ६३ प्रतिशत थियो भने अहिले करिब ८६ प्रतिशत पुगेको छ। विद्युत्को पहुँचमा चार वर्षअघि करिब २३ प्रतिशतले वृद्धि भएको छ। आव २०७२/७३ मा प्रतिव्यक्ति वार्षिक विद्युत् खपत १३१ युनिट रहेकोमा त्यसयता विद्युत् खपत निरन्तर बढेर आव २०७६/७७ मा २६० युनिट पुगेको छ।



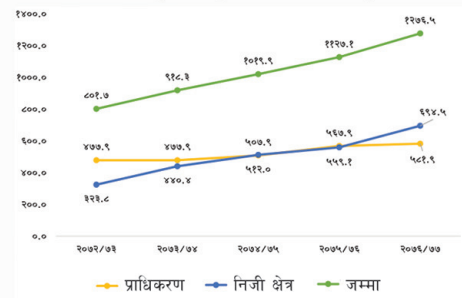
विद्युत् निर्यात (मिगावाट अवरमा)

प्राधिकरणले आर्थिक वर्ष २०७२/७३ मा ३१ लाख ५० हजार युनिट निर्यात गरेकोमा आव २०७६/७७ मा १० करोड ७० लाख युनिट विद्युत् निर्यात गरेको छ। केही वर्षअघि विद्युत्मा आत्मनिर्भर भई नेट निर्यात सुरु गरिनेछ।



विद्युत् उत्पादन (मेगावाटमा)

आर्थिक २०७२/७३ सम्म नेपालमा कुल ८०१.७ मेगावाट जलविद्युत् उत्पादन भइरहेकोमा यस अवधिमा जलविद्युत् उत्पादन ५७ प्रतिशतले वृद्धि भई कुल १२५८.७ मेगावाट पुगेको छ।



प्रसारण लाइन

आर्थिक वर्ष २०७२/७३ सम्ममा ६६ केमी र सोभन्दा माथिका प्रसारण लाइन लम्बाइ २ हजार ९ सय ११ सर्किट किलोमिटर रहेकोमा आव २०७६/७७ सम्ममा करिब ४ हजार २ सय ७५ सर्किट किलोमिटर पुगेको छ। यो करिब ४७ प्रतिशतले बढी हो। ग्रीड स्वस्वसेनहरूको क्षमता करिब २ हजार २ सय २३ एमभिए थियो, अहिले यो क्षमता ४ हजार १ सय ६१ एमभिए रहेको छ।

अन्तरदेशीय प्रसारण

आर्थिक वर्ष २०७२/७३ सम्ममा नेपाल-भारतबीच करिब ३५० मेगावाट विद्युत् प्रवाह हुन सक्ने अन्तरदेशीय प्रसारण संरचना रहेकोमा अहिले प्रसारण क्षमता वृद्धि भई १५०० मेगावाट पुगेको छ। बृटवल-गोरखपुर, मैनहिया-सम्पत्तिया, इन्दुरवा-पूर्णिया, लम्की-बरेली, कोहलपुर-उत्तरप्रदेश निर्माणको विभिन्न चरणमा छन्। नेपाल र चीनबीच पनि रातोमाटे-रसुवागडी-केरुङ ४०० केमी प्रसारण लाइन निर्माणको लागि प्राधिकरण र स्टेट ग्रीड चाईनाबीच समझदारी पत्रमा हस्ताक्षर भई नेपालतिरको लाइनको सम्भाव्यता अध्ययन पूरा भएको छ।

वितरण

आर्थिक वर्ष २०७२/७३ मा करिब २६ हजार वितरण ट्रांसफर्मर प्रणालीमा जडान भएका थिए जसको कुल क्षमता करिब २ हजार ६०० एमभिए थियो। अहिले वितरण ट्रांसफर्मरहरू करिब साढे ३५ हजार पुगेका छन् भने जडित क्षमता करिब ३ हजार ५ सय एमभिए छ। काठमाडौंलगायतका सहरी क्षेत्रका वितरण लाइनहरू बढ्दो विद्युत् माग व्यवस्थापन, आपूर्तिमा विश्वसनीयता तथा गुणस्तर कायम गर्न काठमाडौं उपत्यकामा विद्युतीय तारलाई भूमिगत विछ्याउन सुरु गरिएको छ। औद्योगिक तथा व्यापारिक ग्राहकका लागि स्मार्ट ग्रीड मिटर जडान भइसकेको छ भने घरघरसम्म ग्राहकका लागि स्मार्ट मिटर जडान सुरु गरिएको छ।

संस्थागत सुशासन

सूचना प्रविधि मार्गचित्रलाई प्रभावकारी रूपमा कार्यान्वयनमा ल्याई 'डिजिटल एनइए' अवधारणाअनुरूप प्राधिकरणका हरेक क्रियाकलापलाई डिजिटल प्रविधिमार्फत रूपान्तरण गरिनेछ।

प्राधिकरण समय र परिस्थितिको माग अनुसार संगठन संरचनालाई पुनर्संरचना गर्दै आफ्नो व्यवसायलाई अझ प्रभावकारी र सेवामूलक बनाउन कटिबद्ध छ। आगामी दिनमा विद्युत्को आन्तरिक, अन्तरदेशीय र उपक्षेत्रीय बजार विस्तार गर्दै देशभित्र उत्पादित विद्युत् खेर नजाने गरी बिक्री गर्ने व्यवस्था मिलाइनेछ। प्राधिकरणले दिने सेवामा प्रभावकारिता ल्याउन, प्रणालीलाई स्वचालित रूपमा सञ्चालन गरी भरपर्दो र गुणस्तरीय विद्युत् आपूर्ति दिन तथा प्रविधिको प्रयोग गरी जनशक्तिको बढ्दो आवश्यकतालाई कम गर्दै लैजान प्रणालीलाई अटोमेटेसन र संस्थालाई डिजिटाइजेसन गर्ने कार्यलाई उच्च प्राथमिकता दिइनेछ।

सरकारको निर्देशन र उपभोक्ताको हित प्राधिकरणका लागि सर्वोपरि हो। प्राधिकरणले अहिलेसम्म प्राप्त गरेका उपलब्धी सुरुवात मात्र हो। यसको जगमा टेकेर अघि बढ्ने र समृद्धिका लागि सरकारले लिएको नीतिमा भरपर्दो माध्यम बन्ने प्राधिकरणको प्रण छ।

प्राधिकरणले आगामी वर्षहरूमा पनि खर्च कटौती गर्ने- आम्दानी बढाउने, चुहावट घटाउने- खपत बढाउने, उत्पादन बढाउने- महसुल घटाउने, आयात घटाउने- निर्यात बढाउने योजना बनाएको छ। संस्थाभित्रको आर्थिक पारदर्शिता, जवाफदेहिता र सुशासनलाई कठोरताका साथ लागु गरिनेछ।

कठिन परिस्थितिमा समेत प्राधिकरणका हरेक गतिविधिमार्फत निरन्तर रूपमा सहयोग एवं समर्थन गरी हामीलाई हौसला र प्रेरणा प्रदान गर्नुहुने सम्पूर्ण ग्राहक एवम् विभिन्न व्यावसायिक संस्थाहरूप्रति आभार प्रकट गर्दछौं। नियमित, भरपर्दो, गुणस्तरीय विद्युत् सेवा उपलब्ध गराउन अहोरात्र खट्ने प्रतिबद्धतासहित उज्यालो नेपालको संवाहकको रूपमा निरन्तर खटिरहने प्रतिबद्धता जनाउँदछौं।

नोट : आव ०७६/७७ का सम्पूर्ण तथ्यांक लेखापरीक्षणपूर्वका हुन्।

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Notes From The Editor



After successfully handling the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic, Nepal's case proved to be a good model. However, the second wave that followed the easing of transport restriction and lockdown has created havoc all over the country, particularly in major cities, capital Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Pokhara, Birgunj and Butwal. After the announcement of the ending of the lockdown, the number of coronavirus cases tripled in Kathmandu Valley. The number of death has also increased to about 100. Given this scenario, the government has decided to postpone the opening of international and domestic flights until September 1, 2020. Similarly, long route bus services have also been delayed. Although the government has not announced a new nationwide lockdown, measures have already been put in place to restrict mobility. The permission to enter into Kathmandu Valley has been stopped and international border with India continues to be shut down. As the country has been facing health and economic crises, we have taken up to look into these issues. However, as Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is celebrating its 35th Anniversary in four years since the appointment of Kul Man Ghising as Managing Director, we have decided to cover the electricity supply situation as our main story. In four years, MD Ghising took Nepal from darkness to light and established NEA as a profit-making utility. We discuss the achievement and progress of NEA from its mundane state to digitalization. Along with this, we have also covered other regular issues and columns.

Keshab Poudel

Editor

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Shaky Prime Minister

With no immediate signs of the internal feud within ruling party being resolved, the country will suffer further due to the division

By A CORRESPONDENT

Will Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli agree to resign either as the chairperson or prime minister? Given the current mood, there are no such chances. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Ishwor Pokharel, in his recent interview to *The Rising Nepal*, rejected the demand outright.

“What chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda and some other senior leaders are doing is very disgraceful. If there are intra-party disputes, then they can be resolved internally through dialogue. If there has been some shortcoming then they should be corrected. But it is very depressing to see how some senior party leaders have been publicly attacking the government and the Prime Minister. This is not good for the party unity and the movements led by the party, Nepali society and the whole nation,” said Pokharel.

DPM Pokharel has indicated the stand of Prime Minister Oli. Although Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and Co-chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal held talks on August 13 at Prime Minister’s residence Baluwater, no one budged from his stand to end the stalemate.

“If the government has some shortcoming then it should have been asked to correct it. But they are demanding that PM Oli should resign from both posts. Those who are now asking the PMs’s resignation have no moral ground to make such a demand. The demand is morally, legally and politically shameful,” said Pokharel.

No matter how cordial and positive talks both the leaders held, core disputes among the two factions are yet to be resolved. With no sign of any compromise from Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in power sharing, co-chair Prachanda can do a little.

At a time when various factions within the party are making efforts to find a compromise, Chief Minister of province 5 Shankar Prasad Pokharel and Former Minister Janardan Sharma accompanied the leaders in the talks.

PM Oli and Dahal have held numerous rounds of meetings to sort out the differences between the warring factions in the ruling party, albeit not reaching a consensus, yet.

Dahal, along with other senior leaders, has repeatedly asked Oli to quit either of the two posts that he holds – prime minister or party chair. PM Oli, on the other hand, has been refusing to agree to the dissenting faction’s demands.

As long as Prime Minister Oli and Co-chair Prachanda continue to stand on their demand, it is unlikely to end the current political deadlock.

Agreeing for talks is a significant step in the context of long deadlock. However, they are yet to come to an agreement. For PM Oli, it is not easy to agree on the demand of his rival to quit from one position. Similarly, Prachanda does not go beyond the present offer.

Party general secretary Bishnu Poudel said that the meeting between the two chairmen ended positively, and the meeting would continue. He said that he was hopeful that the differences surfaced in the party would be resolved.

Likewise, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli’s press advisor Surya Thapa said that it was positive that the leaders held a meeting after a long gap. “Hope, the next meeting will reach a conclusion,” he added.

Chairman Prachanda reached the Prime Minister’s official residence in Baluwater to meet PM Oli, he added. Sapkota said, “The meeting has made a signif-



icant headway and this is a positive development to bridge the differences between the two chairmen. Both the chairmen have become ready to end the intra-party feud in the upcoming meeting.”

Bishnu Poudel, General Secretary of the party, and Standing Committee members Shanker Pokharel and Janardan Sharma ‘Pravakar’ were also present in the meeting, Prime Minister Oli’s media coordinator Ram Sharan Bajgain said.

Personal Secretariat of the chairmen informed that though the leaders were close to consensus, no concrete agreement was reached.

The meeting was held a day after PM Oli in a television interview had said that the ongoing intra-party feud would be settled down within five days. The party leaders are also hopeful of an agreement between the two sides within the next few days.

The NCP’s Standing Committee meeting was first called for June 24 to resolve the ongoing intra-party rift but it was deferred for the seventh time. For the compromise, there is the need to give up political stand taken by both the factions. Whether they agree or disagree, the current political stalemate has badly shaken the government.

NEWSNOTES

JICA Nepal Hands Over COVID-19 Relief

JICA Nepal handed over COVID-19 response relief items to Chautara Sangachowkgadhi Municipality and Helambu Rural Municipality in Sindhu-palchowk and Palungtar Municipality and Barpak Sulikot Rural Municipality in Gorkha, four of the pilot local governments supported under its Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) "The Project on Participatory Rural Recovery" (PPRR).



Chief Representative of JICA Nepal Ms. Yumiko Asakuma handed over emergency relief materials, such as food (rice, lentils, cooking oil), PPE (personal protection equipment), gloves, masks and sanitizers, VTM (Viral transport medium, for swabs) and bedding sets (mattresses, pillows, and bed sheets etc.) to mayors and representatives of municipalities during the first and second week of August.

Currently, Palungtar Municipality and Barpak Sulikot Rural Municipality are operating 4 quarantine facilities respectively, catering to between 40 - 70 people in isolation at any point in time. Chautara Municipality has 2 facilities and Helambu Rural Municipality has one, with about 50 people accommodated.

Pakistan Celebrates Independence Day

On the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of Pakistan, a simple and graceful flag hoisting ceremony was held at Embassy of Pakistan today.

In the ceremony, Pakistan's ambassador to Nepal, Mazhar Javed, hoisted the flag. Embassy Officials, senior members of Nepal-Pakistan Friendship and Cultural Association (NP-FCA) and media representatives were present.

A message of the Foreign Minister of Nepal Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day was screened. The Foreign Minister expressed his felicitations to the people of Pakistan and appreciated the friendly cordial relations between the two countries.

Embassy Of India In Kathmandu Celebrates 74th Independence Day

The Embassy of India celebrated 74th Independence Day of India at Embassy premises today. Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra hoisted the flag at Embassy of India Premises.



The event was attended by Embassy officials and was live streamed also for Indians living in Nepal, Friends of India in Nepal and Media.

Addressing the program, Ambassador of India to Nepal Kwatra expressed warm greetings to all with Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

COAS Thapa Confers Insignia Of Major General To Bigyan Dev Pandey

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Purna Chan-

dra Thapa has conferred insignia of the rank of Major General to newly promoted Brigadier General Bigyan Dev Pandey, who was promoted to rank of Major General through a Council of Minister's decision of August 10, amid a special ceremony organized at Army Headquarters, Bhadrakali.

Major General Pandey is posted as a head of Northern Western Areas Command. During the ceremony, high ranking military personnel were also present.



India Provides 10 Ventilators To Nepal Army

Indian Army has provided 10 ventilators to Nepali Army in order to support its efforts to fight against the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra presented the ventilators to Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) Purna Chandra Thapa, who is also Honorary General of Indian Army, amid a ceremony held at Nepali Army Headquarters.

According to a press release issued by the Embassy of India, these ventilators are designed for a broad range of applications to include advanced invasive or non-invasive respiratory support.

They can be used in support of secondary care in hospitals with ICU, tertiary multispecialty hospitals and dedicated ICUs. Further, due to their compact nature, they are portable and handy in transportation of patients requiring intensive care.

