



OPINION
Maria Helena Semedo



ARTICEL
Hemang Dixit

DAO Kathmandu Regd. No. 148/11/063/064
ISSN: 2091-0711

NEW SPOTLIGHT

www.spotlightnepal.com
March.- 24, 2023
FORTNIGHTLY

KUL MAN GHISING

Peak Hour

INSIDE



POLITICS
PRACHANDA ON TRIAL



BEEN
PROMOTING HOLLOW BRICK



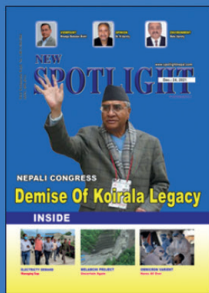
COAS GENERAL SHARMA
DEFENDING THE INSTITUTION

For News, Views, Comments & Perspectives

LOG IN

spotlightnepal.com

Latest Magazine



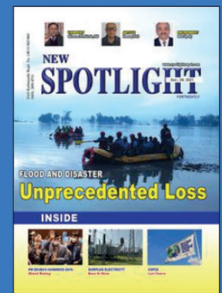
VOL. 15, No. 10, Dec. 24, 2021 (Poush 09, 2078) Publisher and Editor: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75



VOL. 15, No. 09, Dec. 10, 2021 (Mangshir 24, 2078) Publisher and Editor: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75



VOL. 15, No. 08, Nov. 19, 2021 (Mangshir 03, 2078) Publisher and Editor: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75



VOL. 15, No. 07, Oct. 29, 2021 (Kartik 12, 2078) Publisher and Editor: Keshab Prasad Poudel Online Register Number: DOI 584/074-75

NEW SPOTLIGHT
NEWS MAGAZINE

Kathmandu, Ph.: +97 1 4530250
Email: spotlightnepal@gmail.com

Editor and Publisher

Keshab Poudel

Contributor

Sabine Pretsch

Design/Layout

Sahil Mokthan, 9863022025

Marketing Manager

Madan Raj Poudel

Tel: 9841320517

Nabin Kumar Maharjan

Tel: 9841291404

Editorial Office

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-4530250

E-mail

spotlightnepal@gmail.com

P.O.Box: 7256

Website

www.spotlightnepal.com

Kathmandu DAO Regd. No.

148/11/063/64

Central Region Postal Regd.

No. 36/067/068

US Library of Congress Catalogue

No. 91-905060, ISSN : 2091-0711

(Print), ISSN: 2091-0754 (Online)

Printing

Megha Offset Printing Press P. Ltd.,

Dhapasi, Kathmandu

Tel. : 977-1-4363624

Notes From The Editor



The year-long election cycle in Nepal comes to a close with the election of Ram Chandra Poudel as president and Ramsahaya Yadav as vice president. The House of Representatives has already given Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda its vote of confidence after he shattered his alliance with the CPN-UML over a disagreement regarding the President. With the backing of 11 political parties in the HoR, Prime Minister Prachanda is currently putting the finishing touches on an expansion of the executive branch to give the nation political stability and direction.

But achieving his goal of bringing about political stability in the nation is not simple. Prime Minister Prachanda and the political parties have demonstrated that nothing is insurmountable by changing the two political alliances in just three months. The government led by Prachanda is facing a very challenging journey at a time when Nepal's economy is struggling and is headed for a serious crisis. Nonetheless, we have chosen to use the nationwide trip by NEA's MD Kul Man Ghising to finish up significant projects as our cover story for this week. MD Ghising accomplished numerous projects during his first term, notably the 456 MW Tamakoshi, and put a stop to a decade-long load shedding. By the end of his second term, he wants all inhabitants to have access to energy. He has demonstrated the commitment, tenacity, and managerial talent needed to realize the national ambition of providing power to everyone.

