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VIEWPOINT
Dr. Tilak Rawal



OPINION
Dr. K. Uprety

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FORTNIGHTLY

DR. MAN BAHADUR KC

Heart Mender

INSIDE



LOCAL ELECTIONS
Countdown Begins



MD GHISING
In A Rush



PARYA SAMPADA PROJECT
Supporting Young Entrepreneurs

Profile of PTCN

Power Transmission Company of Nepal Limited (PTCN) is the JV Company of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Powergrid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), Hydroelectricity Investment and Development Company Limited (HIDCL) and IL&FS Energy Development Company Limited (IEDCL). It has constructed and commissioned 400 kV D/C twin moose from Bittamod (near Sursand in India) to Dhalkebar of 42.10 Kms length (Nepal portion of Indo-Nepal inter-connection i.e. 400 kV D/C Muzaffarpur – Dhalkebar transmission line to be initially charged at 220 kV level) in the district of Mohatari and Dhanusha of Nepal. This line will established synchronous inter-connection of Indian and Nepalese electrical grids so as to facilitate import / export power between India and Nepal. The transmission line has been completed and commissioned on February 19, 2016. The line was dedicated to the nations on February 20, 2016 by the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India.

The main objective of Power Transmission Company of Nepal Limited (PTCN) is to build, maintained and operate transmission system between Nepal and India for the purpose of export and import of electricity.



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As Nepal is heading for the local elections of May 13, political parties are busy with campaigns and electoral alliances. With the decision of the Supreme Court, backing Election Commission's code of conduct and making mandatory for elected representatives to resign before filing their nomination, the obstruction against the elections has been cleared. Unlike in the past, this year's local elections are going to be completely different. With political leaders joining hands despite their hostility to each other's ideologies, they have shown that ideology has nothing to do with left or right. For a change, however, we have decided to cover profile of Dr. Man Bahadur KC as our cover story for this issue. As the number of cases related to heart continues to rise, there are modern facilities becoming available to cure the patients. Although heart attack is one the major killers of Nepal and it kills the people of productive ages, there is no sign of change in the lifestyle of Nepal's urban middle class population. Given this situation, preventive campaigns cannot work. Realizing this, the government of Nepal has started to invest in curative method. Establishment of Gangalal Heart Center is one of them. Growing up side by side while supporting the institutionalization of Gangalal Heart Hospital, Dr. Man Bahadur KC has made enormous contributions. Dr. KC has made a pioneering work in cardiac interventional electrophysiology. For his contribution in the work, he was decorated with the Young Scientist Award by NAST in 2006. We also cover how European Union and Switch Asia supported Par-ya Sampada project has brought the transformation in Bungamati and Pilachhen as a special story.

Keshab Poudel

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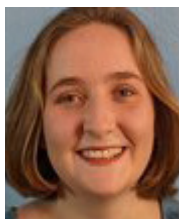
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The Renovations Of Kathmandu Valley's Heritage After 2015 Earthquakes



BY: FANNY JONCKEAU

During the 2015 earthquakes, Kathmandu Valley was especially touched and suffered great losses, including a lot of temples and monuments. While the renovations started almost right after the catastrophe, some are still unfinished today. According to inventories done after 2015, around 3000 monuments were damaged or destroyed. These consequences can still be observed in Patan, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur Durbar squares, but a lot has been done to recover this cultural heritage.

After the two most devastating earthquakes of April 25th and May 12th, 2015, thousands of lives were lost and the houses and cultural monuments of Kathmandu Valley were in bad shape, some completely destroyed. According to The Digital Archaeology Foundation, 20% of Nepal's temples, buildings, etc., were shattered, and 80% were damaged. Another inventory done by KVPT (Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust) showed that 510 UNESCO World Heritage Site Monuments were lost to the earthquakes and aftermaths.

Almost immediately after the earthquakes, Nepal received international aid from around the world, especially India, which sent around 5.8 billion groupies to rebuild Seto Machhindranath Temple, to mention only one. After tending to the victims and their families, the government set out to renovate the Nepalese heritage. Some temples, having been destroyed by the precedent earthquake of 1934, like the Bhaidega Temple in Patan, had been in the process of being rebuilt when 2015 happened, and everything had to begin again from scratch. Generally, in every place, they started the group effort by salvaging the wooden work like window frames and sculptures to reuse them, scrubbing off the old paints and repairing what was usable. Communities, NGOs and volunteers were very involved in the process, and funds were found from international, private, institutional companies, benefactors and private individuals. But for the inhabitants of Nepal,

right after the earthquake, heritage was a luxury for those who had lost all their possessions. And so, the renovations took time but step by step, temple by temple, Nepal is slowly showing off its architectural beauty again.

Today, some temples are still in the process of being rebuilt, but in some cases, you can't even see the damages anymore. For example, the Monkey Temple (Swayambhunath) and even Boudhanath Stupa are as magnificent as the pictures show them to be before 2015. From a foreign point of view, you wouldn't know the disasters that took place. Kathmandu Durbar square still has not fully recovered, just like Patan Durbar square, but the renovated part are a wonderful work of art. Of course, for the more damaged ones, it takes a lot of time to find the money, to craft all the new pieces with the ancient methods, and rebuild the temples in their entirety. Declared a World Heritage Site in 1979, Bhaktapur is just now restoring all its past glory and its Durbar Square is a sight for sore eyes. The renovations really showcase the incredible work done by craftsmen and craftswomen. Now the monuments are being rebuilt with anti-seismic systems cleverly hidden in the structures of the temples. There is, of course, some tension regarding the use of these new methods from those who view them as degrading to the original art of the monuments. However, some temples were already rein-

forced with these systems before 2015 and they were only partially impacted, sometimes even in perfect shape, after the earthquakes, so this idea proves to be a good one.

Even though after 2015, families will never get back to their relatives, renovating the common heritage of Nepal helps people remember that all is never really lost and that Nepal's legacy lives and will live on despite everything else.

She is an intern from France



NEWSNOTES

JAAN Holds 48th Anniversary

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Narayan Khadka and Ambassador Kikuta Yutaka attended JICA Alumni Function

Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, attended 48th Annual Function of JAAN held by JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) in Kathmandu in the presence of Dr. Narayan Khadka, Minister for Foreign Affairs, as special guest, and Okubo Akimitsu, Chief Representative for JICA Nepal Office.

Nepal and Japan have been enjoying a close bilateral relationship based on a longstanding and deep mutual friendship and cooperation, which has been made possible by the history of people-to-people exchanges.

In this long history, “Japan-Student & Train-



ee Alumni Club” was established in 1973. Following the opening of JICA Nepal Office in Kathmandu, it was re-organized into JAAN by Nepali

trainees and students who obtained various trainings and academic education under JICA programs in Japan.

Currently, many JAAN members have been appointed at the level of Secretaries and Directors in the Government of Nepal. On the occasion, Ambassador Kikuta congratulated Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of the JAAN and all the JAAN members for the success of this ceremony.

He also stated that Minister Khadka’s presence at the function was the best proof of the long-standing friendship between Nepal and Japan, and said “I am confident that JAAN will play a significant role in the post COVID-19 socio-economic development of Nepal.”

As shown by the presence of Okubo, JICA represents Japan’s development cooperation policy, i.e., ‘Human resources development is the foundation of nation building.’ JAAN is the embodiment of Japan’s development philosophy in Nepal. “I believe that JAAN, as a bridge of the friendship and expertise sharing between Nepal and Japan, will continue to play an important role in the field of human resources development and exchange between the two countries,” Ambassador Kikuta added.

Nepal Airlines To Operate Direct Flight To Saudi Arabia

The national flag carrier, Nepal Airlines, is conducting a direct flight from Kathmandu to Riyadh city of Saudi Arabia from April 22. The Nepal Airlines (NA) informed that the wide-body A 330 plane was launching the flight to Saudi Arabia, reports RSS.

Executive Chairperson of Nepal Airlines Yubraj Adhikari told the Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) that conduct of direct flight to Saudi Arabia is a matter of pride for the NA. Additional destinations would be explored and service expanded gradually.



Assam Rifle’s Director General Pays Courtesy Call To COAS General Sharma

Director-General of Assam Rifles Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair has paid a courtesy call to Chief of Army Staff General Prabhuh Ram Sharma at Nepal Army Headquarters.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of bilateral interest and bilateral relations. Nepal Army hopes that this kind of meeting will help to further strengthen existing relations between the armies of the two countries,



Energy Minister Bhusal Meets Canadian And Austrian Ambassadors

Ambassador of Canada to Nepal, Cameron Dean MacKay paid a courtesy call on Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Pampha Bhusal at her office in Singha Durbar. MacKay is the non-resident ambassador of Canada for Nepal.

On the occasion, Minister Bhusal urged the Canadian government to extend cooperation to Nepal’s hydropower sector by taking the bilateral relations established between the two countries in 1965 to new heights.



She also urged the Government of Canada to extend cooperation in energy sector.

Similarly, Ambassador of Austria to Nepal, Katharina Wieser, paid a courtesy call

on Minister for energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation Pampha Bhusal.

During the meeting that took place at the Ministry in Singha Durbar, Minister Bhusal and the Austrian ambassador exchanged views on various matters including mutual relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister thanked the government of Austria for providing support for the renovation of the Patan Museum and the garden at Keshar Mahal. She recalled Austria's cooperation in the conservation of the environment and cultural heritage and the development of water supply projects and tourism.

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Bhusal also stressed the need for further cooperation between the two countries on climate change risk reduction. She expressed confidence that the Austrian government will support Nepal in meeting the sustainable development goals by 2030.

Energy Secretary Devendra Karki and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials were present at the meeting. Nepal and Austria established diplomatic relations in 1959.

Toastmaster Nepal's Conference Over, Shristi K.C Wins Communicator Award

Shristi K.C was declared the winner of the Communicator Award 2022 amid a function. Every year, a non-Toastmaster is also honored with an award of 'Communicator Award' for their communication and leadership contributions. This year, Shristi K.C., renowned motivational speaker and the founder of Blind Rocks! was bestowed with the award for her contribution. She lost her eyesight due to Glaucoma at the age of 16 but she did not let that become a barrier to her dreams. She is a gold medalist in both Intermediate and Bachelor levels. She undertook a leadership course for social visionaries in Kanthari International, Kerala India in 2012 where she still works as a visiting catalyst. A biopic named Blind Rocks based on her life was also released worldwide in 2018.

Shristi K.C. said, "I am honored to receive this

award, it really feels good when you are loved and recognized for your hard work and dedication. This award has given me more motivation to keep doing what I do. Also, I will join the Toastmasters Nepal this year."

Toastmasters Nepal has successfully concluded CITATION 2022, the annual conference on April 9, Saturday, at Aloft Kathmandu, Thamel. Around 450 members from corporations, professional organizations, and other communities attended the conference from all over Nepal.

The keynote speaker for the conference was actress Manisha Koirala. Ms. Koirala is actively involved in social work, specifically working with organizations to promote women's rights, prevention of violence against women, and also to prevent the human trafficking of Nepali girls for prostitution. She was appointed as a UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador for India in September 1999. After her cancer treatment in 2013 May, Koirala is using her celebrity status and personal story to inspire others who are battling the dreaded disease.

Distinguished Toastmaster Ranjit Acharya, District Director of District 41 which comprises clubs in North and East India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan said, "It was a historic event and a great learning opportunity. I hope all of our members took full advantage of the networking opportunity. This has definitely helped to bring all the Toastmasters closer as one, empowering each other. I am proud to be leading the world's largest District in Toastmasters International; it is a proud of entire Nepal Toastmasters fraternity."

Distinguished Toastmaster Suman Shakya, Club Growth Director of District 41 said, "Citation 2022 was the largest gathering of Toastmasters in Nepal as yet for a day full of learning, networking, and, helping each other becomes a better version of themselves. We are growing each day and new clubs are opening in Nepal making us stronger with 56 clubs. We have now opened a Nepali language club too."

Distinguished Toastmaster Ankur Yadav, Program Quality Director of District 41 said, "I am very delighted to have attended Citation 2022 which is a remarkable event for all of us in District 41. I am very happy to see Nepali Toastmas-



NEWSNOTES

ters spirit of oneness.

Distinguished Toastmaster Moon Pradhan coordinator of Nepal Toastmaster liaison office coordinated the entire event.