"The Indian army has a long record of extending support to the Nepali Army as a first responder for humanitarian assistance and relief. The gifting of ventilators is part of this continued humanitarian cooperation between the two Armies.

During the handing over, Ambassador Kwatra reaffirmed India's commitment to provide all necessary help to the people of Nepal in prevailing over the pandemic.



Buddha Was Born In Nepal: Indian External Affairs Ministry

India has once again officially reiterated that Gautam Buddha was born in Nepal. In a press conference at the External Affairs Ministry in India, the official spokesperson said that there is no dispute about the fact that Buddha was born in Nepal.

The official spokesperson was responding to a media query on External Affairs Minister's remarks at the CII event on 08 August, 2020.

"EAM's remarks yesterday at the CII event referred to our shared Buddhist heritage. There is no doubt that Gautam Buddha was born in Lumbini, which is in Nepal," said spokesperson of External Affairs Ministry.

WFP Distributes Food Donated By US

Take home rations from the United States have supported nutrition and learning for children amid COVID-19.

Fortified rice, lentils and vegetable oil, totaling to nearly 1,500 MT, donated by the United States have been distributed by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Nepal to school children (from Grade 1-8) in rural areas who are missing out on nutritious school lunches they used to receive in Sudur Paschim and Karnali provinces.

The closure of schools is putting the future of millions of children around the world at risk, affecting not only their ability to learn but also their access to nutritious food and health-support schemes.



Since March, 2.4 million children in Nepal have been missing out on the nutritious lunches they used to receive at school — the only proper meals many of them could count on. The donation from the United States will support 150,000 of the most vulnerable households in the area.

Rajib Upadhyaya's Book Cabals And Cartels Released

At a time when COVID-19 is shaking the very process of economic development of Nepal and putting the achievements made during the last three decades in peril, the publication of a book, *Cabals and Cartels*, by journalist Rajib Upadhyaya is highly significant for readers seeking a broader context.

An observer of the five-decade-long development process, not only through the lens of the World Bank but also by



virtue of being raised in a family of Nepal's legendary scholar, diplomat and bureaucrat late Devendra Raj Upadhyaya, Rajib Upadhyaya

has watched the ebb and flow of Nepal's political economy from up close.

When Upadhyaya joined The World Bank Nepal Office, the country was in the middle of a crisis following the debacle of Arun III and the World Bank was in transition in Nepal. From Maoist insurgency to Nepal's new political transition, Upadhyaya's period in the World Bank was the most turbulent.

The words expressed by former finance minister and civil society leader Dr. Devendra Raj Pandey about *Cabals and Cartels* speak volumes about its worth.

"This absorbing tale of Nepal's trials and tribulations in a challenging period is remarkable both for the depth of analysis and the breadth of its coverage. Focused on the country's dysfunctional transitional politics in relation to development and international aid, the book crafts a lucid story that reaches into

critical aspects of Nepal's political economy to highlight a 'dark underbelly' that continues to upset the hopes and promises of post-conflict transition," writes Dr. Pandey, the author of some very important books on Nepal's development, who is closely watching the country's transformation

Not only Pandey, Shantayanan Devarajan, Professor, Practice of International Development George Town University and Former Chief Economist of World Bank's South Asian Region, has also recommended the book for readers of Nepal's development process.

Major General Hamal Takes Charge In UNDOF

UNDOF formally welcomed Major General Ishwar Hamal as its new Head of Mission and Force Commander On July 27.

Major General Hamal attended the Handover Takeover Ceremony between the Incoming Head of Mission & Force Commander. Major General Hamal and Acting Head of Mission Amedeo Micelli was conducted in Camp Faouar, UNDOF HQ. He had arrived in the mission on 10 July 2020 and stayed in quarantine for 14 days.



The Head of Mission Handover Takeover Ceremony was witnessed with a guard of Honor to the HoM/FC with peace keepers from Nepalese Mechanized Company (NMC), IND-CON, Uruguayan Mechanized Infantry Company (UMIC) and Force Reserve Company (FRC).

Mahinda Rajapaksa Sworn In As Sri Lanka's PM

Former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa has been sworn in as the country's prime minister for the fourth time after his party secured a landslide victory in parliamentary elections that cemented his family's hold on power.

Mahinda took oath before his younger brother, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, at a prominent Buddhist temple on the outskirts of the capital Colombo.

Mahinda served as the island nation's president from 2005 to 2015 and is highly popular among the ethnic majority Sinhalese for ending the country's 25-year civil war with Tamil rebels in 2009.

He was first elected prime minister in 2004 and again appointed for brief periods in 2018 and 2019. Sri Lanka People's Front, the party led by the Rajapaksa brothers, won 145 seats in the 225-member parliament in the recent election.

Its main opponent, the SJB, obtained 54 seats. A party representing ethnic minority Tamils won 10 seats, and 16 others were split among 12 small parties.



BUSINESS BRIEF

NIBL Bags Award Of Recognition From IFC



N e p a l
Investment Bank Limited (NIBL), one of the largest private sector banks in Nepal, bagged an “Award of Recognition” from International Financial Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, for “2019

Best Partner in Low Income IDA Countries, South Asia”, for maximum volume of trade finance from Nepal under Global Trade Finance Program (GTFP).

IFC partnered with Nepal Investment Bank to promote Trade Finance in Nepal to enable the bank to enhance its support for local enterprises and help boost international trade opportunities. IFC’s Trade Finance support enabled the country’s corporate and small and medium enterprise sector to increase their share of global trade and get recognized by a wider range of correspondent banks globally. The network facilitates transactions in challenging markets, promotes competitive financing, and builds correspondent bank relationships with new institutions at low risk.

International Development Association (IDA), involved in ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity, is critical for South Asia, world’s fastest growing region, to deliver sustained and inclusive growth, human capital development and resilience.

NIBL has been catering to its customers from 82 branches, 124 ATMs, 17 extension counters, 10 revenue collection counters and 56 branchless banking counters. The bank, being the recipient of five Financial Times Bank of the Year awards for exemplary service and business, was accredited with Euromoney awards for “Best Bank 2018” from the international publication - Euromoney. Further, ICRA Nepal (International Credit Rating Agency- Nepal) has given the bank a credit rating of “A”.



N i r v a n Chaudhary Hands Over 8 Ventilators To MoHP

Chaudhary Foundation, a welfare trust under Chaudhary Group, has handed over 8 ventilators to Minis-

try of Health and Population (MoHP) in view of the growing number of serious COVID-19 cases.

Vice President of Chaudhary Foundation Nirvan Chaudhary handed over the ventilators to Minister for Health and Population Bhanubhakta Dhakal at the premise of the Ministry. With the increase in the number of serious COVID-19 cases, the government hospitals have been facing scarcity of ventilators. The Ministry will distribute ventilators to Province 1, 2, Bagmati and Province 5.

After receiving the ventilators, Minister Dhakal thanked the foundation for its generous support to Nepal government to fight against COVID-19. Minister Dhakal said this will help the country at this crucial juncture to save the human life.

Vice President of the Foundation and Managing Director of Chaudhary Group Nirvan Chaudhary said that ventilators are provided to help government to treat COVID-19 patients. He said that the foundation has been providing support to the government in difficult situations and disasters in the country and is ready to provide additional support.

Earlier, the foundations had already donated various medical equipment under its three-stage support program. It has provided much needed PPE, N-95 Mask and other health related materials to 48 hospitals and health care centers in the country. It supplied medicines in first, second and third phases.

Under its fourth phase program, the foundation has handed over two ventilators each to four provinces.

FNCCI Forms Committee To Resolve Disputes

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) has formed a committee to resolve the organisation’s annual general meeting (AGM) and election disputes.

A virtual meeting of FNCCI has decided to form a six-member panel to study and finalize the organization’s AGM and election which have been delayed since months owing to the unfavorable circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee comprises industrialists DB Basnet, Arun Raj Sumargi, Binod Dhakal, Sunil Gopal Shrestha, Bharat Acharya and Ranjeet Acharya.

As per FNCCI, the committee will recommend the federation with an effective AGM and election modality amid the current COVID-19 crisis.

The committee has been given 15 days to recommend FNCCI with effective election and AGM modality.

As per FNCCI sources, the committee has also been asked to propose dates for the AGM and election.

“Holding the AGM and election is inevitable. However, FNCCI has not been able to hold the AGM since long owing to the coronavirus crisis,” said an FNCCI source, adding that the federation will take necessary decision on the AGM and election based on the recommenda-

tion of the committee.

FNCCI, the largest private sector representing body in the country, had initially planned to hold its 54th AGM on April 10 and 11. However, the outbreak of the

COVID-19 pandemic halted this plan and FNCCI postponed the AGM plan indefinitely.

NIBL Ace Capital Named Share Registrar Of Soaltee Hotel

NIBL Ace Capital Limited has been appointed as the share registrar of Soaltee Hotel Limited.

The Share Registrar Service Agreement made between the two companies on Shrawan 26, 2077 covers the matter.

In investing terms, a registrar is an institution, often a bank or trust company, responsible for keeping records of bondholders and shareholders after an issuer offers securities to the public.

Soaltee Hotel had its own department to carry out the operations of a share registrar previously.

Himalaya Airlines Donates Supplies Against COVID-19

Himalaya Airlines donated a portable ventilator and other medical items to AMDA Hospital, Damak, Jhapa and a PCR machine to Covid-19 Control Management Centre (CCMC), Gulmi.

As part of its CSR commitment to support the Government of Nepal's ongoing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, Himalaya Airlines donated a PCR (NAE-32, ICTOB-16) machine and other essential medical supplies.

According to a press release issued by the Airlines, the support included 51200 disposable medical masks, 606

medical face shields, 575 medical goggles, 40 medical infrared thermometers, 35 pairs of protective boots and 5000 pairs of disposable gloves to Covid-19 Control Management Centre (CCMC) Gulmi.

The donation was handed over

jointly by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Vijay Shrestha, Vice President - Himalaya Airlines, in Gulmi in the premises of CCMC to the Mayor of Resunga Municipality Dilli Raj Bhusal.



BUSINESS BRIEF

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Foreign Affairs Kumar Gyawali said, "any amount of medical supplies is not enough at this time of crisis, we are thankful to Himalaya Airlines for their abiding support at the time when the nation along with the whole world is going through the difficult phase. These critical supplies are very timely. Their use will help protect our health workers who are at the frontlines working tirelessly to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

Vice President Vijay Shrestha expressed, "Himalaya Airlines is proud to continue its support with the Government of Nepal in its efforts to contain COVID-19. In this difficult period, it is our civic duty to support the Government. The donated PPE supplies reiterate Himalaya's long-term commitment to serve beyond the call of our duty and help the nation in every possible way."

Continuing the donation support, on July 24, 2020, President of Himalaya Airlines, Zhou Enyong, handed over a portable ventilator along with 500 RDT Kits, 100 PPE sets, 500 N-95 masks, 2000 pairs of surgical masks, 5000 pairs of disposable gloves and 5 infrared thermometers to AMDA Hospital, Damak, Jhapa. Indra Bhandari, Principal Private Secretary of Prime Minister, thanked Himalaya Airlines, while receiving the donated PPE materials on behalf of the hospital.

Speaking during the handover, President Zhou Enyong remarked, "Our consistent commitment and business value is first of all, to serve and make contribution to the country and society."

Hyatt Awarded Traveler's Choice Award 2020

Hyatt Regency Kathmandu has been awarded with 'Traveler's Choice Award 2020' by TripAdvisor, world's largest travel platform.

TripAdvisor.com, as part of its ongoing efforts to support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality industry, announced the winner during its 18th annual Traveler's Choice Award. The award is based on quality and quantity of millions of reviews, opinions and ratings collected on its webportal in 2019, prior to the pandemic.

Rajesh Ramdas, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Kathmandu said, "On behalf of the management and colleagues, I am proud and honored that, our hotel, has been recognized with this prestigious award."

"Although the year has been a challenging one for the tourism industry overall due to the ongoing pandemic, we promise to continue to deliver the best to our guests."

Hyatt Regency Kathmandu's 280 rooms and suites located in Bouddha, where one can enjoy views of Boudhanath Stupa or the hotel's gardens and the surrounding mountain ranges.

Hyatt Hotels Corporation, headquartered in Chicago, is a leading global hospitality company offering 21 premier brands over more than 30 countries across the continents.

Lockdown And Economies



BY: DR. TILAK RAWAL

Months have passed since the Corona outbreak in China, which has now taken a pandemic shape, taking numerous human lives and inflicting serious injuries on the global economy. Alarmed by the spread of virus, many countries hurriedly announced lockdown, bringing national economies to a grinding halt. This complete stoppage did not produce intended results in terms of significantly reducing the virus spread and it was realized over time that it would simply be not possible to continue with this kind of halt- a breeder of hunger, starvation and poverty. Decision makers across nations were, therefore, left with no choice but to gradually ease restrictions. With the opening of workplaces/markets, some economic activities have commenced and Covid-19 has also spread its coverage both in terms of number of people infected and deaths therefrom. Countries like the United States, Brazil and India are experiencing alarming situation but have not yet decided to announce complete lockdown of the past, which was strongly resisted by people. Those driving the nations must have realized that across the board declaration of policies and attempts at forcible execution of such announcements often turn out to be counter-productive. Many countries, therefore, are adopting a pragmatic approach of easing restriction in some areas and reposing them in some places depending on the spread of virus. Leaders do not look prepared to impose complete lockdown even in the face of glaring reality that virus spread has moved much faster after the lifting/easing of restrictions. Even India, where the disease has assumed an alarming proportion of late, does not seem to be ready for a nation-wide lockdown that was tried before. It is now clear that countries are worried and doing their best to save human lives and at the same time those at the helm of affairs are keen to make sure that their decisions do not lead to a drastic cut in livelihoods. A delicate balance between saving human lives and livelihood has to be struck.

Following footsteps of other Corona-threatened countries, Nepal imposed country-wide lockdown on March 24, 2020 at a time when it had seen only 2 Corona cases. The 120-days lockdown was lifted after mid-July with some restrictions in place. Expert opinions abound against both imposition of lockdown and its lifting. Some opine that the lockdown decision was a premature one taken in haste, which was also not utilized in making necessary arrangements related to medicine, quarantine facilities and testing. It seems the authorities took pride in the fact that not even a rat was seen on the

road, probably unaware of the harm that the lockdown was doing to the economy. In the meanwhile, experts, mostly from the medical field, feel that the lifting decision was taken without proper consultations as the Covid-19 threat is still high and in absence of precautionary measures, our country could see a massive surge in virus, burdening the already fragile and exhausted health care system. People do not want to argue against this opinion of experts as well as the widely held view that Nepal government failed to make use of the 4-month lockdown period, which delivered a crippling blow to our economy.