Keshab Poudel

Editor

CONTENT

COAS GENERAL SHARMA

Defending The Institution 3

NEWSNOTES 4

BUSINESS BRIEF 10

POLITICS
Prachanda On Trial 12

OPINION
Maria Helena Semedo 14

NEPA-INDIA POWER TRADE
Bihar Grid 20

ARTICEL
Hemang Dixit 25

UN WATER CONFERENCE
Nepal for Water Security 26

BEEN
Promoting Hollow Brick 30



COVERSTORY: KUL MAN GHISING: Peak Hour

15



BHERI-BABAI DIVERSION: Gains Momentum

22



MUSIC CONCERT : Event With A Cause

24

COAS GENERAL SHARMA

Defending The Institution

The size of the Nepal Army is decided by the government, says Chief of Army Staff General Prabhu Ram Sharma.

By A CORRESPONDENT

At this critical juncture in the nation's political transition from a unitary to a federal state, with all three institutions functioning at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels recently, the Nepal Army is the only legitimate and established institution to handle any crisis in the event of an uprising.

Following the designation of province 1 as Koshi Province, the political climate is hostile.

Supported by identity based organization, the region is unstable from last one month.

This illustrated the necessity of a dependable and potent organization like the Nepal Army.

A number of academics have begun to bring up the issue of the size of the army, supported by a populist media.

They media are raising the question of current size of Nepal Army.

While the pro- and anti-Maoist forces are sharply divided over the transitional justice system measure, they agree to increase the strength of the army.

Chief of Army Staff Prabhuram Sharma has arrived to defend the organization he oversaw after some time spent listening silently.

Addressing a program of retired army individuals, he has made it plain that it was the government's role to establish the appropriate size of the Nepal Army.

Having involved in UN Peacekeeping, development operations including in constructing the highway and road, Nepal Army is in the forefront of disaster preparedness program.

In this backdrop the current size of Nepal Army of about 90,000 is perfectly justifiable.

Inaugurating the Nepal Army Ex-Servicemen Conference 2079 in Pokhara, he voiced worry about spreading unneeded misinformation about the Nepal Army and stressed that it was the responsibility of the Nepali governments to determine the size of the army to perform its obligations and responsibilities.

"It is not the job of self-proclaimed academics, experts, and security experts working for I/NGOs." It is the responsibility of the Nepal government", he stated.

He asked the people to steer away from such propaganda and bogus news.

The Army Chief

claimed that the NA has been effectively carrying out the constitution-mandated responsibilities.

Sharma added that NA is adamant that it should work to protect the nation's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, existence, and national unity in addition to advancing development initiatives, maintaining international peace, and performing other emergency tasks when they become necessary.

COAS Sharma asked the ex-Army to continue serving the public by using the knowledge they acquired during their lengthy military careers in the area where they are currently living.

Senior ex-Army Goman Singh Karki and senior single woman Mabiklata Thapa Chhetri, both 89, received recognition at the event.

The size of the army should not be decided by outside parties, as COAS General Sharma has correctly noted.



NEWSNOTES

Japan's National Day Celebrated

KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, hosted a Reception at his official Residence in Tahachal today to celebrate the 63rd Auspicious Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito.

About 400 guests, including Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President, as the Chief Guest, Urmila Aryal, Vice Chairperson of National Assembly, former prime ministers, and former ministers, Ambassadors and Heads of International Organizations in Nepal, members of the Federal Parliament, government officials and many friends of Japan attended the reception.

Ambassador Kikuta welcomed all the guests mentioning his pleasure at finally being able to host the reception after three years. It is the fifth year of the "Reiwa (beautiful harmony)" Era in Japan, which started in 2019.

In October 2019, former President Bhandari attended the Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne of the Emperor. The Ambassador also mentioned that high-level exchanges, stalled by COVID-19, had resumed with the visit to Nepal by TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,



last November. At the reception, the Foreign Minister's Commendation for Fiscal Year 2022 was presented to Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN).