Toastmasters from India and Bangladesh had also attended the event. The event was also peppered with lighter sessions where Toastmasters showcased their music and cultural talents.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that enhances public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., USA, the organization's membership exceeds 300,000 in more than 15,800 clubs in 149 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders.

The world needs leaders. Leaders head families, coach teams, run businesses, and mentor others. These leaders must not only accomplish, but they must also communicate. By regularly giving speeches, gaining feedback, leading teams, and guiding others to achieve their goals in a supportive atmosphere, leaders emerge from the Toastmasters program. Every Toastmaster's journey begins with a single speech. During their journey, they learn to tell their stories. They listen and answer. They plan and lead. They give feedback—and accept it. Through our community of learners, they find their path to leadership.

Chaudhary Group Dismisses Media Report Regarding Its Influence In Suspending Of Governor

Chaudhary Group refuted the news paper reports connecting Chaudhary Group in the recent decision of suspending the Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank.

Kantipur Daily reported on April 11 that the two sons of Nepal's Forbes billionaire and Member of Parliament of Nepali Congress Binod Kumar Chaudhary had reportedly influenced Prime Minister Sher Baha-

tory in the name of two of his sons living outside the country. Governor Adhikari reportedly dumped the file on the ground of possibility of repatriating foreign currency from Nepal in the name of two sons. Daily reported citing Nepali Congress leaders that this is one of the reasons behind Prime Minister to agree for suspension.

However, Chaudhary Group in its press statement regretted over the reporting which is biased and fabricated. Chaudhary Group also urged media persons to verify with its officials before writing such news requesting to give their views as well.

"We respect our government institutions and we have very good relations with Finance Minister Sharma and Governor Adhikari," reads the statement.

Speaker Sapkota, China's NPC Chair Li Hold Discussions

Speaker of House of Representatives Agni Prasad Sapkota held a discussion with Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, Li Zhanshu.

In the discussion held virtually, the heads of the lower houses of the two countries dwelt on parliament, friendly relations, development and other issues related to people's welfare of the two neighboring countries.

Speaker Sapkota appreciated the role played by the Nepal-China Parliamentary Friendships Groups for expanding the bilateral relationship between the two countries and also the way the parliaments of the two countries played a constructive role in the recently held 144th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Speaker Sapkota expressed gratitude for China's support in Nepal's development and underscored the need for making it easier to trade through Nepal China border points including Tatopani/Khasa and Kurang by making them well managed.

During the discussion, NPC Standing Committee Chairman Li highlighted that the exchange of high level visits between the two countries, visits of the Speaker and the members of the parliament to China had further expanded and deepened the age-old friendly bonds between the two neighbors, according to a press statement issued by the secretariat of the Federal Parliament.

Chairman Li said that China firmly respects Nepal's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and that the way China has been able to provide support to Nepal in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic has widened the people-to-people relationship between the two countries. He said China has supporting since long in Nepal's development sectors and shared that mobility of goods and people through border points



dur Deuba's decision to suspend the governor of Nepal Rastra Bank. Maha Prasad Adhikari, reported Kantipur Daily.

According to the daily, Governor rejected the plan of Chaudhary to transfer the share of a cement fac-



such as Khasa and Kerung will be made easier soon.

In his part, Speaker Sapkota lauded China's unswerving and condition-free respects to Nepal's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

He said Nepal's federal parliament will leave no stone unturned to further refine and solidify the friendly bonds between Nepal and China.

Government Is Making All Efforts To Strengthen Economy: Finance Minister Sharma

Minister for Finance Janardan Sharma clarified that the national economy had not faced any crisis, reports RSS.

"The country has not gone through any big economic crisis based on the evaluation of available details so far," Minister Sharma said at a press conference organized at his office to brief on the latest situation of country's economy.

Sharma further said that misinformation on the issue was making the rounds with an intent to discourage traders and mislead people and viewed that such act should be stopped. "The government is alert and aware about making country's economy function smoothly."

According to RSS, in another context, the Minister clarified that investigation into Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Maha Prasad Adhikari, was conducted in compliance with the law and the Rastra Bank Act.

A probe committee was formed to look into the matter and further decisions would be taken acting on the report by the committee, according to him.

Similarly, the cabinet meeting decided to launch probe into the Governor, the Minister informed adding that although loan expansion was more than the deposits, it had not yielded quality results for the national economy.

Urging one and all not to go by rumors about country's flagging economy, Minister asserted that country's economy was moving in a positive direction despite the COVID-19 crisis and 'struggle' between Russia and

Ukraine.

According to him, industries were being operated properly and the inflow of remittance was also positively increasing. The country recorded remittance inflow amounting to over Rs 91 billion as of mid-March this year, it was shared.

He claimed that the revenue collection was also exceeding the expectations.

In a bid to increase remittance inflows, Minister Sharma informed that the proposal seeking approval for setting up reserve fund for Nepali migrant workers abroad to invest, to set aside the quotas for IPO and FPO, allow the remittance companies to use wallet and reduce the cost of fuel used in the government and governmental agencies had been forwarded.

Furthermore, he shared that a proposal had been made to temporarily ban the import of expensive and luxurious vehicles and not to allow the government agencies' vehicles to be used on public holiday's reports RSS.

Finance Minister Janardan Sharma has said that a proposal to cut the fuel allowance for government employees by 20 per cent has been forwarded to the Council of Ministers.

The finance ministry made the decision in view of the need for managing the consumption of petroleum products.

"Considering the present situation and the need for adopting economic measures, we have decided to slash the fuel consumption in the government agencies except for security, election, development and other essential services by 20 per cent, and we have sent the proposal to the Cabinet," finance minister Sharma said at a press meet.

He said decisions related to discouraging imports of luxury goods, the establishment of an investment fund for the workers abroad for increasing remittance and a system of reservation in IPO and FPO for those working abroad have also been forwarded to the Cabinet for approval.



BUSINESS BRIEF

ADB VP Meets Nepal PM Deuba, Reaffirms Partnership

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President



Shixin Chen met with Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and reiterated ADB's commitment to further strengthen its partnership with Nepal.

In his meeting with the Prime Minister,

Chen reaffirmed ADB's commitment to continue to support Nepal, focusing on the government's reforms and investments in infrastructure and human development while promoting gender equality and social inclusion and addressing climate change impacts. ADB will also continue to assist with the implementation of federalism for more effective and efficient delivery of services, including those devolved to subnational governments.

"ADB's operations in Nepal are aligned with the government's Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID) Strategy, and we stand ready to support the government's commitment of achieving net-zero climate emission target by 2045," said Chen.

Chen acknowledged the government's leadership in managing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. He commended the government on the completion of Nepal's second international airport, the Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa in western Nepal, which is expected to enhance air connectivity and boost tourism.

In his meeting with Finance Minister Janardan Sharma "Prabhakar", Chen noted the government's efforts in accelerating the implementation of development programs and reforms as well as project readiness to ensure that planned commitments are implemented on time. He further noted that it is imperative for Nepal to enhance the competitiveness of its economy, including greater facilitation of foreign investment and innovative solutions.

Chen also met with private sector representatives and said that ADB is seeking opportunities to expand its private sector operations in the country and provide assistance to small, medium, and women-led enterprises; climate-smart agriculture; and digitalization.

He visited ADB-supported Bagmati River Improvement Project, Kathmandu Valley Wastewater Management Project, Melamchi Water Supply Project, and Rural Enterprise Financing Project. He also visited an energy sector project in Kavre and interacted with women entrepreneurs of Electricity Users' Cooperatives.

During his 7-day visit to the country from 13 to 19 April, Chen will meet with Minister for Urban Development Ram Kumari Jhakri; Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation Pampha Bhusal; Minister for Education, Science, and Technology Devendra Poudel; and the secretaries of

their ministries. He also met with Nepal Rastra Bank Acting Governor Neelam Dhungana, and was set to meet other senior government officials, and development partners.

ADB's cumulative assistance to Nepal since 1969 stands at \$7.3 billion as of 31 December 2021. ADB's operations in Nepal are growing and as of the end of 2021, ADB's active portfolio in the country stands at around \$3.4 billion with 30 investment projects.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

Tribhuvan International Airport To Provide Service Round The Clock

Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) would be brought into operation round the clock from May 29, reports RSS.

Nepal Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) has made preparations to bring the international airports into operation round the clock to manage the increasing flow of passengers.

Similarly, Bhairahawa-based Gautam Buddha International Airport and under construction Pokhara Regional International Airport would come into operation round the clock.

CAAN Director-General, Pradeep Adhikari, said that the TIA would provide 24-hour service from May 29, Republic Day.

Talking to RSS, Adhikari shared, "The CAAN released a plan after the frequent directions of Tourism Minister Prem Bahadur Ale.

The flow of passengers at international airports and domestic airports has increased after the COVID pandemic.

He said, "There is a need of improvement of infrastructures in all international and domestic airports as well as standardization of service. It is also necessary to give a message that the Nepalese sky is safe. So we have been involved in the effective management of airports."

Earlier in 2075 BS, the then Tourism Minister late Rabindra Adhikari had brought the TIA into operation for 21 hours from 18 hours.

Gautam Buddha International Airport has been taken as the alternative airport to TIA. According to CAAN, TIA, Gautam Buddha International Airport and construction Pokhara Regional International Airport would now be brought into operation round the clock.

Adhikari mentioned that though the runway of Gautam Buddha International Airport would come into operation from April 21, the airport



would host international flights from May 16, the Day of Budha Purnima.

Likewise, domestic airports would also come into operation till midnight. The CAAN has decided to bring Bhadrapur, Janakpur, Simara, Bhairahawa, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi airports into operation till midnight, reports RSS.

WB, USAID Providing Rs. 100B Aid To Nepal

The country is receiving around Rs 100 billion in international assistance at a time when the foreign currency reserve is under stress.

The World Bank Group, International Development Association (IDA) is providing Rs 18 billion as concessional loan and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Rs 79.71 billion in grants.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers on April 13

decided to accept the assistance and this is expected to ease the situation.

Informing about the decisions of the meeting, Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Gyanendra Bahadur Karki said that the government has decided

to take initiatives for acquiring around 280 ropanis of land at Sanni Triveni Rural Municipality in Kalikot district for the Phukot Karnali Semi-reservoir Hydroelectricity Project.

According to him, among other decisions taken by the meeting are promoting Additional Inspector General Pushpa Ram KC to the post of Inspector General of the Armed Police Force Nepal, constructing a basic hospital in Mayadevi Rural Municipality and giving approval for using the public land for works including construction of the Rural Municipality's administrative building.

Similarly, the meeting decided to give approval for using the public land for the construction of the administrative building of the Karjanha Municipality in Siraha and to approve the resignation tendered by the National Housing Company Limited chairperson Ram Aadhar Kapar.

Nepal To See Slow Growth Amid Global Challenges: World Bank

Nepal's economy, led by recovery of the services sector amid high COVID vaccination rates, is expected to grow by 3.7 percent in the current fiscal year and 4.1 percent in FY2022/23. However, growth is projected to be slower than previously projected, mostly due to the impacts of the war in Ukraine, says the World Bank in its regional update.

The latest South Asia Economic Focus, Reshaping Norms: A New Way Forward, projects the region to grow by 6.6 percent in 2022 and by 6.3 percent in 2023. The 2022 forecast has been revised downward by 1.0 percentage point compared to the January projection.

Countries in South Asia are already grappling with rising commodity prices, supply bottlenecks, and vulnerabilities in financial sectors. The war in Ukraine will amplify these challenges, impacting Nepal's growth, inflation, and current account balances.

Also released as a companion piece, the latest Nepal Development Update Global Challenges and Domestic Revival underscore the growing momentum of the economy, while identifying potential downside risks to growth.

In Nepal, higher commodity prices, recently spurred by the war in Ukraine, are expected to increase construction costs as well as consumer prices, dampening overall demand and in turn reducing growth by an estimated 0.2 and 0.6 percentage points in FY22 and FY23 as compared to previous projections. Inflation is expected to average around 6 percent annually in the medium term.

"Amid global challenges, Nepal is on a path to slower albeit continued gradual recovery," stated Faris Hadad-Zervos, World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. "Leveraging Nepal's massive hydropower production potential, and a revival of tourism are key elements that support our optimistic outlook as we continue to support Nepal's long-term development storyline by pivoting to a green, resilient, and inclusive development path."