Countries have suffered unprecedented loss in economic output on account of Covid-19. EU has suffered deepest contraction on record. While Spain suffers the highest drop in GDP (18.5 percent) amongst EU countries, German economy

is reported to be on deepest decline on record. UK economy is reported to have been hit by worst contraction (20.4 percent) in 41 years. With major economies, including the US, suffering contraction in output, global economy is likely to shrink by 6 percent in 2020. In the midst of these disheartening estimates, governments, however, are trying their best to arrest accelerating deterioration in their economies

Governments in federal Nepal should take a pause to look back to learn from the past mistakes and move forward to secure an ultimate win, making earnest efforts to minimize losses on both fronts- human lives and livelihood. Such efforts launched to minimize losses on two fronts are not at all mutually exclusive and thus can be pushed simultaneously. Loss of human lives has to be minimized and collapse of our fragile economy prevented, make no mistake.

through launching of various schemes such as financial stimulus packages. Almost all major economies, including some in Asia, have launched schemes worth billions of dollars. Governments are seen offering business loans and retaining jobs to help economies. EU organized an in-person Covid-19 budget summit in July, which after many days of wrangling approved a recovery plan (consisting of loans and grants) in the tune of 850 billion dollars. Democrats and republicans in the US are finding it difficult to converge on one more stimulus package to help the ailing economy. China has succeeded in resurrecting domestic demand by harping on a strategy of investing on infrastructure projects, which was also successfully tried during 2008/2009 recession. China appears to have eradicated the disease within its territory but economic downturns in other major markets have hurt Chinese exports. It may be noted that China's astounding growth for four decades was basically on account of exports. India is also striving to get the economy

moving even while struggling to contain the virus that has assumed alarming proportion in a relatively short period of time. While many countries seem to be on the verge of producing a cure (vaccine), Russia has pleasantly surprised all of us by declaring on August 20, 2020 that it has become the first country in the world to produce Covid-19 vaccine available for use. Indeed, it is a beautiful piece of information at a time when world leaders are worried about the historical contraction taking place in their economies. Hope the concerned in Nepal are not completely unaware of the recent Corona-related positive development and the anxiety caused by the economic downturn.

Economy of Nepal has not been doing well since long with skyrocketing trade deficit and economic growth largely depending upon adequacy or otherwise of rain from the sky. This year we have been getting rains from the sky, which has led to an increase in paddy area by 3.24 percent, compared to the acreage under it last year. However, unavailability of fertilizers, floods, landslides and inundation of cropped land may make it difficult to achieve the expected paddy output of 6.5 million tons this year. On the industrial/business front, citing the negative impact on industries of 120-days' lockdown, Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) states that all industries and businesses will collapse if the lockdown of this kind is re-imposed in the country. The survey conducted by NRB states that 96.7 percent of the industries/businesses reported an average decline of 73.8 percent in production/turnover compared to the normal period, which was also adequately manifested by sharp decline (83.9 percent) in electricity consumption. Most of the industries/businesses that were forced into closure will need about 9 months to recover. We are lucky that we still have a relatively sound foreign exchange reserve to cover goods import for 13.3 months and goods and services import for 11.7 months. Further, our balance of payment has remained positive and the current account deficit has also decreased.

Annual budget of Nepal government has made some regular provisions related to tax cuts and subsidies but has remained way short of the expectation of people facing a major crisis. It is also equally doubtful whether whatever little has been stated in the budget document will be actualized. Many feel that a down sized budget with drastically reduced capital expenditure is definitely not what people expected at a time when governments elsewhere are doing so much to keep their economies moving. Listening to some observations of our finance minister, one can easily conclude that nothing substantial can be expected of the government during this period of crisis. One can simply pray that the current budget with reduced outlay does not face major hurdles in its execution. Some solace, however, can be drawn from the monetary policy of NRB, which has tried to rescue our economy by making public a bit expansionary policy. It has made efforts to enhance the quantum and coverage of refinance as well as reduce the cost of capital. NRB appears set to facilitate injection

of adequate liquidity into the market at a cheap rate. If the cheap capital to be made available is productively used, it will help arrest the decline in growth without fueling inflation, which runs the risk of hitting double digit mark soon basically on account of supply shocks/constraints. During this difficult period, NRB has also made provision for issuance of agriculture bond by Agricultural Development Bank and energy bond by banks experienced in energy financing, to ensure adequacy of funds in these areas. It is also gratifying to note that banks currently enjoy a liquidity surplus of more than Rs. 200 billion, which they have to disburse soon at reduced lending rates following simplified lending procedures because it would be simply unwise to sit on mounds of cost-bearing excess loanable funds for long. Hope what has been promised in the NRB annual document is actualized unlike what happens with government budgets each year. Only successful implementation of what is put in black and white can get the economy moving, which is facing the onslaught of Covid-19 likely to remain through 2021.

It is very disappointing that the concerned agencies have fallen far below the expectation of common people in terms of preparations even when they had plenty of time to do so. The government has failed in its resolve of arranging intensive care beds at 6 different hospitals located in the Valley. It is reported that half of what was allocated was used on equipment purchase and the remaining half got frozen. Equally disappointing is the performance regarding installation of isolation beds, which is clearly shown by the fact that people who test positive for Covid-19 are now asked to isolate themselves at home. Likewise, handwashing stations that were installed across the city are now without water. A huge amount is said to have been spent to fight the disease but results are nowhere to be seen, which has left many of us perplexed. Many of us are also tempted to conclude that the initial period (120-days) of complete lockdown was a colossal waste of the precious time during which meaningful homework could have been done to combat Corona. The only thing done during the period was to further injure the already unhealthy economy. This said, let us not forget that many countries have made mistakes while trying to contain the virus. Countries are facing and fighting new

increases after easing restrictions, fully confident that a complete lockdown is not the solution because the disease is not likely to disappear soon and governments can ill afford to shut economies for a long time. As already stated, our experience in fighting the disease has been very unsatisfactory and people are seeing government's resorting to different location-specific measures to contain the virus. Governments in federal Nepal should take a pause to look back to learn from the past mistakes and move forward to secure an ultimate win, making earnest efforts to minimize losses on both fronts- human lives and livelihood. Such efforts launched to minimize losses on two fronts are not at all mutually exclusive and thus can be pushed simultaneously. Loss of human lives has to be minimized and collapse of our fragile economy prevented, make no mistake.

(Dr. Rawal is a former governor of NRB)

Hope the concerned in Nepal are not completely unaware of the recent Corona-related positive development and the anxiety caused by the economic downturn.

Towards A Thaw?

Chilled by the proclamation of new map by Nepal, Nepal-India relations seem to be moving for restoration. The telephone conversations between the two prime ministers and the proposed first formal meeting between the two countries is likely to thaw the ice

By A CORRESPONDENT

“Relations between Nepal and India are nurtured and enriched by the noble ideals, values and principles that are common to our cultural heritage. People as inheritors of these valued traditions provide continuity infusing timelessness in our relationship,” said late King Birendra in his formal speech in January 1999 in India in reply to a speech in a banquet.

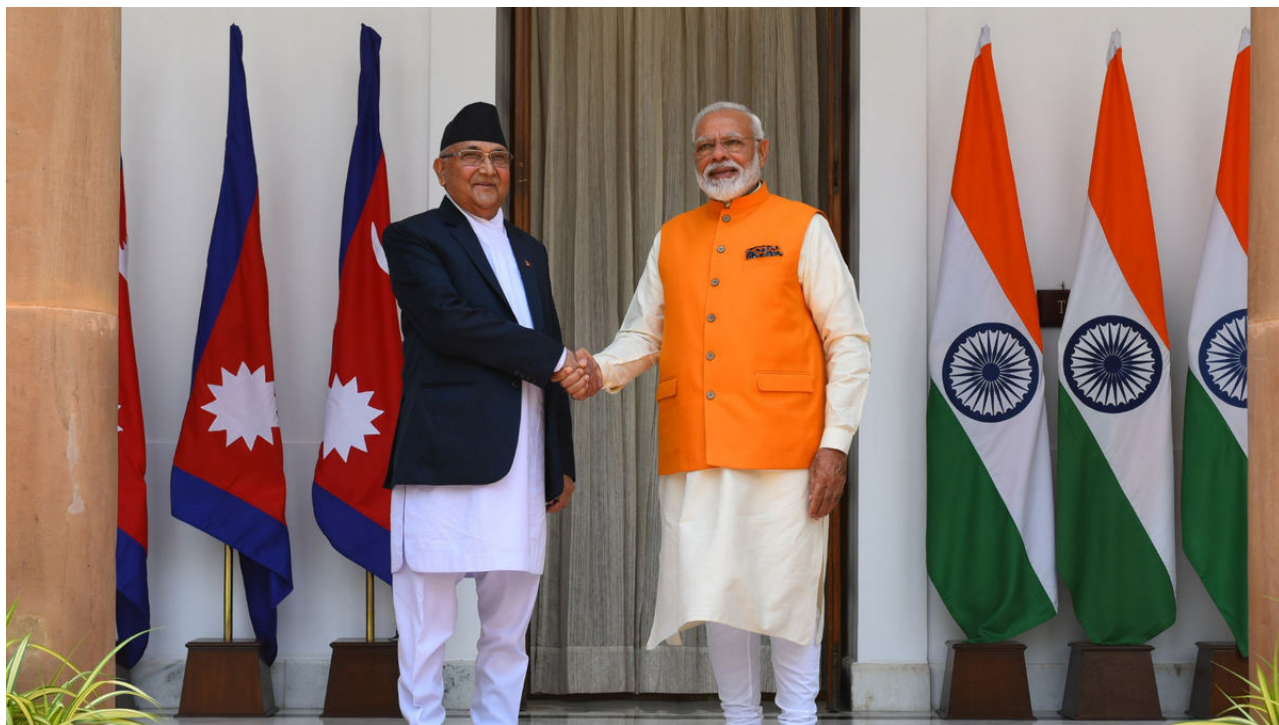
traditions provide continuity.

After the unilateral publication of new Nepal’s map by Nepal incorporating the territory Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, Nepal-India official relations reached to lowest level. Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli’s undiplomatic statements and his individual remarks India’s core religious matter have further worsened the state to state relations.

Independent Day on August 15.

Prime Minister Oli has greeted the Government and People of India on the and conveyed congratulations for India’s recent election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi reciprocated to PM Oli in their 11 minutes telephone conversation. The leaders expressed mutual



The personal whims, likes or dislikes do have no impacts on relations between Nepal and India, which share common civilization, culture, religions and values. As King late Birendra said values and

In one whim, PM Oli had made every effort to destroy the relations. Suddenly, Prime Minister Oli’s tone has changed and he called Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to greet on the occasion of India’s 74th

solidarity in the context of the efforts being made to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in both countries. Indian Prime Minister offered India’s continued support to Nepal in this regard.

Prime Minister thanked the PM Oli for his telephone call and recalled the civilization and cultural links that India and Nepal share.

PM Oli recalled his earlier conversation with Prime Minister Modi on 10 April 2020 and appreciated Prime Minister Modi's renewed priority to neighborhood as spelt out in today's Independence Day address. The Prime Minister of Nepal looked forward to meaningful bilateral cooperation.

The two Prime Ministers exchanged views on the latest efforts in the fight against COVID-19 and agreed to work together in this area. While underlining the need for early development of anti-COVID vaccine, PM Oli expressed the hope that scientists around the world, including in India, would be able to develop it that will contribute to control and prevent the disease from spreading further.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to continue discussions on bilateral matters in the future. Although he is unpredictable, Oli's call helps to thaw in the relations.

Along with telephone conversations, Nepal and India are meeting on August 18 to discuss development issues which are directly related to the life and prosperity of Nepalese people.

The meeting is likely to take place via videoconference in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting will take place in Kathmandu where Nepal's Foreign Secretary Shankar Das Bairagi will lead a team of officials while the Indian side will be led by Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

India is building roads in the Terai region, helping Nepal in its post-earthquake reconstruction work, building railway lines, a po-

lice training academy, a polytechnic college, an oil pipeline and border check posts. The government has allocated Rs 800 crore in this year's budget for projects in Nepal.

The meeting — of the joint oversight mechanism to review projects established in 2016, and which last met in July 2019 — assumes significance since Indian and Nepalese officials have not met to discuss the Kalapani border dispute due to the pandemic.

The boundary dispute between India and Nepal came to the fore last November when India published its new map following the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and the end of its special status under Article



370.

Kathmandu had proposed talks to discuss the boundary issue. It was tentatively scheduled for March, but had to be put off due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Nepal suggested a videoconference, and then claimed that New Delhi was dragging its feet on the proposal.

India's inauguration this May of a new road from Dharchula to Lipulekh on the Mansarovar Yatra route angered Oli government which came out with a new map of Nepal, adding to it an area of 370 sq km at the tri-junction of Nepal, India and China (Tibet) which India maintains is its territory.

A Constitution amendment Bill was passed by Nepal's parlia-

ment to legitimize the alteration or addition of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura to the country's new map.

The passage of the Bill and the new map led to breakdown of communication between the two countries. The last meeting between Ambassador Kwatra and Nepal's Foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali took place on May 11, when the Nepalese side had protested the new road via Lipulekh. India though has been sending medical supplies to Nepal, including 10 ventilators.

With telephone conversation, the next meeting is the first opportunity for top officials from both sides to meet and discuss Indian government-funded projects in Nepal. Although it is just a routine meeting, it will bring the officials of both the countries in the table.

"I don't think there will be any major breakthrough now. However, Prime Minister Oli's initiative to call Prime Minister Modi was a good initiative," said renowned Indian scholar professor S.D. Muni.

India has maintained that it is willing to hold talks with Nepal on the boundary dispute if the Oli government creates a "conducive atmosphere" and "positive situation". Although it was a routine meeting, it will help to open line of communication between the two countries.

"The extensive interaction and contacts that exist between our countries at the people-to-people level have helped to foster deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's aspirations. In other words, securely founded, the bonds that tie our two peoples are barely touched by the vicissitudes of nations go through over time," to quote former King late Birendra.

DEV SHUMSHER RANA

Against Slavery

Under an order of Dev Shumsher Rana, his queen Krishna Kumari Devi was the first to start abolition of slavery in Nepal

By KESHAB POUDEL

One does not have to rule for a long period of time if he or she desires to bring reform and change in the country's overall system. Although Dev Shumsher Rana was the Prime Minister just for 114 days, he took major reforms which have had very long lasting impacts in the history of contemporary Rana period.

Not only launching the first Nepali newspaper Gorkhapatra, Prime Minister Dev Shumsher was the first ruler to formally issue proclamation to abolish slavery.

Although Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Rana is credited with the abolition of slavery from Nepal, the new documents compiled in National Archive showed that the official process for the abolition of slavery started much earlier.

Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher orchestrated conspiracy to overthrow Dev Shumsher for his liberal and reformist program. However, Chandra followed his brother's foot step later. Although

Chandra turned down all reformist steps taken by Dev Shumsher, who was said to be thinking to declare proclamation like Magnacarta. In early days, Chandra Shumsher was compelled to recognize the reforms in later parts of his rule.

Undoubtedly, Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher's proc-

half of Prime Minister Dev Shumsher Rana. In this proclamation, Prime Minister said he signed the proclamation to renounce slaves on the ground that the idea of his queen is a good work.

In his proclamation, he said appropriate amount will be paid to owners of the slave. Under



clamation of 1982 BS officially declared the abolition of slavery. However, Prime Minister Dev Shumsher's contribution was also immense.

On the occasion of his coronation, queen Krishna Kumari Rana issued a proclamation on be-

this proclamation 767 slaves including 286 male and 486 female were released.