The year 2022 marked the 120th anniversary since the first eight Nepali students were dispatched to Japan, and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of JUAAN. The Commendation was awarded in recognition of JUAAN's contribution to the long history of educational exchanges between Japan and Nepal. Dr. Prabin Shrestha, the President of JUAAN delivered a thank-you speech.

Nepal and Bangladesh Cultural Ties Highlighted

Nepal-Bangladesh Art and Culture Festival 2023, held from 14-18 March at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka, concluded.

Speaking during the Closing Ceremony of the Festival, Ambassador Ghanshyam Bhandari highlighted the cultural and linguistic linkages between Nepal and Bangladesh and stressed the importance of art and culture in further consolidating people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

Chief Guest of the event, Shamsul Haque Tuku, MP, commended the efforts made by the organizers and artists from Nepal and Bangladesh and underscored the need for further ar-

tistic and cultural exchanges to promote friendship and mutual understanding.

Md. Abul Monsur, Secretary of the Ministry of

Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh, emphasized the long-standing friendly relations between Nepal and Bangladesh and called for an enhanced level of collaboration in the field of art and culture.

Eminent artist of Bangladesh Dr. Farida Zaman and President of Bangladesh-Nepal Friendship Society Mr. Moshir Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

The Festival was jointly organized by the Embassy of Nepal and Bangladesh-Nepal Friendship Society with the support of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Bangladesh.

The Festival featured a five-day-long painting and photography exhibition wherein 52 artworks of 33 Nepali artists and over 80 artworks of 50 Bangladeshi artists were on display at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Nepal Army To Conduct Clean Mountain Campaign 2023

The Nepal Army is going to conduct the 'Clean Mountain Campaign 2023' in four mountains including Mount Sagarmatha, the world's highest peak.

Under the campaign, the NA has targeted to collect of at least 35,000 kilograms of decomposable and non-decomposable waste from Mount Everest, Lhotse, Barunche, and Annapurna. The target is to collect 10,000 kgs of garbage from Everest, 5,000 from Lhotse, 10,000 from Barunche, and 10,000 kg from Annapurna, according to NA spokesperson Krishna Prasad Bhandari.

The NA has accorded priority to the implementation of the government's national initiative to maintain the cleanliness of the world's highest mountains.

Since 2019, the NA has been conducting the Clean Mountain campaign to help clean the mountains while spreading awareness about the adverse effects of climate change and human-induced waste in the Himalayas.

The campaign is conducted in coordination and collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the sector. The campaign is expected to make a significant contribution to attracting tourists and mountaineers while also preserving the mountains for future generations.



It is estimated that there are about 14,000 tons of garbage and more than 300 dead bodies on Mt. Everest alone.

For the campaign this year, 13 NA personnel will be mobilized for Everest and Lhotse, 9 for Barunche, and 10 soldiers in Annapurna along with a Sherpa guide and helpers. The campaign will be conducted from this March 28 to June 6.

Earlier in 2019, 10,800 kilograms of decomposable and non-decomposable waste and four human dead bodies were collected from Everest and 27,671 kilos of garbage were collected from Everest, Lhotse, Pumari, Makalu, Dhaulagiri, and Amdablam mountains in the campaign carried out in 2021.

According to the army, in 2022, two decomposed human bodies along with 157 kg of degradable and 33,877 kgs of non-degradable waste were collected from Mount Everest, Lhotse, Manaslu, and Kanchenjunga.

The campaign will be joined by the Department of Tourism and Environment, Khumbu Pasang Lhamu and



Annapurna Rural Municipalities, Everest National Park Administration Office, Himalaya Rescue Association, Expedition Operators Association, Nepal Tourism Board, Nepal Mountaineering Association, Trekking Agents Association of Nepal.

Everest Pollution Control Committee, Kanchenjunga and Manaslu Conservation Project, various provincial and local levels, international and national non-governmental organizations, and the private sector will also support the campaign.