Remittances are expected to stabilize as a share of GDP and exports are expected to grow in FY22 as Nepal continues to take advantage of tariff exemptions to India under the South Asian Free Trade Area agreement. Together with an increase in electricity exports and an expected robust recovery in tourism, the economy is expected to grow by 5.8 percent in FY24, close to its estimated long-term potential growth rate.

The South Asia Economic Focus report provides short and long-term policy recommendations for countries in the region to counter external shocks, while laying the foundations for green, resilient and inclusive growth. In addition, the Nepal Development Update recommends stimulating Nepal's domestic economy through encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, currently the lowest in the region. FDI not only supports foreign exchange reserves but also makes the private sector more competitive through skill transfers and know-how. It has the added benefit of not adding to the country's debt and reducing pressure on foreign exchange reserves, thus mitigating the risks that further import and capital flow restrictions could have on growth.

Another challenge the South Asia region faces is the disproportionate economic impact the pandemic has had on women. The regional report includes in-depth analysis of gender disparities in the region and their link with deeply rooted social norms, and recommends policies that will support women's access to economic opportunities, tackle discriminatory norms, and improve gender outcomes for inclusive growth.



Mismanaged Nepal



BY: DR. TILAK RAWAL

Although about half a dozen elected rulers and their die-hard followers would not like to publicly admit that Nepal has been grossly mismanaged over the last numerous years, prevailing situation on several fronts has adequately manifested the deteriorating state of the country. For more than a decade, the mess that the country was in was conveniently blamed on the Maoist struggle, with the state and the rulers repeatedly assuring that everything (law and order and the economy) will be normal once the struggle was over. Unfortunately, however, situation did not improve in that ordinary people kept on facing the shortage of basic necessities such as water, electricity and other essentials including fossil fuel that is becoming dearer day by day. Frequent changes of governments and the recent chaotic situation prevailing in all state organs speak volumes about the pathetic way state affair has

been handled in this country. State of the economy has been very unsatisfactory, seldom registering more than 5 percent growth per annum. Unlike what was often promised to hard-hit people of this country, Maoists coming into the main stream politics and Prachanda's ascendance to the chair of power also proved fruitless in terms of giving good governance. Dr. Baburam Bhattari also became prime minister on behalf of the Maoist party and his contribution also did not

measure up to the expectation of the people. During the past ten years, Nepal's economy grew on average by 4.4 percent. If we extend the time to cover a period of twenty years, average growth descends further to 4.1 percent. On average, economy in the last three years grew by just 1 percent. This year also, the economy is expected to grow by less than 4 percent. In terms of performance of the economy, the two governments, led by Oli and Deuba respectively, do not look much different. People now firmly believe that even the promulgation of the new constitution, giving a federal system of governance under a republican set-up, could not solve major problems faced by Nepal and

its people. An attempt is made here to delve a bit into some of the major happenings, which would show the undesired situation prevail-

ing in three state organs- legislative, judiciary and executive. It is deemed appropriate to begin with a discussion of the much talked about Millennium Challenge Corporation deal (MCC) about which a lot is still written and spoken.

Contrary to expectation, It took years to get parliamentary ratification of MCC (initiated years ago by then Nepal government led by Deuba), requesting the concerned US authorities for a grant of 500million dollars. While making the move years ago, probably Deuba and his finance minister Gyanendra Karki, who signed the paper then, had no idea that it would create so much noise and controversy in the following years. Despite involvement of all the major political parties in the deal and their more or

less go ahead signal at one time or the other, frequent change of governments seems to have complicated it. People have seen over time major politicians' position/opinion changing with their getting in and out of governments. Political fluidity seems to have been the root cause of this controversy and the delay. Looking at the speedy handling of MCC by Deuba in his fifth stint as head of government, it can be guessed that he could have closed the agreement earlier had his government lasted little more. The government that succeeded Deuba was also seen very positive about MCC in that it not only made budgetary provision for the project but got the proposal registered for the first

time in Parliament. Perplexingly, however, out of power Oli-led party did not show understandable support to the deal, despite being urged by different quarters to clear its position. Probably aware of the divergent views on MCC of the partners in coalition government, Oli kept on maintaining that before anything else the dispensation should come up with a unified position on the deal, which at that time looked little difficult because all the ruling parties, with the sole exception of Nepali Congress (NC), were in no mood to vote for the agreement in its existing form. On several occasions, the government looked on the verge of collapse, with CPN-Maoist Centre(Maoist-C) and CPN Unified So-

During the past ten years, Nepal's economy grew on average by 4.4 percent. If we extend the time to cover a period of twenty years, average growth descends further to 4.1 percent. On average, economy in the last three years grew by just 1 percent. This year also, the economy is expected to grow by less than 4 percent. In terms of performance of the economy, the two governments, led by Oli and Deuba respectively, do not look much different.

cialist(Unified Socialist) threatening to vote against the deal and Deuba threatening to break the alliance and form a new arrangement in cooperation with Oli. Deuba worked very hard and did lots of running around to pass it because the US government, somewhat sick and tired of changing positions of our politicians, had set a deadline of February 28 to secure parliamentary ratification of the MCC compact and also threatened to grant the money allocated to Nepal to some other countries in queue for it. With cadres and even some noted figures of the left parties in government joining hands with other left parties in taking out rallies against MCC at several places, mainly Kathmandu, many observers thought a serious political accident was imminent. Deuba should be credited for succeeding in keeping the situation intact; taking resort to different methods such as placating Oli and Janta Samajbadi Party (JSP) chief Mahanta Thakur and threatening his coalition partners that they would be jettisoned should they fail to cooperate with him. This running around by Deuba paid good return in that

he was able to keep his leadership of government intact with the same coalition partners who had been opposing the deal. There is no doubt that common people were deeply confused by political leaders some of whom(mainly belonging to left parties) kept on putting across their belief that the deal was a part of Indo Pacific Strategy(a military alliance consisting of countries such as US, India, Australia and Japan) and some of the provisions in the agreement would go a long way in endangering our sovereignty and territorial integrity, while some notable politicians like Dr. R S Mahat of NC maintained that it was a pure grant to be used for construction of electricity transmission lines and road upgradation and there was nothing in it to panic about .In the midst of controversy, street protests and main opposition UML's continued obstruction of House proceedings, the Parliament on February 27 ratified the deal with a 12-point interpretative declaration. Despite continuing post-ratification opposition calling it unequal and against national interest , Nepal government will have to expedite its execution in a transparent way, which could clear remaining doubts about the grant and ensure timely completion of the envisaged projects. For now, Deuba's manoeuvres, a form of art at which excels, has saved his leadership of a shaky coalition government and also provided some relief, albeit temporarily, to Speaker Sapkota who has been facing the onslaught of UML for months now.

It is, however, surprising that instead of introspecting a bit to see what led to the downfall of these governments when the Oli-led government enjoyed almost two-thirds majority at the federal level and what caused the split in the merged communist party and compelled Madhav Nepal to form a new party, it seems Oli and his followers in the House have focused mainly on whipping Sapkota. Uml's continued obstruction of House proceedings has prompted many observers to question the validity of our political system, and also questioning the expenditure of millions of rupees every month to keep the nonperforming House alive.

Indeed, Sapkota has been at the center of a chaotic House characterized by continuous obstruction of its proceedings by the opposition lawmakers, demanding his resignation. It may be noted that Sapkota is accused of helping Madhav Nepal form a new party by not confirming the suspension, as requested by UML, of fourteen lawmakers who ultimately succeeded in forming a new party (Unified Socialist) under Madhav Nepal. This inaction or bias of Sapkota is thought to be the major reason that led to the untimely collapse of UML-led governments not only at the center but in many provinces, too. It is, however, surprising that instead of introspecting a bit to see what led to the downfall of these governments when the Oli-led government enjoyed almost two-thirds majority at the federal level and what caused the split in the merged communist party and compelled Madhav Nepal to form a new party, it seems Oli and his followers in the House have focused mainly on whipping Sapkota. Uml's continued obstruction of House proceedings has prompted many observers to question the validity of our political system, and also questioning the expenditure of millions of rupees every month to keep the nonperforming House alive.

Very important bills have remained stalled. In the last seven months or so, the House passed, in the midst of obstruction, only the new budget and the MCC agreement. For all practical reasons, UML lawmakers were seen making some noise but made no serious efforts to obstruct presentation and passage of the budget. As per parliamentary ratification of the deal, UML lawmakers had no business obstructing it as it was supported by Oli while in government.

Very surprisingly, President Bhandari, on recommendation of the government, prorogued the on-going session of the Parliament from midnight of March 15, 2022, rendering fate of some important bills including citizenship bill uncertain. It may also be noted that the House had formed an 11-member impeachment recommendation committee to look into the motion filed against Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana on February 13. The House was supposed to commence discussion on the impeachment motion starting March 16 but the sudden prorogation of the House has stalled all proposed parliamentary activities related to Rana who remains suspended ever since the filing of the motion against him. Oli has more or less succeeded in rendering the Parliament, twice dissolved by him and resurrected by the apex court on each occasion, jobless and it is very likely that the budget session of the

VIEWPOINT

parliament will also not be allowed to do other work beside providing floor for annual rituals such as presentation of government's annual policy and programme and letting the finance minister submit and clear the budget. It is, however, very unclear what political/electoral gains Oli intends to achieve by keeping the resurrected Parliament in this state. It may be noted that a number of cases, including one alleging Sapkota's direct involvement in a murder case years ago, are lying at the Supreme Court, which has in recent times reached the peak of controversy in its history.

Revolving around four chief justices, situation in the apex court remained very unpleasant in the last couple of years, starting with the impeachment motion filed in the Parliament against then Chief Justice Sushila Karki. Although the situation quietened a bit after nullification of the motion by the apex court, deterioration in working environment began again with the replacement of Karki by Gopal Parajuli who was accused of forging documents related to his age. Parajuli kept on resisting the accusation boldly for some time but ultimately gave in to the accelerating pressure for his resignation from different quarters. A number of parliamentarians belonging to the left party played a key role in ousting Parajuli. Parajuli did not get the expected support from his long time buddies (Deepak Joshi and Cholendra Rana) who were impatiently waiting to be in the top position. Joshi could not be confirmed owing to strong opposition of communist lawmakers in the Parliamentary Hearing Committee and was somewhat

forced out of the apex court, despite his desire to continue even as a mere Justice of it. It may be noted that Parajuli, Joshi and Rana were good friends and jointly worked to clear hurdles created by their opponents to check their upgradation in the system. It is said, for example, that a strong group in the judiciary was working hard to make sure that the trio retires well before their time to reach the top post. Quite a few legal experts were appointed as temporary justices who, many thought, would be made permanent over time, which could stop the trio's vertical mobility. Smelling the design against them, these three friends worked day and night and left no stone unturned to get the hurdles cleared. United, they emerged victorious, but when they started working against each other, they fell one by one. The youngest of the three (Rana) is now talk of the country.

Rana, accused of promoting corrupt behavior, amassing wealth, anomalies and aberration in the judiciary, is fighting the battle all alone. UML has opposed the way

the motion was filed in the House but has stayed away from throwing the party's weight behind him as many in the party seem to have advised Oli against openly supporting him, which could cost the party dearly in the forthcoming electoral battles. Different bodies, including association of retired justices, and individuals repeatedly exerted pressure on Rana to resign. While Nepal Bar Association in cooperation with Supreme Court Bar launched the protest against him, demanding resignation, most of his fellow justices refused to share bench with him basically to facilitate his ouster and Deuba was also said to be in favour of this to resolve the prolonged crisis in judiciary. All these pressure tactics did not yield expected result as an adamant Rana did not budge an inch from his original stand of following the constitutional process, despite being warned of consequences. He continued to stick to his position in a very adversarial environment, quietly digesting the indignity of being publicly humiliated by his own subordinates and professionals belonging to the same community.