In his proclamation, Prime Minister Dev also requested King, Queen, his own brothers, high ranking civilian authorities and military generals to support

his queen Krishna Kumari's step to liberate slaves. Accepting the proclamation order of Prime Minister Dev, King and Queen also liberated 28 female slaves.

Under this proclamation, 8 slaves under his senior queen late Karma Kumari were also released. Similarly, queen Krishna Kumari liberated 12 male and 5 female slaves.

His other two queens Laxmi Kumari and Ganesh Kumari also liberated their slaves. Rana Prime Minister Dev Shumsher Rana ruled for a very short period of time or just over three months. But, the historical documents have shown that he had initiated many reforms including social and political.

Rana Prime Minister Dev Shumsher's tenure started from 5 March 1901 and ended on 26 June 1901 for just 114 days. These days looked historically very significant and important in the history Rana Rule. Educated with good command in English, he was a prime



HIMALAYA SHUMSHER RANA

minister with wide knowledge of international affairs. In his tenure, he also mulled the idea of British system of parliamentary forms of government.

Although King Prithivi Narayan Shah took the first initiative to abolish slavery from Nepal, he died without making any declaration. Issuing the first proclamation to abolish slavery, Prime Minister Dev Shumsher formally executed the order.

"I also heard this kind of discussion in my family. They used to talk

about the contributions made by Dev to end slavery in the country," told Former Governor Himalaya Shumsher Rana to New Spotlight. Great grandson of Prime Minister Dev, Hamalaya Shumsher, who is now 93, said that he was a reformist and liberal prime minister by actions and deeds."

However, it was Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Rana who officially declared abolition of slavery and made slavery illegal as well.

The first French scholar Silva Levy in his book Le Nepal also described Rana as a laurite and scholar having knowledge on French language.

Although generally perceived as despotic and conservative, he is credited with several reforms including the abolition of slavery and the Nepal-Britain Treaty of 1923, which recognized Nepal as an independent nation and an ally of Britain.

Dev Shumsher Rana has shown that one does not need to stay in power for a long period of time to make reforms. He showed even 114 days in power would be enough to bring reforms and change.

अमलेख गरिएका कमार कमारिको लगत

श्री ३ महाराजका राज्यभक्षिका दीन श्री ३ वडामहारानी कृष्णकुमारी देवीबाट अमलेख गरी वक्सनालाई श्री ५ सर्कारबाट वक्सनाका र अरु नै भारदार दुनीजादारहरूले आफ्ना पुसीले चढाएका कमार कमारिको काट्

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श्री ३ वडा महारानीबाट गरीवक्सेको जयभेष गराउनुका काम असल हो भन्ने पढेका हुनाले सम्झी सर्कारबाट कमार कमारिको मोल वक्सेको स्मेत तेसै सर्कारमा धेरै कमार कमारिको सर्कारबाट के के वीगाहा रहंदो रहेछ सो सर्व पछि देवन सुन्न पाउनेछौ.....

Re-engineering Nepali Engineers' Civil Society



BY: DIPAK GYAWALI

Although modern engineering is an intrinsic part of the development enterprise, Nepali engineers as a collective have been surprisingly absent in the country's development discourse in recent years. One cannot imagine good development happening without good engineering – covering the entire sub-disciplinary spectrum from nano materials and heavier civil construction to agriculture and chemical engineering. However, it should be noted that bad engineering has contributed significantly to mal-development that ranges from poor planning to shoddy construction and shady dealings with corrupt politicians, civil servants and contractors.

The reputation of engineers in Nepal, if one went by the FM news this morning as this article was being written of CIAA focusing on corruption by engineers, is tainted. At one end, they are seen as the vanguards of corruption and at the other end of societal envy for that very reason! One just has to be present as a senior citizen at any match-making deal within the larger family circle and one can hear fulsome praise of the prospective bridegroom as an engineer with good financial future ahead of him. My own experience with this misplaced value distortion within Nepali society goes back over three decades ago when I was a government engineer within the Ministry of Water Resources. Having put in my few years of field-work building electricity distribution lines within Kathmandu Valley and in Dandeldhura, I had opted to shift to more academic pursuit working with Canadian experts who were supporting the newly formed Water and Energy Commission. My father was then running a law firm from our PatanDhoka premises and I used to come back from work and sit among the younger lawyers and waiting clients to exchange news and view of the day.

One day there was this venerable-looking old gentleman client who was waiting for his appointment. When others introduced me to him as the big lawyer's son, he asked me if I was a lawyer too. I said, no, I am a water resources engineer; and he lighted up beaming and

said that was very good, that I had a great future as a rich man. He then asked me which big hydro project I was with. I told him I was not with any project but was working in planning and studies. Slightly disappointed, he said, "Oh, so they have not given you any work yet, hunh?"

Changing societal mis-perceptions about engineering in society, upholding values of high engineering standards and being the watch-dogs checking impropriety within the profession both in the private and government sectors is the job of professional engineering societies. During the Panchayat period, there was only one Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) and at the very start of my career, just before the National Referendum had been announced by King Birendra, I had the good fortune to be elected its executive member. Our Chair was the veteran engineer Indra Ratna Sthapit and he encouraged me to take up the editorship of its bulletin NEA News. Besides reporting on issues of engineering concern, we took up a task then new to Nepal – interviewing oldies in the field still alive to glean from them not just past history of our profession but also to learn of their struggles and successes. The idea was that it was up to the profession to not only to respect and keep alive the memory of the pioneers in our field but also to pass on their ideals and values to the younger members of the profession. Among those whose profiles and interviews we published were Surya Jung Thapa who built New Road after the 1934 earthquake, Pushpa Bhakta Malla Nepal's first mining engineer, and Kul Ratna Tuladhar who was Nepal's first chief engineer of its Public Works Department. The period around the National Referendum was indeed, to my mind, the golden period of social engagement by Nepali engineers.

Sadly, that exuberance in upholding professional dignity is absent today, not only in NEA but several other more specialized engineering associations that subsequently sprang up as NEA's social relevance and its standing as a strong ethical voice declined. The rot started

shortly after the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990 when even professional societies such as those of doctors and lawyers together with engineers, fractured along partisan lines. Elections for office holders became rather bitter events that saw national level party leaders shamelessly campaigning for their panels. And once elected, the office bearers did little to further medical, legal or engineering concerns but merely functioned as loyal party cadres hoping for plum rewards from their political masters. Indeed, the only activism one sees coming out of them is following political party instructions to release statements or to hold placards in party street rallies as members of PAPAD, a political alliance of professional bodies allegedly furthering peace and democracy (but not more specific professional concerns).

One would be hard pressed to find NEA, the country's premier engineering association with thousands of members, discussing controversies surrounding Nepal's large engineering projects. One heard nothing from it about Arun-3; nor has it spoken about the fast-track road connection to the Tarai. (One would have expected a society of professional engineers to ask and explain to the public at large what is "fast" about a fast-track project: which engineering aspect actually works faster than normal and whether it is merely a gimmick to award contracts bypassing normal checks and balances and thus fostering corruption?) It was silent when the Tanakpur hydro project agreement with India raged, nor did it speak up during the subsequent Mahakali treaty that even saw the breakup of the UML party. Neither has one heard anything from it on the questionable Nijgadhi airport project (especially now that tourism as practiced over the last decades will not see any upturn for years, leaving even our Tribhuban airport under capacity), or the US MCC 400kV transmission line and road expansion project, or the massive environmental destruction brought about by badly gouged out hill sides by haphazard "bulldozer terrorism" road building. In short, it has stayed party loyal and social consciousness dead; and this makes this life member of NEA very sad. Democracy is not about partisan loyalty: it is about constantly questioning those in power.

It is not that engineers as individuals or small collectives have not raised their voices; and it does not mean that everyone should agree on everything. When the fast-track road controversy was going on, the late Birendra

Keshari Pokhrel (former roads department chief engineer and member of Panchayat parliament) and his colleagues did raise their voice and argued that it makes much more sense to go for a railway track instead. The Arun-3 campaign was a milestone in professional activism because it was engineers themselves who went public with what was wrong with the project. In India's Ganga plains, it is engineers like DK Mishra who chose activism against bad flood control projects which has exposed the true cost of bad engineering that has mired Bihar in rural poverty.

In the medical sector in Nepal, one individual Dr Govinda KC has succeeded in arousing the conscience of the nation where the Nepal Medical Association has failed.

All engineers will not easily come to a single consensus because complex, intertwined economic, social and

environmental issues rarely see unanimous agreement anywhere in the world. But an open public debate would help lay out the hidden disbenefits, clarify the costs of decisions, and allow those holding public office to figure out what appropriate amelioration packages can be cobbled up to address mainly issues of equity and justice.

It was therefore a pleasant surprise when I got a call from the new Chair of the Society of Electrical Engineers (SEEN) that it was holding a zoom debate on how to promote hydro electricity consumption in Nepal on 18th July. As a life member of SEEN, I had been as upset with SEEN as with NEA for its silence on matters of professional and public interests. Whether Nepal should develop its hydro power for export or for giving Nepali commerce and industry a strategic edge has become a matter of public policy debate; and it was good of SEEN to come out of its comatose vegetative state and engage publicly. One just hopes NEA as well as other engineering associations such as that of mechanical engineers (SOMEN), of public health engineers (SOPHEN), of architects (SONA) and other will follow suit and emerge into active public life. That burden is now on the shoulders of the younger generation of Nepali engineers, much as it was on that of this writer's generation four decades ago.

Sadly, that exuberance in upholding professional dignity is absent today, not only in NEA but several other more specialized engineering associations that subsequently sprang up as NEA's social relevance and its standing as a strong ethical voice declined.

65 Years Of Celebrations

Celebrating 65 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations, Nepalese and Chinese leaders have stressed the need to maintain cordial relations

By A CORRESPONDENT

When Nepal and China established their diplomatic relation sixty-five years ago, there was cold war. However, China and India had cordial relations. Communist China was isolated from the west.

For Nepal, establishment of relations was a highly significant event in the context of Nepal's wish to diversify bilateral relations. Following India, U.S, France and Great Britain, China was the fifth country to establish diplomatic relations with Nepal.

After sixty five years, global order has changed. China has emerged as the second largest economic power in the world. China has border clashes with India and following COVID-19 escalation, its relations with the United States and west is deteriorating.

Given such a situation, celebrating 65 years of establishment of diplomatic relations has its importance. From monarchy, Nepal has turned into a federal republic and secular state with diplomatic relations with over 190 countries.

What has not changed is Nepal's geography, history, culture and its neighbors, Nepal's limitations of choosing the friends. Despite rapidly eroding its culture and religion with the rise of radical communists in power, Nepal cannot completely change its limitation.

Given the change in global order and situation, leaders of both the countries exchanged the message highlighting the importance of the relations between the two countries.

Exchanging Message

President Bidya Devi Bhandari exchanged congratulatory messages with her Chinese counterpart President Xi Jinping, on the 65th anniversary of the establishment of their countries' diplomatic ties.

President Bhandari has sent a congratulatory message to President of China Xi Jinping. While extending the warmest congratulations to the Chinese President and the Government and people of China, President Bhandari has stated that strong bond of friendship between the two countries will be further

strengthened in the days ahead.

The President has recalled the historic state visit of President Xi to Nepal in October last year during which Nepal and China decided to elevate their relations to Strategic Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship for Development and Prosperity.

President Bhandari has appreciated Chinese cooperation to Nepal in its socio-economic development and the assistance to fight



against COVID-19 pandemic through the support of essential medical supplies and sharing of knowledge and experiences.

Separately, Prime Minister of Nepal K P Sharma Oli has sent congratulatory messages to President of China Xi Jinping and Premier of the State Council of China Li Keqiang.

In the messages, Prime Minister Oli has extended warm congratulations and best wishes to the Chinese President and Premier and through them to the Government and the people of China on the happy occasion of the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Highlighting the deep-rooted cordial friendship since ages, the Prime Minister underlined that Nepal has consistently maintained One China Policy and China has always respected Nepal's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

Recalling the historic state visit of

the Chinese President to Nepal in October 2019 and his two official visits to China in 2016 and 2018, Prime Minister Oli has expressed commitment to translate the consensus reached during the visits into action.

He has also stated that the bilateral agreements concluded during these visits on promoting infrastructure development and connectivity, including the Transit Transport Agreement and its Protocol and feasibility study of Nepal-China Cross-border Railway project are significant in enhancing the bilateral cooperation.

While appreciating the Belt and Road initiative, the Prime Minister has mentioned that it will offer an important platform to Nepal to pursue its development agenda, including those components falling under Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network.

President of China Xi Jinping in his congratulatory message to President Bidya Devi Bhandari has stated that the two countries have respected and treated each other as equals, strengthened political mutual trust and deepened mutually beneficial cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations 65 years ago.

On the same occasion, Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali has sent congratulatory message to State Councilor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi.

Appreciating the role of Chinese Foreign Minister in strengthening the bilateral relations, he has expressed the confidence that bilateral relations between Nepal and China will attain newer heights in the coming years.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and China on 1 August 1955 during the period of King Mahendra, the relations have not seen much difference even in a period of communist government with two thirds majority.

NEA

Time Of Transformation

In the history of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the last four years have been a period of progress and achievement. The utility took the country from a state of darkness to light. From being virtually bankrupt, NEA rose to become the highest profit-making public utility. Although support and backing from all concerned was necessary for the progress, Managing Director Kul Man Ghising showed his individual capacity, commitment, dedication and collaborative approach to work in a team and made this virtually impossible transformation possible. With constant support and backing from his colleagues, MD Ghising, a man from a remote Tamang village of Ramechhap district, showed hope taking root for a transformation that did not seem possible earlier

By KESHAB POUDEL

One Friday afternoon, this cool man rushed to disputed areas of Udayapur to settle the issues with people and start the construction of a tower. Next evening, he reached Gonger, the site of 456 MW Upper Tamakosi Project.

Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), also spent his time at the micro-level. Along with attending the meeting at center on national level issues and performing his day to day work, MD Ghising spared adequate

time to deal with the issues at the site level.

As it is said, all the hard work -- sacrifice, sleepless night and struggle -- only pays off when it meets the right action plan. This is what one can see being used by MD Ghising.

Had he not spent adequate time at micro-level, the present progress would not be achieved. With a strong dedication and commitment, MD Ghising sacrificed his time targeting the projects.

He even shortened the mourning period of the death of his father and attended the emergency meeting in the first week of July when floods badly affected some of the hydropower plants. MD Ghising moved immediately to the load dispatching center to manage the shortfall of electricity caused by the disruption of the power plants.

When Ghising was appointed managing director of NEA on 14 September 2016 by the government of Nepal, the energy sector was in a



dire situation.

It was a time when the country had been passing through an unceasing load shedding with 6 to 8 hours of power cut during the rainy season and up to 14 hours of outage in winter. At work for almost two decades, Nepal's prolonged load shedding had badly affected economic growth as well.

As the country had been facing chronic load shedding, Nepal Electricity Authority was at the state of financial bankruptcy. The net loss till 2015/016 was Rs. 34.61 billion which came down to Rs.8.89 billion in that fiscal year.

As Nepal was facing awful lot of darkness, with NEA, the sole public entity of the energy sector, in a virtual bankruptcy, the graph of the loss was going up. Annual electricity loss was 25.78 percent when about 63 percent of population was connected to the national grid.