The recyclable waste collected under the campaign is brought to Kathmandu for recycling while the decomposable waste is being managed in the respective areas in collaboration with local-level governments.

Spokesperson Bhandari said that the Clean Mountain campaign has become a new feature in the field of nature and environment conservation and preservation in the country

Embassy Of India Kathmandu Celebrated 21st Golden Jubilee Scholarship Day

The Embassy of India Kathmandu celebrated 21st Golden Jubilee Scholarship Day at the Embassy premises. Nepali scholarship recipients from current and last 4 years, senior officials of Nepal government, Vice Chancellors of major universities, and principals of eminent schools graced the event.

The event was attended by more than 250 guests, including the awardees of the Golden Jubilee Scholarship of the current as well as previous years. Ambassador of India Shri Naveen Srivastava addressed the gathering.

Pramila Devi Bajracharya, Secretary (Science & Technology), Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal, Prof. Dr. Dev Raj Adhikari, Chairman, University Grants Commission,

and Vice Chancellors of prominent Nepali universities graced the occasion. Those present included Prof. Dr. Nanda Bahadur Singh,

Vice Chancellor, Mid-western University, Prof. Dr. Shilu Manandhar Bajracharya, Vice Chancellor, Nepal Open University, Prof. Dr. Tilak Ram Acharya, Vice Chancellor, Lumbini Buddhist University, and Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture and Forestry University. Several senior officials from the Government of Nepal, Deans of various colleges and Principals of eminent schools in Nepal also attended the programme.

In his remarks, Ambassador Naveen Srivastava congratulated the 21st batch of the Golden Jubilee Scholarship awardees and announced that a special Embassy of India's roll of honour will be awarded to meritorious graduating Golden Jubilee scholars, in different categories from next year.

The prestigious Golden Jubilee Scholarship was established in the year 2002 to mark the completion of 50 years of India-Nepal economic cooperation. At the inception of this scheme, 50 Nepali students were awarded the scholarship. In the year 2007, the numbers of scholarships were increased to 100. Since the year 2012, the numbers of scholarships have been doubled to 200. Under this scholarship scheme, an MBBS/BDS student receives NRs. 4000/- per month for five years, a BE student receives NRs. 4000/- per month for four years, and a student studying in other undergraduate courses like BA, BEd, B.Pharmacy, BSc Agriculture, BBA, BBM and BBS receives NRs. 3000/- per month for three years.

This prestigious scheme has so far benefitted 3000 Nepalis, from all the 77 districts of Nepal. Around 45% of the Golden Jubilee scholars are girls.

The current batch of 200 awardees are from 73 districts of Nepal, with 44% of the scholars being girls. 8 differentially abled students have also been selected this year under the Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme.

The Government of India provides a total of about 1600 scholarships in medicine, engineering, dental science, arts, commerce, science, nursing, Ayurveda, dance, theatre, performing arts and many other disciplines both in the undergraduate and graduate streams to study in universities in Nepal and in India. 27,000 Nepali students have benefitted since 2006 from the scholarships.



NEWSNOTES

Dr. Suresh Chandra Chalise Named As President's Advisor On International Relations

Dr. Suresh Chandra Chalise has been named the foreign relations advisor to President Ram Chandra Paudel. He previously held a number of high-level and significant positions



during a period of political unrest, including that of the late Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's and the Nepali ambassador to the US and UK.

He also served as international relations advisor to former prime minister late Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

Dr. Chalise will reportedly also investigate the president's secretariat, according to the president's office. Dr. Chalise will review the president's secretariat in addition to advising the president on different issues pertaining to foreign policy and Nepal's international relations.

Dr. Chalise has extensive experience in international relations and is a Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral; AvH, UGC, and LS Fellow. He participated in Nepali Congress politics and was the 2013 Grassroots Diplomat Award winner from London.

Chirinjibi Adhikari has also been chosen to serve as Paudel's personal secretary.