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professionals belonging to the same community. It may be noted that Nepal Bar had first sought his resignation and on failing to get him do so, the lawyers' body later urged political parties to impeach him. In a way the initiator of the motion are correct that the impeachment motion was moved as all other avenues to check him had failed. It is, however, equally important to see whether a favourable working important has been created at the apex court after Rana's suspension. It looks like acting chief of the apex court Mr. Karki and his subordinates are still not in a position to work fearlessly, which

is manifested by their inability to give verdict on a number of controversial cases involving former dispensation led by Oli. In a way, Oli is right in asserting that mere ouster of Rana from judiciary would not solve the problem because a number of other justices have also to be initiated action against because they are equally responsible for creating the mess that the apex body is in today. A shrewd and revengeful Oli is very much feared in this country and many thought Deuba government initiated motion against Rana will soon be followed by another UML initiated motion covering current officiating chief and some other justices who decided in favour of resurrection of the Parliament, offending very much the UML chief. With the passage of time, however, the fear of another impeachment motion seems to have slowly faded away and no major cases of irregularities have been noticed at the apex court but the environment there has to be improved a lot, which may require effective support of other organs of the state as well.

Judiciary is still not in a position to function independent of wishes and aspirations of our leaders, whether in government or in opposition. Serious injury has been inflicted on the Supreme Court of this country and Rana alone is not responsible for this.

People are curiously waiting to see how effective the current dispensation becomes in helping the judiciary heal its wounds, which can be effected through creation of an environment in which the concerned can work fearlessly and also selflessly.

Oli-led government remained full of controversy throughout and so is the state of current dispensation led by Deuba, which is being ridiculed for some of its highly controversial decisions. Starting with the induction into government of a businessman, most of the decisions of this dispensation have remained highly controversial. Specific mention could be made of recent ambassadorial appointment, which has been highly criticized, the media accusing Deuba and other alliance leaders of nepotism and favouritism and letting money immensely influence their decisions. It has also become a matter of common understanding that with local polls around the corner (less than a month now), mobilizing resources needed for it seems to have been the major concern of influential people. Decisions are made often ignoring peoples' feeling and not bothering what impact would a particular decision have on the national economy. A more or less condemned act of this government has been its decision to allow import of beetle nuts, which is imported paying dollars and most of which is exported to India. Oli-led government also made this kind of decision, allowing individual businessmen to import 25000 tons of the stuff, but exporting it formally became difficult later when government of India tightened rules. It may be noted that a ton of beetle nuts is purchased at 2500 dollars, which is adjusted downward by our government at 1050 dollars for export/smuggling purpose, depriving us of the formal flow into Nepal of Indian currency we are in dire need of and which for us is as hard as American dollars. It may be noted that Government of India has fixed import price of it at 2600 dollars to check its undesired import. In Nepal, it has been a kind of state sponsored smuggling, which benefits decision makers and the unscrupulous traders involved. Very frustrating is the fact that this decision was made at a time when the licensing ministry was under Deuba's direct jurisdiction and foreign exchange reserve had shown signs of significant depletion. It may be noted that foreign exchange dropped to Rs.1171 billion, registering a decline of 16.2 percent in

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the 8 months of this fiscal year, which is just enough to cover import of goods and services for 6.7 months, a sharp drop from earlier level when the reserve was enough to fund import requirement of goods and services for 11.3

months. Owing to sharp increase in imports, there is tremendous pressure on balance of payment and current account. Current account deficit has increased to Rs.462 billion this fiscal year, a sharp deterioration compared to the deficit of Rs.151 billion in the corresponding period of last fiscal year. In the nine months of this fiscal year, trade deficit has approximated Rs. 1290 billion. Revenue

collection has been satisfactory so far but it is likely to take a hit, import based as it is, with enforcement of government's recent measures to check imports. Further, owing basically to external situation, inflation has gone up from 3.03 to 7.14 percent. Likewise, till the last day of the tenth month of this fiscal year, capital expenditure has been just 26.81 percent (Rs.101 billion), while it was 30 percent (Rs. 105 billion) during the same period last fiscal year. Despite visible setbacks on several fronts, it is perplexing that our government is taking so long to admit that their wished growth of 7 percent is unachievable this year.

In the midst of several controversies and debacles, Deuba government has committed another blunder by suspending, initial step prior to dismissal, Rastra Bank (central Bank) governor Maha Prasad Adhikari who was discharging his responsibility quite well. This has invited lots of criticism and the authorities are relentlessly attacked by the press for this unjustifiable act at a time when Corona devastated economy is being further complicated by external shocks emanating from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Fortunately, the apex court has stayed this decision of the government. People have seen Deuba dragging along difficult coalition governments in the past and this time around also he succeeded in getting the MCC ratified without letting the government fall apart, which many thought was difficult. It's high time that Deuba worked hard to stop the economy and the nation from crashing and also help clear the unhealthy dirt accumulated in other state organs. Disappointing, however, is the fact that Deuba-led organ (executive) appears to be in no less serious a mess than the other two- judiciary and legislative. May Lord Pashupatinath continue to save us? Happy New Year 2079!

Dr. Rawal is a former governor of Nepal Rastra Bank

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Countdown Begins

As political parties and leaders are shaking hands irrespective of their ideologies, the forthcoming local elections is more or less non-ideological

By A CORRESPONDENT

By announcing his decision to contest the local elections under CPN-UML's symbol, Kamal Thapa, formerly a staunch monarchist and Hindu, showed that ideology has nothing to do in achieving political power.

In a similar way, Nepali Congress led four party alliance and Rajendra Lingden., leader of RPP, a party with firm stand on monarchist and Hindu Kingdom, is shaking hands in Jhapa against KP Sharma Oli led UML.

"This is time to defeat candidates of four party alliance led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. CPN-UML will join any force which is against these regressive forces," said KP Sharma Oli defending his decision.

CPN-UML nominated Vijay Kumar Sarawagi, who recent-

ly quit his mother Party Sanghiya Samajabadi Janta Party and joined UML, as a candidate of the party for mayor of Birgunj Metropolitan City.

As Nepali Congress is leading communist dominated alliance for the coming local polls, a die-hard democrat and leader of Nepali Congress Govinda Raj Joshi, who was expelled from the party as a political vendetta by his former colleagues PM Deba and Poudel, has made an electoral alliance with CPN-UML in Tanahu.

These three political alliances have shown that political parties are more interested in power than ideology. There is no surprise to see that a staunch monarchist has chosen communist and secular democratic alliance are joining hands with other monarchists and pro-Hindu party to win the elections.

As the date for local elections is coming closer, parties are searching the alliance to defeat the rivals. One can see more such new alliances in the days to come. This is just the beginning.

"People do not know much about our symbol. Thus, we decided to contest under UML's symbol," said Kamal Thapa, leader of RPP – Nepal, who recently quit his mother party after losing the race with Lingden.

This is not the first time Nepalese political parties have given up their ideology. Political parties in Nepal have been changing their stance from time to time. According to political analysts, there is no left and right.

Take the case of Nepali Congress, a liberal democratic party, which joined six communist parties in 1990 against

Panchayat system. Further moving ahead, Nepali Congress led the front of Maoist to overthrow the monarchy and parliamentary democracy.

Less than three weeks away, political leaders are busy in a nationwide campaign to





woo the voters and making broader alliance to defeat the other factions.

Alliance in Ruling Party

The ruling parties have inched closer to an agreement on electoral coordination among them at the local levels, particularly the metropolitan and sub-metropolitan cities.

According to Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, government spokesperson and Minister for Communications and Information Technology, the meeting of the top leaders of the ruling alliance has reached closer to a conclusion on seat sharing in the local level election slated for May 13.

The meeting held at the Prime Minister's official residence at Baluwatar went for four hours. "The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and it went on for some hours. Views have been put forth from different angles and all the views have moved forward positively," said Minister Karki after the meeting.

The meeting was centered

on six metropolitan cities and 11 sub-metropolitan cities.

Earlier, it was reported that the ruling parties were close to agreement on the issues and that they were likely to make an agreement.

SC Upholds EC's Decision

Sitting people's representatives at the local levels can file their candidacy for the upcoming local polls only after they resign from their posts.

A joint bench of the Supreme Court (SC) justices Tej Bahadur KC and Tilak Prasad Shrestha issued a verdict to this effect scrapping a case filed at the SC against the election code of conduct.

Nima Gyaljen Sherpa, Chairman of Helambu Rural Municipality, had on March 21 filed a writ petition at the SC demanding that the election code of conduct that requires people's representative to resign before filing candidacy be nullified.

The election commission (EC) had introduced the election code of conduct.

Rumour of Uncertainty

As political parties have already started the nationwide campaign for local poll slated for May 13, there are rumors of possible postponement of the local poll. Given



the growing rumor, Chief Elections Commissioner Dinesh Thapaliya has assured voters that nothing can postpone the elections.

"We have already printed ballot papers and security arrangements have already been finalized with the involvement of Nepal Army. Nothing can prevent the local elections now," said Thapaliya.

MD GHISING

In A Rush

For the last nine months since his appointment as the managing director of NEA, Kulman Ghising has hardly found time to rest

By A CORRESPONDENT

Be it power distribution, power management or construction of transmission line, NEA has been facing problems everywhere. Since he took the helm

With the legal obstruction through interim order from Supreme Court by Madhesi leader Sairta Giri, the project is unable to erect two towers in Siraha. Similar-

goons and land brokers.

However, MD Ghising has no choice other than to visit the sites and make efforts to convince the local community. From visiting the obstruction sites, clearing the local level obstruction on the construction of transmission line, MD Ghising has spared a lot of time in clearing such hassles.

Similarly, he has been visiting different parts of the country urging industrialists to use Nepalese electricity. As rainy season is a few months away and NEA would have huge surplus seasonal energy, MD Ghising has only one choice to convince industrialists to use electricity.

After months of obstruction, MD Ghising recently visited Dolkha and Ramechhap requesting local leaders to remove obstruction created in Gajryang-New Khimti transmission line.

Following the obstruction created by local people in Gajryang-New Khola Transmission line project, the deadline for the construction of project has already been postponed several times causing huge losses to the country.

To end the stalemate, managing director of Nepal Electricity Authority Ghising visited the site Deputy Executive Director Dirghayu Kumar Shrestha.

MD Ghising held discussions with the Chief District Officer, Village Chairperson and Ward Chairpersons to remove the obstruction.

MD Ghising said that 19



of NEA, MD Kulman Ghising has been in a rush to end the stalemates.

Convincing the local people, he was able to clear the obstruction and complete the 132 kV Solu Corridor which was jointly inaugurated by prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Not all people are easy to convince. Some people are rigid and irrational. Take the example of 400 kV Hetauda- Inaruwa Transmission line, a strategically important project of Nepal. Facing physical and legal obstruction, the construction work is still incomplete.

ly, the obstruction created by people in Hetauda completely halted the erection of few towers.

Despite facing opposition and threat, MD Ghising has been taking steps to convince the local people and local leaders about the importance of the project to distribute uninterrupted electricity supply.

The people, who spare no time to lodge protests and complain when there is power interruption for certain minutes, ignore the importance of the project. From local political leaders to local administration, no one supports to lift obstruction created by some local

MW of electricity could not be evacuated due to lack of transmission line. Local people are demanding compensations to allow erection of towers.

“NEA is ready to be as flexible as possible on the issue of compensation and indemnity according to the legal provisions,” said Ghising.

The construction work of the Gajrang-New Khimti 132 KV double circuit transmission line project is built to evacuate electricity generated from the Khimti and Likhu river hydropower projects.

Due to the lack of infrastructure, the 12 MW Upper Khimti constructed by Himalayan Energy Development Company and 7 MW Upper Khimti of the second hydropower project could not be connected to the power transmission line.

Despite continuous efforts of the project management, the construction of the transmission line could not be completed as the obstruction could not be removed.

The obstruction was created demanding the high compensation for the land used in the construction sites. Those areas include Those, Dharapani, Betasi and Nammadd of Gokul



Ganga Rural Municipality of Ramchhap district and Tamakosi Rural Municipality of Dolkha.

32 Kilometer long Transmission line has 105 towers. Out of the towers, construction of basement has already completed and 101 towers have already been erected. The construction of 20 kilometers has already completed with wire.

The construction of 132-33-11 kV substation in Ggrayng substation is at the last stage as all the equipment has already arrived at the site.

MD Ghising discussed the issue with Chairperson of Local Rural Municipality and Ward chairs of the obstructed areas and requested them to take necessary steps to resolve the obstruction.