Even for a professional and career person like MD Ghising, it was a very hard time to choose the areas of reform. Preparing a set of action plan to change NEA and energy sector before his appointment,

Ghising was able to transform NEA by making all efforts on supplying continuous, reliable and affordable power to its consumers.

"For the last four years, I have devoted my whole effort to convert the darkness into light, to make the institution from a loss incurring one to a profit venture, that is now a strong, disciplined and respected institution," said Ghising.

These plans required programs to increase the generation capacity, reduce technical loss, increase the access of electricity, reduce the unnecessary expenditure, expand transmission lines, improve and expand substation, administrative reform and ensure regular, dependable, adequate and quality supply.

MD Ghising draws an action plan carefully with step after step in view. Just a few months after taking the charge, Ghising announced ending the load shedding except for the industrial sector.

Even in such a dire situation, NEA had supplied 20 hours electricity to the industry except four peak hours. This helped to increase the productivity of the industries

which were facing low productivity. From second year, NEA announced the end of load shedding in industrial sector as well. This had direct impact on Nepal's annual Gross Domestic Product. Following the end of load shedding, GDP growth rose up to 7 percent with 2 percent contributions from the ending of load shedding.

"During my first year tenure, NEA was successful to make net Rs. 1.47 billion profits. After that NEA's net profit has increased. Second year, the profit was raised to over Rs. 2.85 billion but in the third year the profit was over Rs.7 billion. This year the profit is projected to go over Rs.11 billion. Four years ago, NEA had to knock the door of government. Now, NEA is one of the most profitable and economically strong public entities in the country," said MD Ghising.

From negative cumulative loss, NEA has now cumulative profit -- from Rs.34.61 billion to the Rs.12.23 billion. This year it is projected to get Rs. 5 billion profit.

Following ending the load shedding, NEA launched a campaign with the target to reduce technical and non-technical electrify loss. Im-

plementing proper planning, NEA achieved a remarkable success to reduce the loss.

From 25.78 percent losses four year ago, it is projected to decline to 15.25 percent now. In the first year, it declined to 22.9 percent followed by 20.45 percent and 15.32 percent last year. In the last four years period, total 11 percent loss came down. His other mission was to increase the access of electricity. "From merely below 60 percent, 86 percent of people have access to grid. If off-grid is included, the access to electricity is now 95 percent," said MD Ghising.

Incomplete Projects

From hydropower projects to transmission lines, there are numbers of projects lying incomplete from a long time. Due to various managerial, legal and land issues and disputes of local people, almost over 80 percent of transmission line projects were in disorder. This is also the same with the distribution and hydropower projects.

Numbers of incomplete hydropower, transmission and distribution projects have completed during the period. Some of the projects are under the process of being completed.

As the transmission lines, substations and distribution systems have been completed, the consumption of electricity has increased in the last four years. In the fiscal year 2015/16, 4,77,38,00000 units of electricity were consumed. In 2016/17, the consumption went to 5,55,73,00000 units followed by 6,33,8100000 units in the last fiscal year. This year's pro-

ject is 6,52,8700000 units. Currently, per capita consumption of electricity is 245 units per individual. It is 80 percent higher than what it used to be four years ago.

During the period, NEA has made major progress in the construction of cross border transmission line. The completion of 132 kV second circuit Kushaha-Kataiya and Raxual-Parwanipur and 400/200 kV substation was a major achievement. With the completion of the substation, Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur 400 kV transmission line is in the final

Similarly, the 400 kV Butwal-Gorakhpur Transmission line is now at the implementable stage. Similarly, the construction of 132 kV Mainhiya Rupandehi and Samptiya Utter Pradesh Transmission line has already started. Likewise, Inaruwa, Purnia and Lamai Bareli 400 kV Transmission line and 132 kV Kohalpur-Nanpara (Utter Pradesh) Transmission line feasibility study has already completed.

Nepal Electricity Authority and State Grid of China have already signed a Memorandum of



stage of charge. Similarly, the capacity of Tanakpur 220/132 kV's 50 MVA Transformer increased to 100 MVA. Following the completion of these works, capacity of Nepal-India power transmission reached 1500 MW with 1200 MW new capacity. As Upper Tamakosi and other projects are in the process of completion, Nepal will have surplus electricity in the next year's rainy season -- these transmission lines will help us export our surplus electricity.

Understanding to construct Rato-mate-Rasuwadhi-Kerung 400 kV Transmission line. In Nepal's side, the feasibility study has already completed as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The length of 66 kV transmission line is nearly doubled in the last four years. In 2016/017, there were 2911 circuit KM 66 kV Transmission line. At the end of this fiscal year, the length reached 4275.2 circuit kilometers. This is about 74 per-

COVERSTORY

cent higher than four years ago.

Following the end of load shedding and improvement of transmission and distribution system the consumption of electricity has increased by 80 percent.

Hydropower

With a delay in the completion, it has not only increased the cost of hydropower projects but also affected the generation. Three major hydropower projects with 104 MW generating capacity were lying as sick projects with no hope for completion. Following the earthquake, hydropower projects with 830 MW generating capacity were facing uncertainty.

With MD Ghising's intervention, 14 MW Kulekhani III, 30 MW Chamelia and 60 MW Trishuli 3 A projects started generation two years ago. Now, the 456 MW Upper Tamakosi is in the final stage of completion, expecting to start generation by the end of November. Similarly, 102 Middle Bhotekoshi, 111 MW Rasuwagadhi and 57 MW upper and lower Sanjen are preparing to complete by the end of this fiscal year.

For the first time in its history, NEA has reduced the consumer tariff. According to recent decisions, electricity will be supplied free of charge for up to 10 units at Rs.30 minimum charge. In totality, the tariffs were also reduced by 8-9 percent. NEA removed dedicated and trunk line additional charge for industry and business complex. Similarly, the tariff for irrigation and drinking water was also reduced.

The Speed On

Although COVID-19 pandemic has badly affected various development projects all over the country, it has had very nominal impacts

on NEA Projects. NEA was able to achieve 82.29 per cent physical progress in its projects related to power generation, transmission and distribution in the last fiscal year 2019-20 and also achieved financial progress of 81.23 per cent.

Of the Rs 58.04 billion allo-

common obstacles faced by all the projects," he said.

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Barshaman Pun and Secretary Dinesh Kumar Ghimire have helped him whenever there has been a need for policy intervention.



cated for projects run by government, foreign and NEA sources, Rs 47.14 billion has already been spent.

Similarly, 92 per cent of the budget that was allotted for expansion, strengthening and upgradation of distribution lines to increase access to electricity and provide reliable and quality services to consumers was utilized and 100 per cent physical progress was achieved on this front.

Ghising, managing director of NEA, said the overall financial and physical progress was encouraging even though the work of projects under construction was badly affected due to COVID-19.

"Problems created due to procedural hurdles in forest land use, land acquisition, disruptions in transmission and distribution lines are

After the government decided to resume construction works of projects even during the lockdown by adopting safety measures related to health, concerned officials, including the Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation and Secretary, played a crucial role.

"Minister Pun and Secretary Dinesh Kumar Ghimire provided immense support to enable the projects to move forward even in such difficult circumstances. Had they not they backed me, the progress would not have been made," said Ghising.

According to him, some projects have been completed and some have reached the final stage of construction. Ghising further stated that the financial and physical progress of the projects would have been higher

if the coronavirus pandemic had not occurred as works of some projects have not been completed yet due to the impact of the contagion.

Out of the Rs 7.80 billion allocated for the construction of power projects in the last fiscal year, Rs 5.53 billion has been spent. Expenditure and physical progress of generation projects was 70.82 per cent and 76.83 per cent, respectively.

The power generation side includes construction, maintenance and other works of hydropower pro-

Modi A, Tamakoshi-5 hydropower projects, among others. Of the Rs 1.95 billion allocated for the study of hydropower projects, only 26.48 per cent has been spent. The physical progress of these projects stands at 33.39 per cent. Ghising said that the study of the projects was affected by the coronavirus.

Meanwhile, the 456-MW Upper Tamakoshi and 140-MW Tanahu hydropower projects are under construction through subsidiary companies of NEA. Construction of

and Bhaktapur were fully electrified. NEA fully electrified Dhankuta, Sunsari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Bara, Parsa, Nuwakot, Kapilvastu, Gulmi and Bardiya in the last fiscal year 2019-20.

However, NEA had set a target of electrifying 40 districts in the last fiscal year but its target could not be achieved due to COVID-19. The government has set a target of providing electricity service to every household by 2022 and increasing the annual per capita electricity con-



jects. Last year, 15 projects of the private sector were completed and 135 megawatts of electricity was added to the national transmission system.

NEA is conducting a detailed study of 1,061MW Upper Arun, 635MW Dudhkoshi, Upper

Upper Tamakoshi is targeted to be completed very soon.

Out of 77 districts across the country, 15 have been fully electrified till date.

In the last fiscal year, 11 districts were fully electrified. Earlier, only Parbat, Syangja, Kathmandu

sumption to 700 units.

With the support from ministers, secretaries and backing of his own colleagues, MD Ghising has not only created a situation to supply electricity for all and electricity for all the time.

Manual To Digital

With the installation of smart meter at Kathmandu, NEA has entered the digital era

By A CORRESPONDENT

With the installation of smart meter in Mannikhatar, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has started a move to digitalize its system. After completing many reforms within NEA, the process of digitalization will completely change the institution.

NEA has launched the drive for installation of smart meter at consumer's house replacing the old single phase meter. Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Barshaman Pun initiated the work replacing the old single phase meter by smart meter in Ward No 3 building of Budhanilkantha Municipality in Mannikhatar.

Currently, there are over 5 million single phase meter at consumer's home. In the first phase, the NEA will replace about 100,000 meters of single phase and 3 phases in the houses of Ratna Park and Maharajgunj Distribution Centers. With this initiation, Digital NEA campaign has formally begun as part of NEA policy.

Following the installation of smart meter, there is no need of meter reading. With this, data will be available in both central and branch offices. The lines, of those consumers who do not pay tariffs, can be cut from the center. This will also end the leakage caused by the meter readers. Along with this, the smart meter will drastically reduce electricity theft.

Addressing the program, minister Pun said that the installation of smart meter can improve the efficiency and modernize the service provided by the state meeting the government's target to make prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali. "This is a

milestone towards that.

"Along with installation of smart meter, we have been working to beautify cities and make system dependable by turning the distribution system underground," said minister Pun, who is also chairman of Nepal Electricity Authority.

"With the proposal of NEA, we are able to reduce the tariff of electricity through Electricity Regulatory Commission. This is the first time in the history," said minister Pun. He also said that NEA has been making profit since last two years placing it as a number one public utility to generate the profit. He said that the country will be self reliant in electricity very soon.

Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Secretary Dinesh Kumar Ghimire said that the implementation of the two-year old program to make smart grid and smart meter in five years have made a good progress. He said that the work to install smart meter and undergrounding distribution system will go side by side.

MD of NEA Kul Man Ghising said replacement of old meter by smart meter can reduce the number of meter readers. He said that 2500-3000 meter readers will be reduced.

He said that tariff of electricity can be fixed on the basis of each hour including peak, off peak and normal time through smart meter. He said

that it will also help set different tariff during the rainy season to promote the consumption of electricity and set different tariff in winter. "As there will be post-paid and pre-paid function in the smart meter, the tariff can be paid as per the wishes of consumer through online bill," said MD Ghising.

Under its first phase program, NEA has already changed 8222 Time Off Day Meters to smart. Under the second phase, over 125000 me-



ters will be replaced by smart meter. 18000 have already been installed and other 60,000 are under the process.

Under the Rs. 1 billion concessional loan of Asian Development Bank, the work is currently undergoing. To replace 400000 old meters by smart meter in Kathmandu Valley, the tender process has already proceeded.

Ghising said that every effort has been made to fulfill the government's goal of providing electricity to every Nepali and to supply them adequate, regular, reliable and quality electricity.

Conservation through Financial Institutions



Few countries have used Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) tool to understand the combined effects and impacts of past, present and planned future projects on the environment in a geographical and temporal contexts. If series of same type of projects or causing similar impacts are under implementation, construction or being planned, CIA helps to evaluate significance of potential cumulative impacts on one or more valued environmental components (VECs) and minimise adverse impacts to an acceptable level. The CIA is normally carried out by a competent institution that has access to data, information and sites of all projects which are under implementation, construction and being planned.

Many countries have internalised project level assessments [Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)] to identify, predict and evaluate the impacts of a project on the environment with focus on its physical, chemical, biological, social, economic and cultural domains. The domains greatly depend upon the nature and location of the project. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is globally carried out to evaluate the impacts of a policy or plan or programme on the environment. Nepal has experience in carrying out project and strategic levels of assessments. It has no experience in CIA studies and implementation.

Nepal's Environment Protection Act (2019) has called for an environmental study, IEE or EIA of prescribed projects, including supplementary EIA as deemed necessary. The Act opens avenues for carrying out Strategic Environmental Analysis (SEAn) for a policy, programme or project. The legislation calls for carrying out project level assessments or SEAn of a project, which is normally unnatural. In addition, Nepal's legal regime on the environment does not recognise the CIA study. There are additional legally unrecognised tools such as social impact assessment, biodiversity impact assessment, health EIA or regional environmental

assessment and so on.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group, has released a report on 'Cumulative Impact Assessment and Management: Hydropower Development in the Trishuli River Basin (TRB), Nepal' in July 2020. It may be the first CIA study report in Nepal. The IFC called for safeguarding the environment and people's livelihood and setting-up of a Trishuli Hydropower Developers' Forum to minimize the adverse impacts of hydropower projects in ecosystems and its people in TRB (<https://www.spotlightnepal.com/2020/08/07/trishuli-river-basin-call-protection/>). As per the news, the CIA study was a part of the World Bank supported 216 MW Upper Trishuli-1 (UT-1) Hydropower Project, located at upstream of the Basin. The IFC intends to put high environmental and social standards for UT-1. This study might have been carried out to meet IFC's requirements.

The CIA study report includes impacts and mitigation measures in five VECs namely Langtang National



Park (LNP), aquatic habitat, cultural and religious sites, livelihoods, and water resources. It predicts potential cumulative impacts from 36 hydropower projects with the total capacity of generating 1530 MW. At present, six projects (81 MW) are under operation, seven are under construction stage (286 MW) and 23 hydropower projects (1163.6 MW) are being planned.

The study has considered climate change and extreme events, slope stability, sand and sediment mining and rapid urbanisation as the key 'stressors' and identified possible complete loss of natural habitat and biota with irreversible changes in basic ecosystem functions in worst cases.

The CIA study has proposed broad-based mitigation measures such as, inter alia, awareness raising of

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contractors for terrestrial biodiversity conservation in LNP, release of adequate environmental flows for aquatic biodiversity, provision of fish passes, assessment of the actual water requirements in dewater reaches for normal rituals in cultural and religious sites (Uttargaya and Devighat), granting of reservoir area fishing rights to improve livelihoods, and implementation of Environment Management Plan (EMP) on muck disposal to maintain surface water quality. Based on national experiences, measures related to aquatic ecosystems may not 'work'.