Nepal Is Firm To Successfully Implement BRI Projects: DPM Shrestha

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Narayan Kaji Shrestha said that the government of Nepal is firm in successful implementation of BRI projects.

Addressing an inaugural session of the conference on China's Belt and Road Initiative at Ten: Nepal's Experiences, minister Shrestha said that BRI projects will enhance Nepal's access to global markets and improve Nepal's connectivity and infrastructures.

"The cross-border railway will boost Nepal's economic development by expanding Nepal's reach to global market as our products will reach central Asian nations through China," he viewed.

Referring to age-old, friendly and cooperative relations between the two neighbours, DPM Shrestha reiterated Nepal's firm commitment to One China Policy and vowed that he would help and facilitate implementation of the BRI projects in his capacity as the physical infrastructure and transport minister.

Chinese ambassador to Nepal, Chen Song, said that China's resolve for international cooperation through BRI has remained unchanged in the last ten years although many changes

may have taken place in the world issues.

"BRI is not a geopolitical tool," said the ambassador, "Debt trap is a narrative trap." He highlighted laying down of China-Nepal cross border optic fiber and process for installing Ratmate-Rasuwadhi-Kerung transmission line for cross border electricity trade.

Pradip Gyawali, former foreign minister and deputy general secretary of CPN (UML), observed that BRI seeks to make globalization inclusive against the background that globalization has helped developed countries accumulate global wealth at the cost of developing countries.

Saying that there has not been progress in BRI as expected, leader Gyawali viewed that Nepal should take initiative to take benefit from it.

He said BRI would help Nepal overcome development obstacles created by insufficient connectivity.

Lila Mani Paudel, former ambassador of Nepal to China and also the chief secretary of the government of Nepal,

observed that Nepal has missed the opportunity to take benefits from both the BRI and the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) although Nepal is a founding member of the AIIB.

Dr. Kalyan Raj Sharma, general secretary of the Friends of Silk Road Club-Nepal, viewed that BRI has become much mature and taken new heights in the last ten years.

There are ample issues and sectors in which Nepal can take advantage of also by being a neighbor, said the general secretary of the organisation that organised the conference.

During one day program, experts and stakeholders have emphasized the need to expedite projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Nepal.

Regional Conference Will Be Organized

A regional conference on Rivers as Lifeline for South Asia is going to be organized at the Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kathmandu, Samriddhi Foundation and the German Nepal-Friendship Association.

The main objective of the conference is to foster regional dialogue and to build networks of stakeholders in order to strengthen regional cross-border cooperation. During the conference, experts will deliberate on the challenges and opportunities offered by shared rivers and ways to promote river diplomacy and multilateral cooperation in order to prevent potential conflicts over water resources and contribute to peaceful co-existence.





The conference will engage in conversation with multiple stakeholders such as Hydrology experts, politicians, journalists, activists, academicians, organizations and civil society.

14 speakers from 8 Asian Countries as well as from Europe and the Tibetan community will be attending the event. The conference will also welcome 3 south Asian experts to give remarks on the potential and challenges of regional cooperation on river resources. They will also be discussing the issue of climate change and the importance of regional cooperation to mitigate its impact in south Asia.

There will be 3 interactive sessions to discuss various topics such as Transboundary Water Cooperation and Hydro-Politics, River and Economy: Agriculture, Energy and Trade and the Future of Rivers and the Impact of Climate Change.

Keynote speakers from across the Nepali and European political spectrum will address various issues related to Rivers. Distinguished keynote speakers include:

Dr Stephan Russek- DCM & Head of Development Cooperation and Economics, Dr. Carsten Klein Head, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) Regional Office South Asia, Ram Thapa, Chairperson of the German Nepal Society and Gagan Thapa, Member of Parliament, Nepal.

Nepali Delegation Address CSW Session

Suman Raj Aryal, Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, addressed the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in the United Nations in New York.