Given the prolonged obstruction for the project; NEA has decided to build alternative arrangements to evacuate the electricity from both the projects. Now, the power will be evacuated through 33 kV Gajryang substation then to send to Jiri substation to link 133 kV national grid.

NEA is now planning to charge 30 MVA power transmitters in Gajryang substation to evacuate the electricity from the projects. Through this, 10 MW of electricity can be evacuated.

MD Ghising said that the pace of the construction will accelerate and it will complete before rainy session when both the projects start operating in full capacity.

Since his appointment as MD, Ghising has been spending enormous time dealing with the obstructions created by various forces in the construction of the transmission line.



A Tumultuous Destiny



BY: DR. K. UPRETY

The resilience of the Nepalese continues to be admirable. Whilst the leaders do not fail to prove proficiency in their chameleon like behavior, the people concur nimbly by digesting all the ills passed on to them by such leaders. The month-long relay protests, in early 2022, against an international arrangement designed for the country—a maze of security pacts camouflaged in the agenda of development—which otherwise should have been only in the Executive’s domain but was imposed on the Legislature, are still fresh in our minds. After showing, for months, their extreme and non-negotiable position in their demands, quite harshly retaliated by the state apparatus in the name of law and order, in the end, the protestors easily accepted the statements of compromise proposed by their leaders along with the outcomes, however irresponsible and unconvincing they may have been. The high intensity with which the protestors had voiced their concerns against the specific arrangement, allegedly containing, among other, serious elements crushing the nation’s sovereignty, was diluted by the protestors’ succumbing to a completely contrasting decision, without even a byte of resistance. A condemnation of an equal force was expected, but the response was only but an ominous silence. Given this, it is difficult to gage whether some of the protestors had tactical and devilish motives or were simply acting in innocence. Nonetheless, the complete sidelining of the vox populi, despite its inherent criticality in a pluralist democracy, was blatant. Meanwhile, while maintaining a minimum subtlety, the unexpected decision was justified as externality but endorsed on grounds of the doctrine of political necessity.

What is regrettable is that during the protest-period, scores of innocent citizens were injured, and with the unsatisfactory outcome in hindsight, much of the

In 1920, Hugh Lofting had already understood the value of language and clarity in communication. His good Doctor Do little, who mastered the language of each animal he treated, had the ability to easily prescribe the right type of medicine for patients. Creating an analogy from the above, one can say that a sensible,

protestors’ productive time turned out to be expended on futile sloganeering. During that time, the media’s continual efforts to glorify and, at times, mystify the protests, and day-long academic sessions organized to rebut and rationalize were also noticeable. Many renowned high-ranking leaders who also joined the street crowds were initially showing unbelievable outspokenness, but when everything was decided through a ‘master-strike,’ they forgot to even explain what prompted them to confidently mislead the protestors with their miscalculated prophecies. To pacify the critics, the establishment found it opportune to issue a set of ambiguous statements and promise golden future years for the country, ironically identical to the sales’ pitch made in 1996 in favor of immeasurable energy benefits to people, which after 26 years, are yet to be realized. Coincidentally, barring a few, the key players in 1996 and 2022 happen to be the same.

In addition to the unique lifestyle saturated by a variety of colorful religious and cultural holidays, interestingly, the Nepalese have been blessed with frequent —almost weekly—protest events. The cause-lists for protests are multifold and one specific theme for use can always be easily picked. These events provide raw material for rumor mongers and opportunities for all-time/all-round experts and advisors, however dubious their neutrality and integrity on the subject matter may be. Such events also create possibilities for follower-less leaders, for confused opportunity seekers, and for romanticized ideologues to show usefulness, secure a forum, and be visible. All keep themselves busy pontificating without accountability, and free from any liability. In forums created for their own specific purpose, most make pronouncements that are rarely subject to reality-check. Their analysis of the morning may completely differ from the one in the evening although the theme,

variables, and context remain unchanged. In all this, the facilitation services provided by the mainstream media and You Tubing business venturers are commendable. No blame needs to be put on any one group here as this is admitted as not only a good revenue generating business model, but also the freedom of expression marching ahead at full throttle.

For some time, prestige and power have prevailed over people's plight. Rhetorical futuristic and distant imageries have prevailed over the present existential reality. Saying has prevailed over doing. Risky alliances have prevailed over tested neutralities. Uncharted surrealism has prevailed over established photorealism. Visionless hoarding has prevailed over well-planned spending. All these have been bent on establishing a unique identity and countered in the name of ideological rivalry. This appears to be the new model of governance-development marching ahead.

In 1945 already, George Orwell rightly saw the potential of a variety of political idolatry and outcomes in an animal kingdom he formed in his mind. Therein, the rebellion instigated by a group of farm animals against their farmer, aimed at creating a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy, was crushed because of betrayal. In the end, the farm ended up in a state as bad as before but was, then, brought under an absolute authority. Miscommunication between the farmer and the members of the animalia led to such unexpected outcome. In 1920, Hugh Lofting had already understood the value of language and clarity in communication. His

good Doctor Do little, who mastered the language of each animal he treated, had the ability to easily prescribe the right type of medicine for patients. Creating an analogy from the above, one can say that a sensible, clear, and honest discourse is critical for all societies. That is also true for Nepal, where the drama of politics continues unabated, but without any all-accepted trophy to share, where one script, full of ambiguity, is on display, but with too many directors to steer, and where the music continues without notations, but with too many conductors to serve. No wonder, the audience cannot react efficiently, as it is far from perceiving clearly the scope, coverage, and tenor of the musical play, thus leaving the spectacle to

continue with applause.

Admittedly, the politics lacking in clarity of agenda has been continuing in Nepal for the past several decades, with self-declared victors, and subservient followers. The level, the quantum and the pattern of victories, losses, and increments are measured through uniquely designed lenses and interpreted through custom made tools, which enable calculations to feed party needs, and to continue their inter-ideological romance, derailing genuine competitiveness in politics. With this, the future of the political market is certain to be distorted, unless something is done to correct the course!

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Bad Shape

Nepal Rastra Bank's report shows that remittances continue to slump, BOP deficit rises

By A CORRESPONDENT

Remittance inflows decreased by 1.7 per cent to Rs. 631.19 billion by the end of the eighth month of the fiscal year against an increase of 8.7 per cent of the previous year according to the Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation report of the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB).

According to The Rising Nepal, the number of Nepali workers taking approval for foreign employment increased significantly to 227,900 in the review period. It had decreased by 82.9 per cent in the same period of the previous year. The number of Nepali workers taking approval for making re-entry for foreign employment increased by 240.9 per cent to 178,262. It had decreased by 70.2 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

Net transfer decreased by 2.0 per cent to Rs. 704.33 billion in the review period. Such a transfer had increased by 7.2 per cent last year.

The report states that the current account remained at a deficit of Rs. 462.93 billion in the eighth month of this year compared to a deficit of Rs. 151.42 billion in the same period of the previous year.

BOP deficit continues to grow

Balance of Payments (BOP) remained at a deficit of Rs. 258.64 billion against a surplus of Rs. 68.01 billion of the previous year.

Similarly, gross foreign exchange reserves decreased by 16.3 per cent to Rs. 1171 billion in mid-March 2022 from Rs. 1399.03 billion in mid-July 2021.

The central bank said that based on the imports of eight months of 2021/22, the foreign exchange reserves of the banking sector is sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise imports of 7.4 months, and

merchandise and services imports of 6.7 months.

Similarly, deposits at Banks and Financial Institutions (BFIs) increased by 4.1 per cent in the review period compared to an increase of 11.0 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Private sector credit from BFIs increased by 12.8 per cent this year compared to an increase of 17.4 per cent last year.

Likewise, capital transfer decreased by 41.2 per cent to Rs. 7 billion and net foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by 60.0 per cent to Rs. 16.30 billion. In the same period of the previous year, capital transfer and net FDI amounted to Rs. 11.91 billion and Rs. 10.18 billion respectively.

In the review month, hill area experienced the highest inflation of 7.69 per cent. The Kathmandu Valley, Terai and Mountain witnessed inflation of 6.31 per cent, 7.36 per cent and 7.56 per cent respectively. Inflation in these regions was 2.50 per cent, 3.25 per cent, 3.40 per cent and 1.31 per cent respectively in mid-March 2021 reports RSS.

Consumer price inflation has increased in the first three months of the current fiscal year 2021/22.

According to the current macroeconomic and financial report published by the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the year-on-year (y-o-y) consumer price inflation stood at 5.65 per cent in the sixth month of 2021/22 compared to 3.56 per cent a year ago.

Food and beverage inflation stood at 4.92 per cent whereas non-food and service inflation stood at 6.23 per cent in the review month.

The prices of ghee and oil, transportation, alcoholic drinks, tobacco products and pulses and legumes sub-categories rose by 21.22 per cent,

14.07 per cent, 11.37 per cent, 10.48 per cent and 9.22 per cent respectively on y-o-y basis.

In the review month, the Kathmandu Valley, Terai, Hill and Mountain witnessed 5.28 per cent, 6.15 per cent, 5.34 per cent and 5.22 per cent inflation respectively.

Inflation in these regions was 3.55 per cent, 2.87 per cent, 4.72 per cent and 3.38 per cent respectively a year ago.

The y-o-y wholesale price inflation stood at 8.08 per cent in the review month compared to 6.18 per cent a year ago.

The y-o-y wholesale price of consumption goods, intermediate goods and capital goods increased by 9.10 per cent, 7.67 per cent and 7.14 per cent respectively.

The y-o-y wholesale price of construction materials has increased by 17.51 per cent in the review month.

The y-o-y salary and wage rate index increased by 5.77 per cent in the review month. Such growth was 1.72 per cent a year ago. In the review period, salary index and wage rate index increased by 9.44 and 4.73 per cent respectively.

Remittance inflow lower by 5.5%

Meanwhile, the remittance inflows decreased by 5.5 per cent to Rs. 468.45 billion in the review period against an increase of 11.1 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

In the US dollar terms, remittance inflows decreased by 6.2 per cent to 3.93 billion in the review period against an increase of 6.7 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

Number of Nepali workers (institutional and individual-new and legalised) taking approval for foreign employment increased significantly to



167,513 in the review period.

It had decreased 89.0 per cent in the same period of the previous year. The number of Nepali workers (renew entry) taking approval for foreign employment increased by 298.1 per cent to 130,212 in the review period, said NRB.

It had decreased 75.5 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

Net transfer decreased by 4.9 per cent to Rs. 523.01 billion in the review period. Such transfer had increased by 8.9 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

BoP deficit up to Rs. 241.23 billion

Balance of Payments (BOP) remained at a deficit of Rs. 241.23 billion in the review period against a surplus of Rs. 124.92 billion in the same period of the previous year.

In the US dollar terms, the BOP remained at a deficit of 2.02 billion in the review period against a surplus of 1.05 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Similarly, the current account remained at a deficit of Rs. 354.07 bil-

lion in the first six months of the current fiscal year compared to a deficit of Rs. 51.68 billion in the same period of the previous year.

In the US dollar terms, the current account registered a deficit of 2.97 billion in the review period compared to deficit of 440.8 million in the same period last year.

In the review period, capital transfer decreased by 20 per cent to Rs. 5.48 billion while net foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by 48.1 per cent to Rs. 11.34 billion.

The capital transfer and net FDI amounted to Rs. 6.85 billion and Rs. 7.66 billion respectively in the same period of the previous year.

Foreign currency reserves down by 16.7%

In the meantime, gross foreign exchange reserves decreased by 16.7 per cent to Rs. 1165.80 billion in mid-January 2022 from Rs. 1399.03 billion in mid-July 2021.

In the US dollar terms, the gross foreign exchange reserves decreased 15.9 per cent to 9.89 billion in mid-January 2022 from 11.75 billion in mid-July 2021.

Of the total foreign exchange reserves, reserves held by NRB decreased 18.4 per cent to Rs.1015.59 billion in mid-January 2022 from Rs. 1244.63 billion in mid-July 2021.

Reserves held by banks and financial institutions (except NRB) decreased by 2.7 per cent to Rs.150.21 billion in mid-January 2022 from Rs. 154.39 billion in mid-July 2021.

The share of Indian currency in total reserves stood at 24.5 per cent in mid-January 2022.