The report has coined 'high-management action (HMA)' in themes such as on developer's charter on sustainable hydropower in TRB, community-based river guards, sustainable fishing plans, indigenous hatcheries for fish stocking, farming of commercially valuable fish species, sustainable sediment mining plans, watershed management, delineating no-go areas for hydropower development, and mahseer and snow trout sanctuary. The CIA study report claims these HMAs as sustainable development pathway to maintain or enhance current levels of ecosystem integrity and VEC conditions. It would have been realistic to consider experiences of the proposed measures in fishery and ecosystem conservation.

The study has proposed Trishuli Hydropower Development Forum (to be represented by hydropower developers, lenders, Nepal Electricity Authority, and relevant government institutions), and Technical Resources Group (from government ministries, conservation groups, research agencies and multilateral development banks/donor agency experts) for advise, and implementation from Local Management Committees.

Effective implementation of the realistic EMP by each project, followed by stringent compliance and impact monitoring would be the pre-requisite to safeguarding environmental resources and people's livelihood in the TRB. If mitigation measures are implemented and project-induced impacts reduced, one can 'trust' on the effective role of financing institutions in conserving the environment.

As mandated environmental institutions are 'grossly ineffective' in avoiding or minimising project-accelerated adverse environmental impacts, it is natural to expect natural resource conservation from national, regional and international financial institutions as well. Besides, requirements of the regional and international funding institutions, the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) has issued a Guideline on Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) for Banks and Financial Institutions (B/FIs) in May 2018. This Guideline provides a solid basis to integrate environmental and social risks management aspects into credit risk

management process and minimise environmental damage, manage watersheds, and restore the vitality of the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Nepal's experiences on non-implementation of mitigation measures and monitoring requirements as contained in the legally approved IEE or EIA reports and gross-negligence in mitigating adverse impacts, including maintenance of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems dictate to consider TRB a development zone rather than a 'hub of sustainable hydropower development and management of



water resources'.

In view of the mitigation measures and implementation modality of the CIA study report, national experiences, and urgency of conserving the TRB, B/FIs are encouraged to build and/or strengthen the capacity of the Loan/Credit Officers on environmental safeguards measures/options and strictly follow the ESRM Guideline, in particular monitoring and performance reporting procedures and quality check. Effective implementation of the Guidelines provides a logical basis to make the development sustainable and environment-friendly. However, this Guideline needs updating based on Environment Protect Act, 2019 and its Rules, 2020 and utilising experience of nearly two years of Guidelines implementation in order to make it country-specific, development and user-friendly.

Effective implementation of the ESRM Guideline will hopefully bolster the mandated environmental institutions to benefit from environmental monitoring and performance reporting outcomes and make project-level assessment reports more technical, practical and implementable, by avoiding or minimising the existing 'cut and paste' syndrome. The B/FIs may be instrumental in safeguarding and enhancing environmental resources, and make development project environmentally sustainable as envisaged in the CIA report of the TRB.

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Role Of Madhav Trio

What a coincidence, three persons with their first name Madhav drive Melamchi Drinking Water Project in crucial phases

By KESHAB POUDEL

From the beginning to the end, the name Madhav has been associated with Melamchi Drinking Water Project. Former Joint Secretary and senior Madhav Prasad Ghimire took the initial negotiations for funding.

Former minister and junior late Madhav Prasad Ghimire negotiated with Asian Development Bank and other development partners to make Melamchi Drinking Water Project possible. Ghimire, who died in a road accident, played a crucial role to convince Asian Development Bank to invest in the project.

After succeeding to negotiate with ADB in 2002, late Ghimire is said to have offered special puja to Dakshin Kali while returning from Manila. Instead of going home, late Ghimire directly went to the temple to worship the goddess Kali for the success.

What a coincidence, as two Madhavs took part in the negotiations and signing of the project, another Madhav Belbase, secretary at the Ministry of Drinking Water, is now pursuing the final stage of completion of the project.

Due to outburst of gate caused by technical lapses in testing and commissioning of the tunnel, the project is likely to be delayed for a few months. However, it is now almost in the final stage of completion.

In this whole process of initiations, negotiations and additional financing of Melamchi Drinking Water Project, economic advisor to the prime minister Lal Shanker Ghimire, who retired as a secretary, has been an eye-witness.

Former secretary Ghimire, who joined as a section officer at the Foreign Aid Division in 1988, initiated the file to proceed on the Melamchi Drinking Water Project. Ghimire, who retired as a finance secretary last year, saw all the crises and processes of the project.

As it was formally negotiated

by late minister and then joint secretary at Ministry of Finance Madhav Ghimire in November 2000 with the Asian Development Bank to complete it by 2006, the project actually started in 2008.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Directors approved the MWSP on 21 December 2000, and the project became effective on 28 November 2001.

It is a comprehensive water supply project to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in the Kathmandu Valley. It aims to alleviate the shortage



of potable water in the valley by diverting water from the Melamchi River to the Kathmandu Valley.

However, major events and changing circumstances in Nepal have hampered the implementation of the MWSP since 2004. The government's efforts to secure private sector participation to manage water services in the Kathmandu Valley were unsuccessful.

During the initial years of the MWSP, private sector bidders were not interested in a lease contract, supported by the World Bank, for water services delivery.

When this led to significant delays in project start-up, the World Bank canceled its funding. A subsequent

ADB-supported performance-based management contract also failed to attract private sector interest despite several years of focused efforts.

The government and ADB realized that private sector engagement in Nepal's urban water sector was too difficult in the unpredictable sociopolitical environment of that time.

Consequently, the biggest civil works package under the MWSP—the 27.5 kilometer (km) Melamchi tunnel—was put on hold because the loan covenants included a condition that the performance-based management contract had to be awarded before the contract for the Melamchi tunnel.

One after another three development partners withdrew from the MWSP because of political developments from 2001- 2006 leaving a funding gap of \$133 million equivalent. The MWSP experienced additional challenges.

With the consistent interest of Asian Development Bank, the project finally started in 2008. For the additional funding, Lal Shanker Ghimire again was in the forefront.

Almost thirty six years after it was conceived as an alternative source to supply drinking water to Kathmandu valley, Melamchi Drinking Water Project, which has seen many political, technical, administrative, managerial and natural disruptions, has finally started the commissioning and testing process carrying water to Kathmandu valley.

Many Prime ministers from late Krishna Prasad Bhattarai to other ministers might have aspired to lead the ministry during the beginning of Nepal's mega project. However, what a coincidence, Minister Bina Magar, of the same age as the project, is leading the ministry with a competent team of technically sound secretary Madhav Belbase for this historic moment.

My Name Is CORONA



BY: HEMANG DIXIT

“My name is Corona. Though I have an ancestry of many centuries my present form came in to existence on 31st December, 2019. I am in reality a virus but because I have created a rumpus all over the world, they have given me the nickname of Covid-19 too. Call me by any name you like, but not late when there are pickings to be done! My viral predecessors have been accused for causing illness since time immemorial. I live in the bodies of some animals and birds too. It is only when humans begin to upset the ‘apple-cart’, tamper with wild life that I begin to manifest myself and cause havoc in multiple places in this world. Currently I am in the hey-day of my form but remember that my cousins have in former times caused tremendous sufferings in this world. There was the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-20 which had three peaks and is estimated to have infected 500 million people worldwide. Of this fifty million people are estimated to have died. In more recent times the subsequent SARS, MERS and Ebola epidemics have also taken their toll of lives. Sadly, you humans never learnt from these epidemic disasters. All this has occurred because humans have been dominating the natural habitats of the world. Nature has occasionally hit back, whenever Homo sapiens gradually took over the world. Much of the flora and fauna which existed in the past are gone because of the onslaught by the human race. Many species of animals and birds which once flew over or roamed the world have disappeared!

“I recall that in 2011 an American film titled ‘Contagion’ carried a story about me as virus, originating in a bat and spreading out from China to the rest of the world. Later the American writer Sylvia Browne in her 1981 book ‘End of Days’ stated that in 2010 there will be a flesh-eating disease (? Ebola) and in 2020 a severe pneumonia like illness will spread throughout the globe. Also, in 1981 another US author Dean Koontz predicted in ‘The Eyes of Darkness’, that a nightmare – ‘Wuhan-400’ would be caused by me, Corona. It therefore surprises me to hear that the Americans are now blaming the Chinese of hiding facts about the virus as it had been forecast, albeit in fiction form many years ago. In reality it is the Americans of Harvard University laboratories which have been collaborating with the Wuhan Institute of Virology in the past. There are surely others too in the race to produce a vaccine to either disable or to finish me off!

“There is no denying the fact that I have created a rumpus all over the world. Some of the countries of East Asia did not suffer too much initially because of wearing masks, washing hands frequently and greeting each other by bowing or doing Namaste rather than shaking hands. Many in Europe and the Western world ignored all this and suffered a great deal. One has only to think of the large number of deaths caused by me in the initial peak of this pandemic. Even highly developed countries with health systems established for years, as in UK and USA are at a loss as to how to deal with me. Touristic countries such as Italy and Spain suffered greatly too because of the initial stress on ventilators and lack of appropriate medication.

The Italians after doing autopsies are now suggesting that many of those that I killed off died of blood clots in blood vessels and multiple organs failure.

“The situation in South America, Africa and even India are in the process of becoming worse day by day. No wonder. The belief in Plasma Therapy, Hydroxychloroquine / Chloroquine, Madagascar’s Wonder Potion, Ayurvedic amrits and even Besar Pani have had their advocates but there is no guarantee of success! I personally think that these were ploys by clever politicians to distract and hoodwink the public. This is the stark truth. I have already caused massive number of deaths in USA, Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa. Worse things are on the horizon. I am just now in the process of starting the second wave in many of the countries of Europe which have ended their lock downs and are easing restrictions. True it is because of the fact that their economies have been sorely affected. Almost all of those who survived have plenty of lung damage to cope with. Now it is the younger people who are getting infected. Surprisingly many still go around without masks – sheer foolishness. It is time now for them to think seriously about the future of mankind and to take steps so that humans and the rest of the flora and fauna continue to exist and flourish in future years. If they don’t take appropriate steps for the benefit of mankind, I Corona will show them what I can do.

“Currently I am being maligned in Nepal by a large number of people making quick money on substandard test kits that do not give correct results, poor protective wear and so-called masks of no protective value. These have enabled well connected importers to make quick money at the cost of the harassed Nepali.

“Surprisingly whilst both the American and British governments have acknowledged that they have not handled the crises I created, the Nepali government refuses to acknowledge their faults in all spheres of working. So, what to do? Ke garne? Your government in Nepal has shown how incompetent it is. Lock down rules which have become a farce, ill treatment of those in quarantine without food and facilities so that they fled. Now that the infection rates are increasing is just a manifestation of the people in position of authority in your land. Pray now to Lord Pashupatinath to save you. Just as he stored the poison in his Nilkanth pray to him for my storage or disposal.

“What worries me however is the rat race that is going on in many countries of the world to produce a vaccine that curtails me or even puts an end to me. All those involved are in it for the money that they can get. If they had the welfare of the people in mind, they would waive their rights to money from the sale of the vaccine, just as Dr. Jonas Salk did for the polio vaccine.

“Bye for now. Corona.”

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Celebrations In Nepal

Nepalese Hindus celebrate the ground-breaking ceremony for a temple in Ayodhya praying Ram

By A CORRESPONDENT

As Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has said Ram has connection with Nepal through Janaki Mata, Nepalese have shown how deeply rooted is the relation in their heart when they celebrated the ground-breaking ceremony for a Ram Temple in Ayodhya as a great day.

From Janaki Temple in Janakpur to Ram Temples in Pashupati and other places of Kathmandu, Pokhara and other cities, people lit a light in the evening to celebrate the day.

Ram is not only in name but Ram is devotion and inner heart feeling. This was what one could see among the people. Although Nepal's Prime Minister has been creating controversy over Ram's birthplace Ayodhya, it did not touch the faith of Nepalese to the importance of Ayodhya.

As Indian Prime Minister Modi has said that Ram has connected Nepal through mother Janaki Mata (Sita), Nepalese have also shown their faith on Ramjanmabhomi. Addressing a function to mark the foundation laying ceremony, Prime Minister Modi said that Ram existed universally. He said that Ram is everywhere.

Starting his speech with "Jai Siya Ram", PM Modi extended congratulations on the beginning of construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. "I am fortunate that I could join this auspicious occasion. Chants of Jai Siya Ram can be heard across the world."

As Prime Minister Modi was chanting Jai Shree Ram, Nepalese delegation led by Mahanta of Janaki Temple echoed the sound showing Nepal's soli-

arity to construct the temple.

As Mahanta of Janaki Temple was taking part in the program in Ayodhya, Janaki Temple Trust organized a program to celebrate the ceremony lightening the Janaki temple and religious function in Janakpur.

Modi was among the 175 people present at the ceremony. He shared the dais with just four other people — RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, trust chief Nriya Gopaldas Maharaj, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, and CM Yogi Adityanath. Keeping in mind the pandemic, seating arrangements were made in accordance with social distanc-



ing principles. Before this, the prime minister along with Adityanath had offered prayers at Hanuman Garhi. Modi also paid a visit to Ram Janmabhoomi.

Remembering the sacrifices made in the struggle, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat remembered LK Advani and said many are present in spirit at the ceremony. Calling it an "auspicious day," Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister hailed the achievements of PM Modi. "This marks

the end of the struggle of decades. A journey of over 500 years has been ratified by the Indian judiciary and constitution," he said.

Not only in Nepal, Hindus across the world celebrated the foundation stone laying ceremony of the historic Ram Temple in the holy city of Ayodhya by lighting diyas.

After the ceremony, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister addressed the gathering. Hailing the contribution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yogi Adityanath welcomed the other esteemed guests to the ceremony. "Today is an auspicious day. This marks the end of the struggle of decades. A journey of over 500 years has been ratified by the Indian judiciary and constitution."

PM Modi laid a silver brick to mark the foundation ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Indian PM Modi, who in 1990 was one of the organizers of the nationwide campaign for a temple at the site where the 16th century Babri mosque once stood, sat down for rituals before laying a silver brick to symbolize the construction of the temple.

Last year, after several efforts at mediation failed, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark verdict handing over the 2.77 acres of land claimed by both Hindus and Muslims for a Ram temple. The court ordered a five-acre plot at a different site in Ayodhya for a mosque.

Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2019:

Lessons for the Future



BY: RANJAN PRAKASH SHRESTHA

The Government of Nepal organised the second Investment Summit from 29-30 March 2019, following the first investment summit in March 2017. The main aim of the summit was to attract foreign investments to develop physical infrastructure in Nepal. Similarly, the third series of Nepal Infrastructure Summit was organised by the Confederation of Nepalese Industries from 11-12 September 2019. The theme of the Summit was infrastructure and connectivity, aiming to attract investors into areas of infrastructure, which plays a key role to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the areas of agriculture, transport, energy, forestry, connectivity, information and communication, etc.

Summits of this kind are necessary to attract investments for big infrastructure projects for economic growth in Nepal that faces significant challenges due to its geography, and technical and financial constraints. Nepal needs to build adequate infrastructure, mainly cross-border transport networks, (roads, railways, airports, waterways, etc.) to transport people and goods from one place to another, especially for the integration of the Nepalese economy with neighbouring big economies.