Addressing the session, Aryal stated that the new technologies have brought unprecedented transformation in the areas of political, social, economic and cultural aspects, but in asymmetrical ways, where only half of the women are online than their male counterparts. Though the pandemic has compelled us to use digital technologies on many fronts including medical treatment to education, it has favored rich and urban dwellers rather than the poor in rural areas, he said. He underlined the necessity to make digital technology a global public good giving particular attention to those who are the furthest behind.

Secretary Aryal further highlighted the Digital Nepal Framework which was unveiled with the aim of raising digital literacy and supporting the advancement of ICT with a focus on digital foundation, agriculture, health, education, energy, tourism, finance and urban infrastructure. The current National Plan emphasizes harnessing STEM with the use of digital materials in the teaching and learning process, he shared.

As a country graduating from the LDC status by 2026, Nepal needs adequate support in terms of resources and technology transfer to implement DPOA and 2030 Agenda for sustained,

smooth and irreversible graduation; and to bridge the digital gender divide and achieve gender equality, Secretary Mr. Aryal further added.

The 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women is being held from 6 to 17 March 2023 under the theme “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” Nepali delegation to the Session also includes Hon. Chairperson MKamala Kumari Parajuli and Hon. Member Ms. Krishna Kumari Poudel Khatiwada from the National Women Commission, Hon. Member Ms. Shanti Modi from Tharu Commission, senior government officials and members of the NGOs and Civil Society Organizations.

A Ministerial Roundtable on “Good practices in addressing barriers to bridge the gender digital divide and promote

education in the digital age for achieving gender equality” was also held on 7 March.



Aabha Shrestha, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen participated in the Roundtable. In her intervention, she shed light on Nepal’s legal provisions and institutional arrangements and shared initiatives taken to bridge the gender digital gap and ensure education for every woman and girl, both offline and online.

Ambassador Acharya Presented Letters Of Credence To President Of Malta

Ambassador of Nepal to the Republic of Malta Gyan Chandra Acharya presented his Letters of Credence to Dr. George Vella,

President of the Republic of Malta, amidst a special ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Valetta.



Following the credential ceremony, Ambassador Acharya

NEWSNOTES

rya had an audience with the President of Malta. While receiving the Letters of Credence, the President congratulated Ambassador Acharya on his appointment as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the Republic of Malta and wished him for a successful tenure and expressed his hope that the existing ties of friendship between the two countries would continue to be further strengthened during his tenure.

The Ambassador briefed about the latest political, social and economic development of Nepal and development priorities of the current government. They agreed to expand the current state of bilateral relationship through the collaboration in the fields of tourism, education and employment opportunities and the Nepalese community in Malta. Also discussed on the occasion were regional and international issues of importance to both the countries.

Present on the occasion were senior officials of the government of Malta and Office of the President. Gyan Chandra Acharya was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Sunita Acharya and Third Secretary Pujan Pandey.

Rato Bangala School's Prasun Subedi Finished First In The World In The Cambridge International AS Level Examination

Prasun Subedi of Rato Bangala School finished first in the world in the June 2022 examination series in Language & Literature in English in Cambridge International AS Level.

Cambridge International has conferred an impressive 66 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards to Nepalese students. The global awards celebrate the highest-performing students from over 40 countries with qualifications recognized worldwide by leading universities and employers. Every year nearly a million students worldwide study courses organized by Cambridge International, which has been providing international exams for more than 160 years.

In total, 47 students in Nepal have received the prestigious Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards for their exceptional performance in Cambridge exams in 2021-22. The awards recognize success in four categories – 'Top in the World,' 'Top in the Country,' 'High Achievement Award,' and 'Best Across.'

One student across Nepal has won the 'Top in the World' awards, meaning he achieved the highest marks in the world in Language & Literature in English.