Based on the imports of six months of 2021/22, the foreign exchange reserves of the banking sector is sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise imports of 7.2 months, and merchandise and services imports of 6.6 months, said NRB.

The ratio of reserves-to-GDP (previous fiscal year), reserves-to-imports and reserves-to-M2 stood at 27.3 per cent, 54.8 per cent and 22 per cent respectively in mid-January 2022.

Such ratios were 32.8 per cent, 84.7 per cent and 27.1 per cent respectively in mid-July 2021.

DR. MAN BAHADUR KC

Heart Mender

Nepal has drastically improved its health system including care and treatment for cardiac health. Although cardiac arrest is still a leading cause of death in Nepal, the mortality rate has gone down and there are institutions, technologies and medical experts to save people from cardiac arrests. Dr. Man Bahadur KC, son of a farmer, a resident of the remote village of Baglung district, has seen all this change through the lens of a patient, practicing doctor and manager

By KESHAB POUDEL

Born in a remote part of Baglung district in western Nepal, Dr. Man Bahadur KC, who now offers service at Nishan Clinic, a renowned cardiologist of Nepal, always preferred to work in shadow. Although he has spent enormous time bringing the change in cardiologist's treatment and care system in Nepal making it affordable and accessible to poor and middle-class families, Dr. KC, who is one of the first cardiologists appointed to work in Sahid Ganga National Health Center (SGNHC) in early days of establishment, is still unknown to many.

After resigning from Ganga, Dr. KC has reduced his work pressure and burden. Spending his leisure time with two young daughters Shiwami KC (22), Omisa KC (19)

and wife Sarala Bohara, Dr. KC, who served as a personal physician of politicians like Girija Prasad Koirala and Sushil Koirala, feels proud to be a part of specialized medical profession saving the life of common people.

Living in his quiet residence in Bansbari, Dr. KC, who learned ethos like a sacrifice, dedication and commitment to serving mankind from his family, finds enormous inner satisfaction in serving the needy. Spending almost 22 years in a national effort to make heart treatment affordable to the poor and middle class, Dr. KC resigned from the SGNHC two years ago.

Along with him, the dedication and commitment of half a dozen of cardiologists including Dr. Da-

modar Pokharel, Dr. Bhagwan Koirala, Dr. Yadav Dev Bhatta, and Dr. Dibakar Sharma, Dr. Jyotindra Nath Sharma and Dr. Ramesh Koirala, has brought a strong hospital specialized to treat heart.

Although it was during the period of Dr. Bhagwan Koirala the Hospital had built its credibility and fame, Dr. KC worked quietly in a team to achieve this success.

Dr. KC, who also served as the director of the hospital for four years, was among a few early doctors contributing to enhancing the capacity of Nepal as a country having an institution with all cardiac medical and surgical facilities but he always remained in low profile. From scratch, Nepal has made a big jump in the treatment of cardiac-related complications within



the country.

Dr. KC's Life

Born in 2023 BS in Salyan Village of Baglung district of Dhaulagiri Zone, a remote southern part of Baglung bordering Gulmi district, Dr. KC studied up to primary 7 grades in his own village and completed 8, 9 and 10 from Udaya Madhayamik Vidhyalaya, Shantipur, and Gulmi. This is one of the oldest schools in the district.

Groomed by an extended family in his childhood, Dr. KC learned from his grandfather many useful habits. The main one was the discipline of early sleep and early wake-up. "My grandfather was known in our village as a person who shut down his door at 5 PM and woke up at 3 AM. He told me a very interesting story about his wake-up. He went to bed at 5 as usual. He woke up just two hours after sleeping. However, he thought he woke up

in the morning and started preparing to go to the field. Knowing all family members laughed at his grandfather."

"What I still practice is waking up in the early morning and going to bed early. My wife and my daughters start laughing when I start sleeping at 9 and wake up at 5," said Dr. KC.

Passing SLC in 2040 from the school, topping Gulmi district by securing the first division, he was admitted to ISC in Trichandra College in 2041.

Journey To MBBS

In 1988, Dr. KC, under a government scholarship, was selected to study MBBS in the People's Republic of China. Following the completion of year-long language training in Beijing, he left for Wuhan City for MBBS in 1989. Since there were uninterrupted classes, the annual and the final exam-

ination was also predictable. In 1994, he completed his MBBS. "At that time the name of my University Was Hubei University which is now called Wuhan University School of Medicine. This is one of the oldest Universities in the world. As a topper of the university in my batch, the university offered me a special scholarship to complete a master's in cardiology. The university is well known in the world for the study of the heart. It was a leading university for research, study and treatment in the world. I specialized in Cardiac Anemia. When I returned to Nepal, I was the first to have specialized in the subject. There are two types of treatment prevailing in the heart: curative and palliative. Most of the rhythm-related cardiac problems are curative. I have started the treatment for it. Had not I specialized in this sector, I would not have been in Nepal for another 30 to 40 years. Once I started treatment for

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heart rhythm, I encouraged newcomers to specialize in this area. This subject is difficult and complicated compared to other cardiac-related studies. Similarly, the treatment procedure is also a bit complex. Many people do not prefer to specialize in the area because it is difficult to study, complex in treatment and attracts less money.

Rural Spirit

"I am inspired very much by my rural spirit and rural values. I socialized in a family and community that always take pride in helping and supporting needy people. My grandfather was a well-known person in the village for early bed and early bird. He said to go to sleep at 5 and wake up at early 4.

They taught us to give more to the needy and support the poor and vulnerable. Even after decades, my lifestyle is still a continuity of my childhood years. We were taught to sleep earlier and wake up in the early morning. I sleep at 9 and always wake

up at 4. I have started to reduce my workload. I quit my job in Gangalal to reduce the pressure and burden of work. Similarly, I have started not to visit the clinic on Saturdays and check fewer daily patients. But, I cannot say no to those who came to my clinic in an emergency situation.

Money And Service

There is always a limit to money. I always prefer service, not money. Although all clinics have already increased the price of checking patients, I have yet to increase the fees. In my Nishan Clinic, we always discuss money and service. There is no doubt that money is important but it is not everything. For doctors and other medical practitioners, the quality of service matters much.

Government Scholarship

During my student days, there used to be a practice to provide government scholarships to the top students. The scholarships were based on merit. Had not to merit followed, it would not have been possible for me to be nominated to pursue medical education in China. I secured the top 3 positions in the ISC examination from Tri-Chandra College. I was selected for the scholarship due to my score and division. Had I completed my education at present, I would not be a doctor. There is no guarantee that top can get the scholarship. Although I was

active in student politics and was arrested many times during the student demonstrations, my student politics had nothing to do with my merit-based scholarship. The Panchayat regime had many bad things but its merit-based selection criteria for the scholarship were exemplary. I did reject two scholarships but I got one of my choices. I don't think that kind of merit-based selection is possible now.

Journey To Gangalal

I returned in 1997 after completing my master's degree. I joined TU Teaching Hospital and worked there till 1998. Although Gangalal was established in 1995 in the paper, there were no doctors and other staff. During that period, Nepal had few senior doctors who specialized in the heart. Dominated by senior doctors who were either in government jobs or retired, I was the first young doctor with cardiac specialization. I joined the Gangalal in 1998 and served there for around 21 years. I was appointed as director of the hospital in 2068 Baisakh and my tenure was completed at the end of Shrawan of 2072. I left the hospital in 2075, Ashadh.

Old Mindset

When I returned to Nepal, the medical field was dominated by Russian returnees. However, the medical doctors who had studied in other countries always expressed doubt about the quality of Russian Education. They do have similar kinds of doubt to Chinese Universities as well. Knowing this mindset of Kathmandu, I did a lot of study in China to make me more competitive. I don't know much about Russian universities but Chinese Universities offer world-class medical education. The only difference was that I studied Chinese. My hard work and university education paid off when I started to work in Nepal. I am happy to say that the strength of Gangalal is the doctors who returned from China. The current director Dr. Chandramani Adhiakri also completed a master's from a Chinese University. There are



more than dozens of doctors who graduated from Chinese University working in Gangalal as strength.

Institutionalization of Gangalal

When I joined Gangalal Hospital in 1998, cardiac services were available in a few hospitals. There was limited service in TUTH and Bir Hospital. In the private sector, only Norvic has limited treatment facilities. There were limited numbers of doctors so as the service, technology. Everything was limited. Those who had financial capacity went to India. For the poor, there were no options. When I joined Gangalal, everything was empty and we started the hospital from the scratch. I had started ward, OPD from zero. Slowly and steadily, other doctors were added. We were young and enthusiastic about the skills acquired from foreign countries. We had a strong feeling to do something in the country. Because of our enthusiasm, I used to spend most of my time in the hospital. Out of my 22 years of service, I entered the hospital at 6:45 and worked there till 8 PM. My views may be unbelievable to the people now. What I am saying is the reality of our life. I had never turned to the clock whether it was day or night. I provided the service round the clock. Out of 22 years in my career, I did not take 20 days of leave due to my individual work. I might have taken leave for official work, seminars and other things. To bring Gangalal into the present shape and fame, not only me, dozens of doctors, medical staff and other employees also have equally sacrificed their time and offered their devotion. In extreme, I did not attend Nwaran (the cultural rituals performed 11 days after a baby's birth like a baptism of a new baby). During the Nwaran of my elder daughter, we were the only two in the hospital to run OPD and other services. Although there were a few more doctors in the Nwaran of my second daughter, I did not find another one to replace my work. Had I attended the Nwaran, the patients would have suffered. As



a doctor, I chose my professional ethics to provide treatment to the patient. Such kind of our devotion brought Gangalal into the present shape. For the young people, my statement is like Dantyakatha (stories) or unbelievable story. We are all young doctors who devoted our time to the hospital. In the early days when we joined the profession, we were nowhere and we were unknown to society and people. Even some senior doctors suspected our quality of service. Given the time, such suspicions were natural. However, we proved what we were doing was absolutely right through our qualifications, devotion and hard work. We also proved that we provide quality service. The current status of Gangalal also tells this. Although it was started

in 1998, the hospital was capable to provide full-fledged heart service in Nepal since 2008. Gangalal has now all the treatment facilities available in the world. Similarly, the hospital has been providing world-standard cardiac treatment at home.

Family And Profession

I have never forced my children to do this or not to do that. However, my elder daughter Shiwami K.C., 22, has decided to follow me and she is now studying MBBS at Kist Medical College. She is now a third-year student. Although second daughter Omisha KC, 18, is undecided, she is also preparing for the MBBS entrance examination. One needs to spend 12-15 years to complete up to specialized

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courses in medicine. She sometimes asks me when one can enjoy life if he or she spends such a long period in studies. My answer to the daughter is don't study it if you think so. However, many surrounding factors including a study by her own sister are luring her into medical education. She is now preparing half-heartedly because of me and her elder sister; she is showing interest in the medical profession. This is a very difficult profession as one has to give up family and personal life. However, there is also a matter of satisfaction when you save the life of people and provide medical treatment for needy people. I actually discouraged my elder daughter saying that medical study is time-consuming and hard to make a career for girls. I also give a successful example of Dr. Sudha Sharma's how to make a career in medicine. My elder daughter decided to join medicine and she is pursuing MBBS in her third year.

Family time

For a successful career, family support is important. I am fortunate to marry Sarala Bohara who has supported me all the time to pursue my medical career. She understands my profession and service. She completely took control of household matters allowing me to pursue my medical career. My spouse has played an important role to make me successful. As I have mentioned to you, the profession of medical doctors requires more devotion to the needy patient. Of course, I have also family and I have a responsibility toward them. However, I give priority on the basis of needs. For instance, I prefer to go to the hospital if the patient desperately requires my presence and my support can save his life. When I have to choose my time for a family's pleasure trip or saving the life of a patient, I will prefer the hospital. Despite some complaints from my daughters and wife, I am fortunate enough to say that my wife and

enough time to spare and play with me. However, they are so supportive and cooperative that they have never interfered with my professional work. Without the support of my wife and two daughters, it is not possible for me to devote my time to the profession. I am very proud to say that my younger colleague Dr. Roshan Raut is emerging as a world-class doctor in cardiac rhythmic treatment. He also asked me the same question about the role of my wife. I have to accept my personal weakness not giving enough time to my family. Nowadays, I have started to spend my time with my family.