The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), for the Decade 2011- 2020 aimed at graduating half of the LDCs by 2020. Nepal is one of the remaining LDCs that continue to seek graduation from LDC status by 2022. It is observed that Nepal's government has been making efforts to promote businesses and investment opportunities through various

policies, regulatory and institutional reforms, etc. which is mandatory to pave the way forward and create an enabling environment for attracting domestic and foreign direct investment for infrastructure development projects. Against this

backdrop, it can be argued that organising such Summits by both government and private sector organisation contributes to encourage more Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the country.

Comparative to the past, there are grounds to believe that Nepal has favourable conditions to attract investment as it has 2/3 majority and a stable government for the first time in the history of 3 decades. The promulgation of the New Constitution and successful completion of historic three levels of elections have paved the way for the economic development of the country. At present, Nepal is trying to institutionalise the federal system as well as trying to improve the economy for a balanced development of the country.

It has been observed that the construction of roads has made progress in recent years. Road networks, which enhance urban and rural linkages (mainly links to highways), can contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the country. However, a huge gap remains in terms of living conditions between rural and urban areas. Changing development pace in similar economies has proven that Nepal will remain underdeveloped and isolated if it does not have increased connectivity within the South Asian region and beyond, in terms of attaining sustainable economic, transport, energy, people-to-people, and digital connectivity (especially from the regional perspective to enhance eco-

One of the important aspects of such summits is interaction and Q&A sessions among the stakeholders. However, time management for the interaction and Q&A session was very weak.

conomic co-operation). For example, Nepal can benefit from the EU regional cooperation initiatives that support work and dialogue within various regional organisations in Asia, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). This mechanism could be used to further strengthen the discussion on investment and enhancing regional connectivity as well as transfer of knowledge, experience, technology and modalities. Public Private Partnership (PPP) could be one of the modalities to develop infrastructure projects with the involvement of private sectors finance.

Some observations from Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2019

The government representation and participation was praiseworthy. The event was attended by Chief Ministers of six Provinces, Federal Government Ministers, Secretaries, and other highlevel dignitaries. This participation demonstrates the determination of the Government in attracting investments for big infrastructure projects. Furthermore, deliberations of various high-level speakers, especially all six Chief Ministers, (excluding Gandaki province) calling for investment in their respective provinces for which they have also expressed their commitment to provide necessary policy, rules, and a risk-free conducive environment to attract FDIs in their provinces. Nevertheless, rigorous discussion and preparation with various stakeholders' including diplomatic community / international organisations would have added more value to bring other stakeholders, as well as potential investors from other countries on board.

One of the important aspects of such summits is interaction and Q&A sessions among the stakeholders. However, time management for the interaction and Q&A session was very weak. This was evident in one of the business sessions- infrastructure and regional connectivity panelists were given rarely 2 minutes to deliver their remarks. This might have been embarrassing for the panelists, especially foreign delegates who had come all the way to participate and invested a significant amount of financial resources and time. Moreover, the conclusions

and recommendations of the panelists will not be reflected in the proceedings nor will they be taken on board.

Final remarks

Nepal needs a paradigm shift by ensuring preparation and prioritising of projects along with policy reforms, appropriate regulatory and legislative frameworks combined with good governance, safety and security of investment, complaints handling and dispute settlement mechanism, including environmental, social and gender considerations, moreover, establishing on-stop-shop to build environment of trust and predictability to encourage more FDIs in country, are a must.

As provinces are planning to organise such summits, they need to learn from national level summits, hence there should be taken as opportunities to learn to improve the performance. For example; it was observed that the infrastructure summit was

not gender sensitive as none of the session chairs and key note speakers were women, and there was limited representation of women panelists in various sessions. Enhanced and continuous dialogues are needed among all the stakeholders, complementing efforts of such summits. Furthermore, it is important to make use of such platforms to share information and exchange of lessons and experiences of previous infrastructure summits with national and international partners to give a push to investment opportunities in the country.

There may be another summit next year. Therefore, there is a need to critically review the achievements and lessons of the past summits. It will be useful to see how such pledges, both domestic and international, have been secured as a result of the previous summits in order to encourage both the organiser and potential investors. In addition, there is also a need of government monitoring and facilitation for inter coordination among ministries, departments and other institutions to examine efforts and effectiveness as well as ensure sound management in terms of saving in cost and time, prior to organisation of such summits, ultimately aiming to bring more FDIs in the country.



Excessive Use Of Pesticides Increases Health Risk

Nepal Water Conservation Foundation for Academic Research (NWCf) in association with International Development Research Commission (IDRC) of Canada is conducting research regarding Water Induced Disasters (WID) and the vulnerable population in some areas of Chitwan and Makwanpur and how to make them resilient enough to cope with such disasters. During one of the field visits at Palung Bazaar, an agricultural hub in Makwanpur district located nearby Kathmandu, we found out that the excessive use of pesticides is one of the major sources of pollution at the Kulekhani river which is a major source of drinking water for the local population downstream. Besides, pesticides have also adversely affected the local fish ecosystem which is a major source of livelihood for the local people. While conducting Focused Groups Discussion (FGD), we found out that between mid-December and mid-July 2019, there were 9 patients diagnosed with cancer. The locals feel that the rise in cancer-related cases has something to do with pesticides. One of the participants said, "Initially we used to spray lots of medicines. We even used to spray herbicides. But now after knowing the harmful effects of many pesticides, we use it in a controlled manner. We even wear protective equipment while spraying medicines".

Yasodha Adhikari, a local social activist who advocates the use of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) at the locality said "The farmers who have their own land don't want to destroy their land. However, the ones who have leased the land use excessive pesticides in order to earn money in a short period of time. Once the soil is destroyed, they move to another agricultural land". However, because of those farmers, the whole image of the locality is destroyed. According to Niroj Pradhana local agrovet owner at Palung Bazaar, "Our agricultural products are in the same truck with other excessive pesticides used product. When they test the sample, the whole truck gets rejected." He also indicated the issue of middlemen in local agriculture production. "The middle-men pressurizes the farmers to produce the product in the off-season in order to get huge profit. That is why they use excessive vitamins and pesticides", he said.

Regarding wearing protective equipment, locals say that majority of them don't use it. Niroj Pradhan said, "I sell protective equipment such as masks, gloves, and jackets as well. When I tell them to wear protective equipment, they think I am telling them to earn profit". He said that most of the locals don't use protective equipment, this may be one of the reasons for the cancer-related cases. Dr. Pratigya Bhandari a local resident doctor at Palung Primary Health Care Unit said, "Most of the pesticides related cases are related to the poisoning cases. Just a couple of days back, I had two such cases who consumed pesticides. I referred them to hospitals in Kathmandu. One of them died on the way". Niroj Pradhan however denies this fact. "I mostly sell only small packets or bottles. Most of them are finished on the first spray only. If the bottles are finished, how will they be used again for poisoning?" he said. Regarding cancer-related cases, Dr. Pratigya Bhandari said she has not witnessed any such cases. "Many cancer-related cases



BY: PRATIK POUDEL

directly go to the hospitals in Chitwan or Kathmandu. They don't come to us. This may be the reason why I don't know such cases", she said. She however couldn't deny the fact that there are cancer-related cases increasing in the area.

Excessive pesticide use has a negative impact on the local ecosystem as well. Sunil Tamang a representative of the local fish cooperative at Kulekhani said, "The population has reduced significantly in the past couple of years. This has something to do with the excessive use of pesticides in the agricultural field upstream which flows downstream through Kulekhaniriver". Brigadier General SherBahadur Shah, Chief of Central Regional Military Command, Suparitar, Makwanpur also echoed Tamangs statement. He said, "More than 40 rhinos have died in the recent months which were not poaching related. The tusk was not removed. This has something to do with the contaminated river which they drank". He was indicating at the use of excessive pesticides upstream which flow downstream. According to Mukesh Kumar Mishra, another agrovet owner from Palung, the farmers of Palung mostly use insecticides such as Nuvan, Alphamithrin, Cypermitthin 25%. After spraying these insecticides, you should not pluck them for 15 days. He said the locals also use fungicides and various antibiotics as well. When these pesticides flow downstream through rainwater, it will contaminate the Kulekhaniriver.

There are however good practices prevailing in the district of Palung. The use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is one of them. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines IPM as "the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environ-

ment. Yasodha Adhikari, a local social activist says, "I have been practicing IPM for the last 6-7 years. Previously I also used a lot of pesticides. However, after knowing the harmful effects of pesticides through project training, I got a reality check. Now I use chemical fertilizers to a minimum possible limit. Otherwise, I use the juices made from local weeds such as Titepati, Banmara, Neem leaves. We have 60-70 members in the IPM group". If the local or the provincial government comes up with a plan to make farmers stick with such good practice, then the horrific increment in the cancer-related cases could be reduced. Besides, based on this local perception that the rise in cancer-related cases has something to do with pesticides, it could be a starting point for scientifically analyzing such relations and coming up with a logical conclusion.



NEICHU MAYER

Worth The Honor

Nepalese Embassy in Israel honored Neichu Mayer, wife of ambassador of Israel to Nepal Yaron Mayer, for publishing a book Sitapaila describing her stay in Nepal

By A CORRESPONDENT

Although many ambassadors and their families come and go, some open down their experiences of staying in Nepal. Neichu Mayer is one of them. For her contribution, Nepali Embassy in Israel felicitated and honored Neichu Mayer and her son Shohan at the embassy for publishing the book *Sitapaila*.

Attended by family members of Mayer and head of Nepal Division of Israel's Foreign Ministry, other officers of the ministry, Israeli Ambassador to Nepal Hanan Godar, Nepalese living in Israel and Israeli citizens and others, the program was organized to mark sixty years of establishment of diplomatic relations with Nepal.

Welcoming the guests, ambassador of Nepal to Israel Dr. Anjan Shakya thanked author Mayer for publishing the book. She said that this will further enhance the bilateral relations between Nepal and Israel.

Ambassador Dr. Shakya has expressed happiness to honor Mayer and organize the program to mark sixty years of establishment of diplomatic relations.

Expressing happiness over the honor, Mayer said that her stay in Nepal was positive despite experiencing several tragic natural calamities like earthquake, avalanches and bus accidents.

Ambassador Hanan Godar presented the book written through the lens of children to audiences. Head of Nepal Division of Foreign Ministry of Israel said that Israel-Nepal relation is now at highest level and expressed the hope that both the countries can move in future with further collaboration.

Former ambassador of Israel to Nepal Mayer expressed his happiness over the book published by his wife recollecting her stay in Nepal. He said that the book will help further strengthen relations between the two countries.

What is *Sitapaila*

Being a spouse of diplomat does

not only consist of attending receptions, high profile functions of host country, dinner and lunch with expats and colleagues. However, it also involves the personal life as well.

The personal life is informal and very much family oriented. Many books are available related to the formal aspects of the life of ambassador's wife. However, only a few have attempted to look into the social life or informal parts.

The book is about a whole new adventure which begins in a little boy who finds out that his family is going to move to Nepal. From a most advanced country Israel with different natural and cultural setting, his new home is far away in Nepal. *Sitapaila* is the most magical place he could ever imagine. This is what she has described in her book.

Trained in development and humanitarian work, the author is passionate about cross-cultural learning and embracing diversity. She is fascinated by the interaction between children and animals, and

natural disasters. She experienced and saw the great earthquake of Nepal in 2015 and hectic work of her husband to bring Israeli humanitarian medical team to provide medical aid to victims of the earthquake.

Although she observed all the formal and informal parts of her husband, Neichu Mayer reminisces beautifully on her four years in Nepal.

A personal memoir of the reflections and fascinating episodes of the wife of a Israel's diplomatic service officer covering her observation in Nepal on mental health along with growing her small kid.

She brings to life her many experiences while providing insights on the culture and people among whom she lived.

She reflects on the, people and events that defined the times during her husband's service in Nepal. An excellent read, filled with truth and history, this is a book you can't put down.

She is giving support for mental health. The book is now available in Amazon India and maybe also Nepal.

"This is my first ever children's book. The book is derived from my son's memory of his first 3 years, in Nepal. I am so grateful for this opportunity to put a small smile on a kid's face," said Mayer.

A whole new adventure begins when a little boy finds out that his families are going to move. His new home is far away in Nepal. *Sitapaila* is the most magical place he could ever imagine. He meets new friends and comes across many different types of animals. Ducks, fishes, chickens, cows, even a monkey make *Sitapaila* a really fun place to live. Even Inle the cat is excited! The little boy will always remember a place that is far away, but still his home.

Author: Neichu Mayer, Book: *Sitapaila*, Category: Children's Fiction, Latest releases, Price: £4.99, Length: 25 pages. Browse & Buy Now olympiapublishers.com



their ability to imagine the good side of life under any circumstances. She believes that everyone needs a small dose of childlike curiosity, animal-like adaptability and joy in little things, every day.

Neichu Mayer and her husband Yaron Mayer stayed in Nepal during very difficult situations including political and

Nepalese Military Honored By Military Cross In The World War I And The World War II



BY: PREM SINGH BASNYAT, PHD

Opening

Nepalese military actively took part in the World War I And the World War II sacrificing their life in the battle field to defend the allied forces led by United Kingdom. For their bravery in the great war, many Nepalese, who returned alive, received medals Victoria Cross for those who fought from British Gurkha and Military Cross (MC) for Nepalese National Army (NA).

This article covers the NA only. It is a matter of fact to note that NA was already tested at the battle against Sikkim in Chainpur- Sankhuwasabha, battle against Mir Quassim- the Mogul Army in Makawanpur, battle against Captain Kinloch- the British army in Sindhuli, Indian Sepoy Mutiny -1857, the battle of Waziristan and World War I. By this time, the Anglo- Nepal defense diplomacy was very much tightening.



In this regard, Nepal offered military assistance to UK in the WW II. It is interesting to note that Nepal was diplomatically approached for military assistance by some Axis countries, especially by German's Hitler. To open the bilateral diplomacy and obtaining Nepalese military assistance, he presented a beautiful German made Rolls Royals car to the King Tribhuvan of Nepal. However, that diplomacy could not work and Nepal did not support. Moreover, Nepal confirmed for sending 8,000 conventional troops to the Allied Power through the British Indian Government.

Nepalese Troops Marches

The Second World War started on September 1, 1939 and ended on September 2, 1945. Britain, France, America and the Soviet Russia fought the war together as Allied Power. Germany, Japan and Italy were on the opposite side as Axis power. Many countries of the world directly or indirectly took part at the war. The attack made by Germany against Poland on 1st September, 1939 caused flaring of the World War II. In response to Germany's attack against Poland, on 3rd September, 1939 France and Britain formally declared war against Germany. In 1941, Japan and Germany became deeply involved in the war after the former's attack against Pearls Harbor against US Army.