Arun Rajamani, Managing Director, South Asia, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, said, "The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards recognizes and celebrates exceptional academic achievements by high-performing scholars in Cambridge examinations around the world. Year-after-year innumerable learners from Nepal have been conferred these awards basis their outstanding performance across STEM and non-STEM subjects. With 47 students winning accolades in 2022, this year, too, has been no exception. The results reflect the enormous talent in Nepal, not only among young learners but also within the teaching profession.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate these winners, their proud teachers, and their parents for their endless support that helped guide these young achievers in their remarkable journey to success."

Maxim Raimann, Exams Director, General Manager,

Nepal, British Council, said "It is my absolute pleasure to have this opportunity to write a few words about the young people whose achievements were celebrated today. Individually, they have every right to be extremely proud of themselves, as do the parents, guardians, teachers and school leaders who have all contributed to the environment that has allowed them to flourish. I am also proud of the British Council's part in providing the opportunity for these students to pursue their passions and take another step towards realising their potential. From Accounting to Art and Design, Biology to Business Studies, Chemistry to Computer Science, English to Environment Management, Mathematics to Media Studies, Physics to Psychology, the sheer breadth of subjects in which these students have excelled makes me so very optimistic for the future of Nepal. And, as well as in-depth subject knowledge, Cambridge qualifications have given them an excellent foundation in adaptable skills such as communication and critical thinking, which are valued tools in the worlds of higher education and employment.

Today we recognise the successes of these young people but we must also urge them to see this as just one step in a continuous path of lifelong learning. I wish them well on this journey and hope that they will be able to celebrate many more such milestones in the years to come."

Top in Nepal

'Top in Nepal' is awarded to learners who have achieved the highest standard mark in their country for a single subject in Cambridge International AS Level.

Ejen Prajapati Global College International Cambridge International A Level in Chemistry, Bimarsha Adhikari Xavier International College Computer Science, Jatin Shrestha Private, Mathematics, Jatin Shrestha Private, Physics.

Similarly, Smarika Pokharel Saipal Academy, Sociology, Bishwot Kharel Malpi Institute, Accounting, Chirag Timilsina Global College International, Biology, Aakriti Adhikari GEMS Institute of Higher Education, Business, Abishek Bhatta Trinity International College Chemistry, Ashish Adhikari Trinity International College, Computer, Economics Animesh Shrestha Little Angels' GCE A Level Cambridge International AS Level

Pratistha Chand, Rato Bangala School, English General Paper, Nimisha Gautam Rato Bangala School, English Language, Abishek Bhatta, Trinity International College, Mathematics and Nayam Barun, Global College International Mathematics, Nayam Barun Global College International, Physics, Psychology Aabriti Rai Nami College Ltd Cambridge International AS Level and Sai Thapa Chelsea International Academy, Sociology. Top in Nepal continued

June 2022 examination series in International A Level



Bishwot Kharel, Malpi Institute, Accounting, Regina Thapa, Kathmandu International Study Centre, Business, Sarahna Khadka, Chelsea International Academy, Business, Samip Gyawali, GEMS Institute of Higher Education, Computer Science and Prithvi Karki, Rato Bangala School, in Economics.

Likewise, Pratyush Bhattacharai, Budhanilkantha School, in Further Mathematics, Abishek Bhatta, Trinity International College, Mathematics, Nayam Barun Global College International, Mathematics, Ashish Adhikari Trinity, International College, Physics, Alyssa Pokharel, Kathmandu International Study Center, Psychology, Prashuna Tamang, Rato Bangala School, Sociology.

In AS Level, Dikshanta Limbu, Kaasthamandap A Level Academy, Accounting, Yugottam Koirala, St. Xavier's College Cambridge International, Biology, Aman Qamar Khan, St. Xavier's College, Business.

Likewise, Anuska Subedi St. Xavier's College and Prashanna Sthapit St. Xavier's College top in Business.

Experts Renewed Commitments To Gender Equality And Women's Empowerment

Addressing Hate Speech and Gender Based Digital Violence a Key Contemporary Challenge: said Experts

A Member of Parliament, Human Rights Defender, Gender and Media expert and a representative of Nepali law enforcement jointly called for a renewed commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in digital spaces in Nepal.