Remembering Parents

As I left the village following SLC, my encounter with my mother and father was rare. I visited my village for just a few days since completing school. For decades, I did not have physical contact with my parents because I was in China. After I started my medical career, my parents came to stay at my home. As I mentioned, I did spend a little time with them. We still are in an extended family. Out of four brothers, one brother died and we are three now. I am the elder one. My middle and last brother are now living in Butwal. In the last days of their life, my mother and father lived with me. My father died in front of me in 2073. After the death of my father, my mother also started to live with me. However, she insisted to go back to the village and she died while in the village in 2075.

Son of A Farmer

I prefer to say that I am the son of a farmer in a remote part of Nepal. To compete in the sector which is mostly dominated by offspring of the urban elite is out of imagination for me. I studied hard and secured good marks enough to select for the government scholarship to pursue medical education in China. I am fortunate to be a batch of students who got a government scholarship to pursue medicine. I carried a spirit and commitment from my village to do something for the na-

daughters understand my professional obligation. My two daughters also understand my professional responsibility. Given my busy schedule at work, they certainly have grievances about not finding



tion and society. What I have fulfilled was my aspiration from village days to contribute something to the nation and society. I am still doing it. Frankly speaking, I always believed Gangalal was more important than my own personal property and personal life. With that spirit, I contributed all my young life to Gangalal. I feel proud of this mission. We contributed to establishing Gangalal and Gangalal supported us to get the present fame and status.

Reform in Gangalal

I took several reforms during my tenure as a director in the hospital including the improvement of the physical infrastructure, incentives for human resources and technology for the treatment. I also worked for the financial benefit of the employees of Gangalal and the improvement of the quality of medical services. I took the issues to provide incentives to anesthesiologists, surgeons and other supporting staff. For them, the government salary is the only way out. Given the pathetic financial situation, I pursued the proposal for the need for incentives for those staff. For the surgeon, it is always a hard job. He or she has to reach the hospital early in the morning on a day of surgery and needs to stay at the hospital till late. If surgeries develop complications, the surgeon needs to spend overnight in the hospital. As soon as I was appointed a director, I took the issue of incentives in the Ministry of Health. After analysis of our points, the ministry agreed to provide incen-



tives to the surgeon. I introduced the performance audit-based incentives to the surgeon and other support staff with a hard lobby. Despite working in government hospitals, the surgeons are getting a good amount of incentives. Thanks to these incentives, the hospital is able to keep the surgeon to sustain the surgery in Gangalal. I also introduced incentives to the nursing staff. Although the average salary of nursing staff is lower all over Nepal, the nurses working in Gangalal draw the highest salary. In terms of degree holders, Gangalal is at the forefront to have nurses with a higher degree. I have also worked to provide incentives to administrative staff as well.

Although I have changed my schedule after resigning from the hospital, my choice is patient even now. I know my family may complain about my decision. I choose the profession knowing that one has to sacrifice personal life before the profession.

Serving Politicians

From his student

days, Dr. KC has been active in politics as an active member of the Nepal Students Union, a sister organization of the Nepali Congress. Affiliated with Nepali Congress, Dr. KC has a long leaning with Nepali Congress and Nepali Congress leaders.

He served as a personal physician of Nepali Congress leaders Girija Prasad Koirala and Sushil Koirala. His patients include the vice president of the Nepali Congress Purna Bahadur Khadka.

Dr. KC is a familiar name among the congress leaders who visit him and recommend his name for the treatment. He was the last doctor who visited Girija Prasad Koirala before his death. Similarly, Sushil Koirala visited him in hospital a week before his death.

He knows ins and outs of most Congress politicians and they also treat him as near and dear. It may sound strange. However, Dr. KC was appointed as director of the Gangalal Hospital during the tenure of Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara as Minister of Health and Population. The basis of his appointment as a managing director is merit and seniority.

At a time when there is a rush among medical doctors to secure public positions using personal influence, what Dr. KC believes is hard work, devotion, merit and qualification.



E-COOKING

Clean Kitchen

At a time when global oil prices have increased drastically, putting pressure on foreign currency reserve of Nepal, the recently-concluded MECS ECO Workshop discusses E-cooking as an effective way to minimize the use of LPG

By KESHAB POUDEL

As Nepal is preparing for the local elections in the midst of scarcity of LPG due to a rise of oil price globally, some elected local leaders have already offered Electric Cooking as a source to minimize the use of LPG.

With the support from Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) and municipal resources, Ram Chandra Dahal, Chairperson of Mahankal Rural Municipality of Lalitpur District, has already supplied electric cooking appliances to all 2305 households aiming to reduce the reliance on LPG.

With the limited capacity of E-cooking appliances, existing electricity distribution systems and irregular supply of electricity, E-cooking cannot completely replace the LPG and biomass, but the experience of Mahankal Rural Municipality has shown that e-cooking can minimize the use of LPG.

As the election is coming closer, Dahal announced sustaining and upgrading e-cooking in his rural municipality as an election agenda. Dahal said that E-cooking is his elections agenda for the forthcoming poll.

“Compared to LPG and other traditional energy sources like fuel wood, E-cooking is cheap and clean. Thus, it is popular among people. Households have been using electricity for all cooking minimizing the use of LPG,” said Dahal. “Our experiences have shown that uninterrupted and quality supply of electricity can lure more people towards E-cooking.”

“Launched by Dilli Ghimire in 1998, the community electrification



campaign electrified all 19 formerly village development committees of Southern Lalitpur and Mahankal was one of them. After the earthquake of 2015, people have started to replace bio-gas to LPG and electric cooking is used to reduce the dependency on LPG,” said Dahal in his remarks in the recently organized MECS ECO Workshop. “Dilli Ghimire has been guiding us to sustain the E-cooking in our Rural Municipality.”

With 60 percent subsidy from Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) and 40 percent of Rural Municipality and 132 cooking appliances donated by People Energy and Environment Development Association (PEEDA), each house hold received support for improvement of house wiring and cooking appliances.

“Facilitated by Ghimire, we have made a deal with AEPC and

PEEDA to transform our kitchen using e-cooking in our municipality,” said Chairman Dahal.

At a time when there is no sign of receding the global oil price any time soon and it will be impossible for Nepal to arrange the foreign currency required to import the LPG, minimizing the use of LPG can make differences.

The model adopted by Mahankal Rural Municipality in collaboration with government agencies and NGO to use E-cooking can be replicated in other areas as well.

As Nepal will have over 2500 MW of surplus of hydro electricity from middle of June, this is right time to encourage people to use e-cooking. For this, the government has to invest money to improve the distribution system. Published by PEEDA with lead author Biraj

Gautam, executive director, Nepal e-Cookbook has also revealed that E-cooking can reduce the use of LPG.

According to CBS energy consumption data analysis, 53.3 percent of urban and 8.7 percent of rural populations use LPG for cooking, making it second most used fuel. Similarly, 63.6 percent of the households use biomass for cooking, out of which 52.4 percent solely use it as the main cooking fuel. Use of bio-mass including fuel wood increases the indoor air pollution killing around 24,000 people annually and contributing to increase heart and respiratory related disease.

The use of biomass and fuel wood has been killing people particularly women and import of LPG has been hurting economy, Nepal is in a very difficult situation to decide energy choices. The presentation and discussion held during MECS Eco workshop tries to give some solution.

Attended by Nepalese and research scholars and experts from Nepal and abroad, community leaders, government officials, local political leaders, the workshop is first of its kind having a broader participations of all stake holders.

Unveiled by member of National Planning Commission Professor Dr. Surendra Labh Karna and chairperson of Mahankal Rural Municipality Dahal, Nepal e-Cookbook was a major part of the workshop.

NPC member professor Dr. Karna also unveiled Nepal e-Cookbook. Published by People, Energy and Environment Development Association (PEEDA) with support from Modern Energy Cooking (MECS) Services, Loughborough University and University Bristol and funding from UK aid, the e-book aims to spread awareness of the benefits of e-cooking services. He also said there is the need to make e-cooking devices more Nepalese kitchen friendly

with a capacity of cooking with larger pots as well.

Published in Nepali and English languages, the book highlights the issues like why is electric cooking future for Nepal, how to make the most of your electric pressure cooker and most importantly, the book.

Electric Cooking Vs LPG

Led by Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Pampha Bhusal, the campaign to replace LPG by Electric Cooking is heating the use of energy debate now.

Minister Bhusal has been calling to replace LPG by using Electricity. Given Nepal's current state of electricity supply, distribution systems and house wiring, replacing the LPG is just as a good slogan. However, the use of LPG can be minimized.

Use of LPG against the traditional biomass and wood based fuel has greater health advantages as well. WHO's studies have also shown that LPG reduces indoor air pollution by 90 percent compared to a traditional bio-mass. The use of LPG also reduces deforestation. However, the book said reliance on LPG is not sustainable in the long term due to its non-re-



newable nature as a fossil fuel and cost of import.

With certain advantage, the import of LPG has increased over three fold in the last one decade from 100,000 MT in 2010 to over 450,000 MT in 2021. This is putting pressure on Nepal's foreign currency reserve. Observing the cooking cost using difference stoves, PEEDA's study found that the price for cooking rice, dal and meat depend upon the choice of stoves.

PEEDA's study shows among LPG stoves, firewood, infra-



ENERGY

red, Electric Pressure Cooker and induction, EPC is the cheapest, with the cost of Rs.6.27 against Rs.11.27 for induction, Rs.12.60 for infrared, Rs.13.29 for firewood and Rs.13.78 for LPG.

Member of National Planning Commission (NPC) Professor Dr. Surendra Labh Karna said that the transformation of cooking energy is necessary for a country like Nepal to reduce the dependency on imported fossil fuel and other dirty traditional fuels.

Addressing a Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Electric Cooking Outreach National Workshop, member of NPC Professor Dr. Karna said that the launching of Nepal e-Cookbook is highly important when Nepal is forced to shift from dirty cooking to e-cooking.

He said that the time for the reduction of the use of LPG has come now urging different stakeholders to increase the use of induction stove, infrared stove and electric pressure cooker.

Professor Dr. Karna holds the view that there is the need to strengthen existing distribution sys-

tem to make the electricity supply reliable and efficient. Thanking the organizer for hosting the workshop, Professor Dr. Karna said that National Planning Commission will accommodate the suggestions and experiences shared by the workshop in national energy policy.

Despite the commitment to promote e-cooking in the country, Nepal Government is yet to allocate adequate resources to improve the distribution system, constant power supply and subsidies to make electric cooking cheaper.

“Now is the time for taking a bold action. Let’s take the full advantage of access to electricity and technology advancement - evidences, data, and information from our research will definitely support in accelerating low carbon sustainable development by adopting #ElectricCooking solutions,” said Pooja Sharma, Practical Action Consulting (PAC) presenting on MECS Electric Cooking Outreach (ECO) in Nepalese Research Overview: Key Findings.

APC In Electric Cooking

Nepal has already ex-

pressed its commitment to global level through Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that Nepal will make electric cooking as a primary cooking method in 25 percent of the households by 2030.

To achieve this target, Nepal needs to spend a reasonable amount of resources towards this end. As a leading government agency, Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) has been working to achieve the government target by mobilizing internal and external resources.

“The government has already made it clear that electric cooking will be given high priority to reduce the use of LPG and other traditional energy sources,” said Dr. Madhusudan Adhikari, Executive Director of Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC).

Dr. Adhikari called for all stake holders and development partners to work together to make Nepal a country for e-cooking. He said that APEC is launching national level drive for the e-cooking to meet the target set by SDGs.

He said that AEPC has been providing e-cooking devices to the people in need adding the distribution of 50,000 e-cooking devices with the support from British Embassy has already started.

To meet the target of 2030, APEC with the funding from Global Climate Fund is distributing 1 million clean e-cooking devices in Nepal in five years. Adhikari said that AEPC will distribute 200,000 e-cooking devices annually.

Piloting of Electric Cooking

Various organizations have been implementing piloting projects in different districts to promote Electric Cooking by providing Electric Cooking devices to the household.

“To support elec-





Supported by Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) with UK Aids Fund through the Loughborough University, UK, the research testing electric cooker adaptation in socio-economic and cultural of Nepal has also come out with very relevant results to promote e-cooking in Nepal.