In March, the Nepalese troops assembled at Tundikhel (present army pavilion –Kathmandu) be-

fore their departure to India. In the farewell speech Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher Rana reminded to Nepalese troops about the bravery of their previous military operations proven at the battle against Sikim in Chainpur- Sankhuwasabha, battle against Mir Quassim , the Mogul army in Makawanpur, battle against British Captain Kinloch in Sindhuli, Sepoy Mutiny -Lucknow (1857-58) and Waziristan in 1917 and expressed his belief that they could perform similar bravery and honesty. Besides, Prime Minister Rana said that the Nepalese troops were sending out to protect the independence of the smaller nations of Europe . Moreover, Nepal would get larger benefits from its friendship with the British finally the Allied Powers. He also advised them to be avoided the hooliganism, prostitution, gambling and intoxication and assured them that the Government would provide protection to their families in their absence.



Chandra Bahadur Karki

MC Holders

Lieutenant Colonel **Chandra Bahadur Karki** was the first British Military Cross (MC) recipient from the Nepalese army at the battle of Waziristan in 1917. He fought from the First Rifle Regiment. Then

after many warriors of the Nepalese National army were awarded the British Military Cross (MC) and other several World war II decoration during war. The MC is granted in recognition of “an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land” to all members of the British Armed Forces of any rank. Unfortunately, then Rana rulers convinced unofficially to the British for not to be provided the Victoria Cross (VC) to the Nepalese armies since VC had to be respected by then Rana Prime minister and other top guns as well. Thus, Nepalese army could not receive any VC. Nepal provided military assistance to the Allied Power through Anglo-Nepal diplomacy. Similarly, Nepal also provided thousands of Nepalese youth to join in the British Army (British Gorkha) during the same War and several war heroes, called Lahure in Nepal from British Gorkha also received Victoria Cross as well. It is big respect of the war veteran that ,the VC heroes have been honored by the queen of United Kingdom.

Allocation of Troops

Name of the Regiment	On Duty	Name of the Regiment	On Duty
Kali Baks	Dehradun	Shree Nath	Nausera
Suryadal	??	Jabbarjang	??
NayaGorakh	Burma	Shamsherdal	Calcutta
BardaBahadur	??	Sher	??
Kali Bahadur	??	Devidutta	different places
Mahindradal	??	BhairavNath	Khaiber pass
Second Rifle	Thal (Kohar)	Janganath	Burma
Bhairung	Thal		

Allocation of High-ranking Officers

- General Bahadur Shumsher Rana, the son of Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher, was deputed and stationed at Delhi to conduct overall supervision over the all the Nepali forces, he was overall commander.
- General Brahma Shumsher Rana was deputed to command the Mahindra Dal, Shreenath, Shamsher Dal and Sher Regiments.
- General Ekraj Shumsher Rana commanded the Kali Bahadur, Purano Gorakh, Second Rifle and Bhairavnath Regiments.
- Later, Colonel Nir Shumsher Rana and Colonel Kiran Shumsher Rana worked as Liaison officer in Awotabad and Calcutta respectively.
- Colonel Narmardan Thapa worked as the Military Secretary and Captain Chhetra Bikram Rana the A.D.C. to General Brahma Shumsher Rana.
- Similarly, Lieutenant Colonel Nar Singh Rayamajhi worked as the Military Secretary, Major Captain Megha Bikram Rana as the Brigade Major and Captain Rup Bikram Rana as the A.D.C. to the General Ekraj Shumsher Rana.

Nepalese Troops at active war

As per the Nepalese religious belief, no Nepalese army man could cross Sea since sea was like goddess. However, the British Government sought the permission from the Nepal Government to send the Nepalese troops beyond the sea. Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher Rana declined to give acceptance to send them overseas on the religious ground, but he permitted to send them in the battle fronts within the Indian Sub-Continent. After receiving permission from Nepal, the British Government made arrangement to provide military warfare trainings to the Nepalese troops including the Kali Bahadur, Sher and Mahindradal Regiments . The Regiments, after completion of the training, joined the British forces under the overall command of Lord Louis Mountbatten. These Nepalese troops were deployed at the Assam-Burma frontier region. Nepalese troops proven their original soldier- ship at the battles, especially in Special Missions like ambushes, raid , fighting pa-

PROSPECTIVE

trolling and hit and run tactics since they were used to on *Jai katak nagarnu jhiki katak garnu* (defensive offence battles with the guerilla tactics) taught by the King Prithivi Narayan Shah the Great.

On 9th February, 1944, the London Times wrote that the “ Nepalese troops are much the troops of an Independent Allied Power as are the Americans and Chinese”. In March 1944, the Japanese armies struck these areas. Many joint battles were conducted and the British troops including the Kali Bahadur, Sher and Mahindradal Regiments fought against Japanese troops and resisted their attack. In this battle ,many Nepalese troops killed , but they inflicted heavy casualties of the Japanese side. The memorial of the killed Nepalese Troops and others has been erected in Myanmar , with name and nationality. Indeed, many of the Nepalese army men rewarded by the British Military Cross (MC) decorations, for the war bravery.

Nepalese troops fought with distinction in the British 14th Army under command of Lieutenant General William Slim and helped force the eventual Japanese retreat. Finally, following the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrendered. Most Nepalese troops were withdrawn to Kathmandu in October 1945. A grand victory parade was held on 28 October 1945 where many Nepalese soldiers, officers and associated British officers were honored for their appreciable performances. In the Victory Parade at London in 1946, the Royal Nepalese Army was led by the Commanding Officer Sir Baber Shamsher Rana. On 28th October 1945, Victory day was celebrated also in Nepal. Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher welcomed and honored all the troops at Hanuman Dhoka Palace, Kathmandu.

Nepal Army's War Veterans decorated by Military Cross

Sergeant Chutra Bahadur Thapa

The Japanese offensive was going on , near Long Tree Hill of Burma, the Japanese prepared strong defense post and took position there. They repeatedly inflicted damages to the airfield and the defensive position of the Nepali troops traversing through the Pandu Road. Thus, it became imperative to destroy the enemies' defensive



Sergeant Chutra Bahadur Thapa

post of the Long tree Hill. The task was given to Sargent Thapa's section. He reconnoitered the enemy position, finally destroyed the enemy's defensive post . His section had zero casualties . The British Government decorated him with the Military Cross for exhibiting bravery in the action. Later he was ADC to the King Mahendra and retired as Brigadier General.

Warrant Officer I (Jamadar) Hom Bahadur Gurung

Jamadar Gurung was of Kali Bahadur Regiment . He led a section to attack against the Japanese Artillery Position. He crossed the places namely Chamu and Sasak, and then, the Chindwin River and launched an attack against Japanese at midnight, destroyed the enemies' defense post . The British Government awarded him the Military Cross for his bravery.



Hom Bahadur Gurung

Warrant officer II (Subedar) Shailendra Bahadur Mahat

Subedar Mahat was of Sher Regiment. In April 1944 WO I Mahat and his team launched a raid against Japanese position at Treasury Hill . On way to the target Nepalese troops got ambushes . However Mr. Mahat led his troops wisely and tactically . Finally, his team was successful to destroy the Japanese defensive position, many killed. The British Government decorated him the Military Cross for his exemplary courage and bravery . He retired as Colonel and served as District administrative chief too after his retirement in Mustang, where the Tibetan Khampa disarming mission took place during his tenure.



Shailendra Bahadur Mahat

Sargent Jagat Bahadur Khatri

Sargent Khatri was from the Mahindradal Regiment. He led his section and



mounted a raid against Japanese by crossing the 20 feet high dry canal about 400 yards far from the Saye Rail Station. The Japanese launched counter-attack. The section repulsed the counter attack. The close combat battle took place for 45 minutes. His section inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy's side. Mr. Khatri's team returned with two wounded and one dead-body. One dead-body remained left

Sargent Jagat Bahadur Khatri at the objective. Next day, Sargent Khatri went along with 4 soldiers and brought the dead-body and his weapons too. He was awarded the Military Cross. Sargent Khatri retired as Lt Colonel.

Captain Bal Bahadur Silwal



Captain Bal Bahadur Silwal

He was from the Mahindradaal Regiment . On the 19th May, 1945, he led 80 Nepalese troops and successfully ambushed about 600 Japanese soldiers and inflicted heavy casualties to them without losing a single soldier in the operation. The British Government awarded him the Military Cross, and the Burma star for his bravery in the action. He retired as Lt Colonel.

Captain Daya Bahadur Khad



Captain Daya Bahadur Khad was from the Mahendra Dal Regiment . While operating along the Railway line between Myotha and Natogias A Company commander, led his Company very well and killed many Japanese troops. He was awarded Military Cross by the British Government. He retired as Brigadier General.

Captain Gupta Bahadur Gurung

Captain Gurung was the D company Commander of the Mahindra Dal Regiment. His Company killed 15 Japanese and captured one Japanese prisoner . Captain Gurung was awarded the Military Cross. He retired as Lt Colonel.



Captain Gupta Bahadur Gurung

Captain Bir Bahadur Karki

Captain Karki was from the Mahindra Dal Regiment. He led his company and fought against the Japanese, killed more than 25 . His bravery was outstanding and he was awarded by the Military Cross. He retired as Lt Colonel.

At the end, while fighting in Burma front, the US Generals had very good impression on the Nepalese Army and the British Gorkha too. After all, Nepalese National army and the British Gorkha are from same blood and the professional outcome was outstanding. In the meantime, the Chinese army also was supporting to the Allied Power against Japan. For the better performance of the Chinese troops , the US Generals sent an instructor team from Nepalese army and British Gorkha too in China . The team stayed almost a year and trained Chinese army.

Nepal Should value of World war II

Finally, the Military Cross decoration are the symbol of military alliance with Allied Power of World War II. Nepal is one of the victor members of it and this is a pride of that period as a remarkable history. The World is going to celebrate the 75th anniversary of WW II including Russia . In this regard, Nepal should not miss this event as our National pride, the government should mark September 2, 2020 as remarkable day of Nepal. This is the history of Defense diplomacy and National foreign policy of Nepal as well.

Dr. Basnyat is Guest Professor of Leshan Normal University China, Military Historian and Brigadier General (Red)

Revitalizing These Four Areas Will Help Developing Asia Cope With The New Normal

To date, more than 700,000 people around the world have died from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The pandemic has brought despair to countless families and caused unprecedented economic damage. The response has been significant: governments halted global travel, imposed nationwide lockdowns, quarantined large swaths of the population and scaled up medical care services. Governments have also funded the development and production of testing technology, in addition to the ongoing search for a vaccine.

Yet, it is widely accepted that even when a vaccine is ready and effective, the virus is likely to persist given challenges associated with universal vaccination. The highly contagious nature of the virus means that where there are resurgences in cases, areas that had reopened will need to reimpose restrictions. This is the pattern that we are seeing playing out in several countries including Kazakhstan, India and Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, and most recently Viet Nam.

So, we must learn to live with the virus. In this uncertain "new normal", the prospects for rapid economic recovery are limited. A return to business as usual looks unlikely, too, and may not fully restore the economy. Focusing on high-impact segments of the economy is therefore an efficient approach to reaching a new normal.

Revitalizing four key areas can help developing Asia cope with the new normal and find a path to economic recovery.

First, revitalize the health sector. Due to the lack of long overdue investment, there is a significant gap not only in hospital infrastructure, but also at the primary care level including human resources necessary to staff effective health systems. In response to the pandemic, developing Asia has made record investments in strengthening the health sector. For example, the Indian government in April sanctioned approximately \$1.9 billion to address the immediate gaps in strengthening the COVID-19 response by scaling up delivery of services. This was followed by the recent announcement of a major program to comprehensively strengthen the public health system. Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan have adopted similar approaches in their pandemic response plans. There is also a sizable gap in health-related sectors such as pharmaceuticals and health insurance. Current levels of investment are insufficient to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), however countries have committed to achieving UHC by 2030. The health sector has huge growth potential.

Second, revitalize the social protection sector which remains fragile and underfunded in developing Asia. In response to COVID-19, great efforts have been made to ensure that affected populations are covered by social safety nets. For example, in India the government announced a scheme to provide free food to 800 million people until November 2020, as well as direct cash transfers and free cooking gas to women, old and socially disadvantaged groups. The Pakistani government has allocated \$1.2 billion for emergency cash transfer payments to 16.9 million



BY SHIXIN CHEN

poor households including daily wage workers. In Nepal, over one million poor families have been assisted by similar programs. In Uzbekistan, more than \$70 million has been allocated to expand the social safety net for the poor and vulnerable. Yet, social protection schemes require long-term efforts to develop, including establishing disaggregated databases, registration and monitoring systems, and strong budget support. The development of the social security sector will help promote economic inclusion and sustainable growth.

Third, revitalize digital technology. The pandemic is transforming people's behavior and social norms. Working from home has completely changed people's mindset. Web-based collaboration and sharing platforms have been widely recognized for their effectiveness in facilitating remote collaboration and co-working, while webinars are successfully replacing physical seminars. More importantly, digital technology has been widely and effectively used to promote trade and tourism, support small and medium-sized enterprises and boost microfinance. It is being used increasingly in government, procurement, and education. Strategically developing digital technology will have a huge impact on the quality of growth.

Fourth, revitalize the global supply chain. During the great lockdown, the global supply chain virtually came to a standstill, resulting in incalculable job losses and economic damage around the world. For example, Bangladesh's exports of apparel products were affected due to cancellation or suspension of orders, while international contracting projects in Pakistan, Nepal, Uzbekistan and Georgia were largely suspended due to the interruption of raw materials supply. The pandemic has highlighted the need for urgent reform of the global supply chain. We must pursue high-level multimodal transport, more effective trade facilitation, and stronger trade and supply chain financing mechanisms. In addition, further enhancing the international network of global supply chains will help to ensure that goods continue to flow in the face of disruptions. The global supply chain is the main artery of the world economy and its smooth flow is the basis of economic recovery.

Developing Asia has experienced many crises and disasters and has always bounced back. Following the Asian financial crisis, which severely hit the banking sector, the region adopted painful but necessary regulatory reforms of its systemically important financial institutions. These reforms introduced vital resilience into the Asian banking system, enabling it to survive the Global Financial Crisis a decade later. The COVID-19 pandemic should give us similar inspiration - the more severe the crisis, the greater the chances for reform and revitalization.

As we confront the new normal, a return to business as usual looks unlikely and may not fully restore the economy. Instead, a unique revitalization in these areas can offset losses and help realize developing Asia's potential.

Chen is the Vice-President, Operations at Asian Development Bank

पत्रकार आचारसंहिता, २०७३ (पहिलो संशोधन २०७६) को पालना गरौं ।

घटनासँग असम्बन्धित व्यक्ति/संस्थाको नाम उल्लेख नगरौं ।

- ✍ पत्रकार तथा सञ्चारमाध्यमले कुनै घटनासँग सम्बन्धित समाचार प्रकाशन-प्रसारण गर्दा घटनासँग असम्बन्धित नातेदार वा नजिकका व्यक्तिको नाम जोडी मर्यादामा आँच पुग्ने वा चरित्रहत्या हुने गरी कुनै पनि सामग्री प्रस्तुत गर्नु हुँदैन ।
- ✍ यौन अपराध, सामाजिक विभेद तथा घृणका कारण उत्पन्न घटना वा सन्दर्भमा प्रभावितको सचेत स्वीकृति र प्रभावको मुल्याङ्कन बिना नाम, ठेगाना र पहिचान खुल्नेगरी समाचार, तस्विर र दृश्य उत्पादन, वितरण वा प्रकाशन/प्रसारण गर्नु हुँदैन ।



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