The research encompassed four 6-month pilot studies which monitored uptake and consumer experiences of eCooking with over 300 households. Based on the research findings, the workshop aims to inform policymakers, investors, and other key stakeholders

of the clear opportunities and potential challenges for scaling up e-cooking in Nepal.

At the function jointly organized by MECS, Winrock International, Practical Action Consulting, Practical Action, People, Energy & Environment Development Association (PEEDA), and Integrated Research & Action for Development (IRADe), experts presented the findings from the first large-scale, evidence-based research on electric cooking (e-cooking) in Nepal.

Moderated by Mohan Manandhar, the second part of the workshop began with formation of six parallel groups. The group discussed on key themes identified by the MECS Nepal research: after sales service, promoting e-cooking, reaching the last mile, product standards, supply side infrastructures and coordinating activities.

As Nepal government is planning to expand electric cooking throughout the country, the discussion on the evidence based research and experiment is highly relevant. At a time when Nepalese political parties are in a campaign for local level elections, dissemination of the research finding will help them to make electric cooking as an agenda for elections.

tric cooking promotion in Nepal, PEEDA, with the support from the University of Bristol and Modern Energy Cooking Service (MECS) program, Kathmandu Alternative Power and Energy Group and many other experts, has been conducting research to understand precisely how electric cooking should be rolled out to Nepali kitchen,” said Biraj Gautam, CEO of PEEDA.

To see effectiveness and adoptability of electric cooking in low income communities, Winrock International has been piloting a project in Rautahat district.

Fifty households in Katarahiya Municipality participated in the six month pilot which assessed whether electric pressure cookers (EPCs) were compatible with consumer preferences and the local electricity infrastructure.

Twenty households from disadvantaged groups (DAG) – either ethnic minorities or economically poor – were included to see how e-cooking preferences and uptake compared with the 30 non-disadvantaged households.

Sharing experiences of e-cooking in two wards of a municipality of Rautahat District, Govinda Khanal of Winrock International said

that Nepal has demonstrated clear uptake of e-cooking. Khanal highlighted efficient electric cooking market uptake in Nepal: e-cooking in low income communities of Rautahat.

Pooja Sharma, PAC and Dr. Ashma Vaidya from Ajummary Bikas Foundation presented findings on factors affecting the adaptation of electric cooking devices in a community based rural electrification entity.

Ashutosh Sharma and Saumya Vaish from IRADs presented findings on electric pressure cooker adoption of electric cooking devices in a community based rural electrification entity.

In his presentation, understanding the suitability of electric pressure cookers on grid and off-grid households, Biraj Gautam of PEEDA highlighted how important electric cooking is for health and environment. He talked in detail about various aspects of e-cooking in Nepal.

Richard Sieff from Modern Energy Cooking Service MECS highlighted global experiences of MECS in e-cooking and advantages over other energy for cooking.

Facilitated by Mohan Das Manandhar, Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) experts presented papers and findings in the workshop.

PARYA SAMPADA PROJECT

Supporting Young Entrepreneurs

Funded by European Union and implemented by UN-Habitat in collaboration with local level, NGOs and local communities, Parya Sampada Project supported youth entrepreneurs to use their skill for better earning

By KESHAB POUDEL

First the great earthquake of 2015 and then the Covid-19 pandemic, Priyanka Singh Maharajan, 28, a fine art graduate from Kathmandu University, had encountered two big natural disasters that badly hit her aspirations. However, she found a certain respite to make her dream to be an artist and entrepreneur.

Despite facing a pathetic situation caused by natural disasters like earthquake and pandemic, Maharjan learnt new skills during the pandemic which she shared recently with ambassador of European Union to Nepal Nona Deprez, mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City Chiribabu Maharjan and other high-level officials from Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal Tourism Board others when they visited Pilachhen, her locality, to attend the inaugural function.

"It was the best moment in my life when I briefed the success and achievements made by youth like me to move the courts of life. It was a matter of pride to me because I was able to convey feelings of my community to ambassador and other dignitaries," said Maharjan.

Not only Maharjan, the entrepreneurship training and Technical Assistant Support provided through Parya Sampada project rescued many other youths. Having acquired the new

business skill through training and technical assistance, Maharjan has established a fine art studio in her house and increased her income by selling paintings.

Taking systematic approach in entrepreneurship

Maharjan informed that she is impressed with the session of training. She used to give less priority on maintaining proper data of raw mate-

was completely confident in establishing a new enterprise of doll production and invited the Parya Sampada team for technical support in future.

Funded by European Union's SWITCH-Asia's Sustainable Tourism and Green Growth for Heritage Settlements of Kathmandu Valley and implemented by UN Habitat in collaboration with Lalitpur Metropolitan City, local partner Maya Foundation,

SABAH Nepal, (Parya Sampada) project has already restored the area's original aesthetic appearance by preparing a heritage settlement recovery plan, revitalizing Pilachhen pond, constructing Pilachhen Falcha. The project has also assisted local community with home design, developing a tourism development plan, and providing various skill developments training, including music and entrepreneurs course to



rials and sales of goods.

Mahajan said that the training was fruitful for her to develop confidence on scaling up of business, dealing with the customers and keeping the appropriate financial records.

Maharjan was impressed with the ideas, techniques and knowledge shared in the training. She agreed that the ladies could make use of their leisure time in doll making, soap or pickle production.

"The small income can also support family finance," she said. She

youth.

With the support, heritage sites damaged by the earthquake have already been restored and skill development and entrepreneurship training provided to SABAH Nepal helped youth like Maharjan to transform livelihood in the community.

After taking entrepreneurship training, nineteen years old Jeena Maharjan has realized a need to expand her small traditional note book making industry. Growing up in the Newar community, she has a keen

knowledge and curiosity about many aspects of culture.

After attending 5-day training, she developed the confidence to market her notebook widely as possible. Learning digital marketing, she has been now using social media to reach large numbers of possible buyers.

“I have my own page in instagram. I have been receiving quite a good number of order from customers,” said Maharjan, an undergraduate business student, who have already sold over 500 notebooks this year.

Made by Nepali paper using traditional method, she claimed that her notebook has unique quality. “I am thankful to UN-Habitat, Maya Foundation and trainer organization SABAHA-Nepal for providing all necessary support including technical assistance,” said Maharjan who felt proud to present her notebook to ambassador of European Union.

Out of 600, with 105 male and 495 female participants, 448 participants of the training were youths like Maharjan. Conducted by SABAHA Nepal, an active partner of the Parya Sampada project, the entrepreneurship training offered most essential help.

“Our skill training aimed to enhance the traditional skill of local community and empowerment training has helped local youth and women to make their enterprise organized and sustainable,” said Deepak Basnet, training coordinator of SABAHA-Nepal. “We provided training for yomari, local pickle and local soap making to women with a purpose.”

Supported by the European Union and implemented by UN-Habitat Nepal in close collaboration with local government and local community, Pilachhen and Bungamati have shown how it is possible to revive tangible and intangible heritage sites such as Ponds, Patis, falcha and Dharas, the water spouts, helping the switch to green and sustainable settlements.

“Although COVID-19 has affected the implementation of our projects and programs, we are able to



successfully complete the project with support from all partners. Along with heritage sites, the project trained local youths on handicraft making and other livelihood options,” said Amit Joshi, Project Coordinator of Pilachhen Reconstruction and Tourism Promotion Project and Maya Foundation.

Destroyed by the great earthquake of 2015, Pilachhen, an ancient Newar settlement of Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC) has now turned into a place where one can see heritage, tradition and livelihood thriving together.

“At a time when Kathmandu Valley’s traditional settlements and skills are disappearing, the support extended by European Union has revived the ancient treasure of Pilachhen,” said Joshi.

Possessing the huge number

of tangible and intangible heritage, Pilachhen has the potential to become a big player in tourism sector. The tour guide with an energetic passion

and specific package can promote the Nepalese tourism sector to the next level.

Having spent a lot of time to materialize the project organizing meeting with local community, local level and coordinating with local partners, Prabin Bajracharya, Senior Program Manager, UN-Habitat, highlighted the importance of Parya Sampada Project

He said that this is a unique project which involve restoration, youth training, women empowerment and green and sustainable tourism.

“With restoration of all heritage sites and trained youths with entrepreneurship skill, Pilachhen is ready to take off,” said Bajracharya. “The settlement has already revived its original shape.”



Empowering Women

With training provided by SABAH-Nepal, women contribute to fight against COVID-19

By A CORRESPONDENT

Nani Maya Maharjan, member of Nitya Ganesh Nasa Khala, Pilachhen of Lalitpur Municipality ward 7, had never thought that traditional Newari food like chilly pickle and Yomari could make her into an entrepreneur.

After taking entrepreneurship and skill training, the demand of traditional Newari foods produced by the group of fifty-five year old Maharjan is growing. At a time when COVID-19 Pandemic had increased the intensity of difficulty, she saw hope on traditional food for sustainable livelihood.

“We are still in early stage of production and learning from the experiences of Bungamati. Given the current demand, what I can say for sure is that traditional Newari food including Yomari can help us to support our livelihood,” said Maharjan. “Making traditional Newari food like Yomari makes women in our locality busy and generates income.”

SABAH Nepal, an imple-

menting partner of Parya Sampada project organizes Entrepreneur Development Training (EDT) focused on the locals of Pilachhen providing skill training and entrepreneurship. Around 39 females like Maharjan took 5 days long training.

“EDT mainly focused on managing the micro business, start

community are interested in establishing the business outlet and looking for technical assistance from Parya Sampada.

As women entrepreneurs are cooking the food, Nitya Ganesh Nasa Khala has a marketing group as well. Led by Sanukazi Maharjan, the marketing group through its social media like page and other sources tabled the order of the meals to the women group.’

With the support of Nitya Ganesh Nasa Khala, women are the beneficiaries of Parya Sampada Project, an initiative of SWITCH-Asia, funded by Europe-

an Union and implemented by UN-Habitat Nepal.

The project focused on a whole-of-society approach to promote sustainable eco-tourism in the heritage settlement of Kathmandu Valley. The project continued to carry forward relevant activities during COVID-19, to enhance the capacities of the home-based worker to respond to the crisis.



The project had provided Advanced Stitching Training to 36 women through SABAHA Nepal, an implementing agency of Parya Sampada that provided them an opportunity to utilize their skills to contribute to the community and sustain their livelihood.

Parya Sampada projects, in support with European Union and Switch Asia, is promoting green economy based local business among people from heritage sites of Bungamati, Chandragiri, Kirtipur, Bungamati, Pilachhen and Godavari from 2018.

Maharjan, a resident of Sacho tole of Bungamati, was dependent on her husband's income for daily household expenses. She loved cooking but never thought that her hobby could bring her beyond enjoyment to support her family income. When she heard about the "Innovative Food Training" to improve the livelihood of people in Pilachhen under the "Parya Sampada Project" she did not waste a second to get enrolled in the Yomari Molding Training. Yomari, a delicacy of the Newar community for specif-

ic events, is a very popular cuisine in Kathmandu valley. It is a steamed dumpling that consists of molded rice flour that is stuffed with molasses (Chaku). The delicacy plays a very important role in Newar society.

This dish is normally cooked on Yomari Punhi (the full moon day of November/December) to celebrate the rice harvesting. Yomari is also prepared for the birthday celebrations, particularly of the children till age 12. Although Yomari making is their tradition, the market demands

quality, consistency and competence.

For this she attended five days yomari molding training that was followed by additional seven days of on-the-job training at the Village Café Khokana. The project is also connecting Pilachhen with the Village CAFE – Pulchowk, an outlet of SABAHA-Nepal.

She prepared around 150 yomarais on a single day and earned Rs.1500. Encouraged with the income, she was determined to continue her skills that makes the customer satisfied and helps to conserve the intangible heritage of Newars.

SABAHA Nepal, an implementing partner of Parya Sampada project has coordinated the fest including the Newari food, culture, crafted works, high quality dress, Newar Music and other corresponding outlets.

As the theme of Parya Sampada in promoting cultural heritage to foster tourism all implementing partners are focused on the same. He added that this project helps to develop a market chain through upgrading the local resources with indigenous skills aiming to promote tourism.



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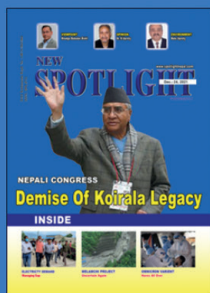
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