In Nepal, between June 2022 and March this year, a total of 4,344 cases of online gender-based violence have been registered at the Nepal Police Cyber Bureau.

Lily Thapa, Member of National Human Rights Commission, Honorable Sobita Gautam, Youth Parliamentarian, SP Pashupati Kumar Ray of Nepal Cyber Bureau of Nepal Police and Gender and Media expert Ms. Babita Basnet highlighted that hate speech and digital violence are key contemporary challenges and we need a collective effort to address them.

As a part of a month-long celebration of International Women's Day, the United Nations in Nepal through a partnership between UNESCO, the UN Information Centre and UN Volunteers organized Promoting Information Integrity and Combatting Hate Speech- a discussion on online gendered disinformation in line with this year's International Women's Day theme DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.

Speaking at the interaction, Sobita Gautam, Youth Parliamentarian said "women and girls should have meaningful participation on the digital world. The threats of ICT related gender-based violence restrict girls and women from fully participating in the digital sphere. I as a Parliamentarian commit to take your voices as experts to the parliament and we are together on this journey. Collectively, we can enact a legislation in regard to digital technology and Innovations" she added.

As disinformation and hate speech has become mainstream in all different spheres of human lives and is threatening democratic values, social stability and peace, experts also discussed ways to advance human rights, information integrity and freedom of expression.

"We live in a world and time in which powerful technology fuels online gendered disinformation, having diverse and serious impacts on women's lives. It affects their psycho-social and physical wellbeing. In extreme cases it escalates to physical violence. So we gather today to

better understand how, here in Nepal, digital education and digital technologies can be leveraged for good, as a means for transforming gender discriminatory norms and to fight violence, whether online or offline." said UNRC a.i. and WFP Representative to Nepal Mr. Robert Kasca



Japan Day And Film Festival in Kathmandu

With the aim of promoting Japan and her culture to the friendly people of Nepal, the Embassy of Japan is organizing the Japan Day and Japanese Film Festival in Kathmandu on March 25 and 26, 2023, in cooperation with the Japanese Language Teachers' Association Nepal (JALTAN).

Japan Day (10:30-16:00 on 25 March) will feature the demonstration of Yukata/Hippi coat wearing, Calligraphy writing, Origami making and many more exciting Japanese cultural events at the National Theatre Jamal.

Entry to the both events is free on a first-come-first-served basis. Two Japanese films on March 25 (Sat.) and three on March 26 (Sun.) will be screened on the occasion.

All the films will be screened with English subtitles and the film-screening schedule is as follow:- 25 th March (Saturday) 11:30 a.m. Where I Belong (108 min) 2:00 p.m. Mourning Recipe (129 min) 26 th March (Sunday) 11:00 a.m. Key of Life (128 min) 1:20 p.m. Sinbad (Animation-144 min) 3:20 p.m. Aristocrats (124 min) It is hoped that both the cultural events will be an interesting experience for the Nepali people to encounter the Japanese culture and lifestyle.

The Embassy further hopes that such events would lead the expansion of the long-term friendship between Japan and Nepal

Japanese Film Festival 2023

English Subtitle

Pokhara: 24-25 February 2023
Pokhara Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Gaira Patan

Kathmandu: 25-26 March 2023
Rastriya Nachghar, Jamal

Japan Day
25 March 2023, Rastriya Nachghar, Jamal
(10:30 am - 4:00 pm)
Cultural Events
Kimono/Yukata/Hippi coat*, Calligraphy,
Origami and much more
*For Kimono/Yukata/Hippi coat dressing,
reservation email: info.japan2023@gmail.com

Organized by:
JAPAN FOUNDATION, Japan Embassy of Japan

Supported by:
JALTAN, LAN

FREE ENTRY
on first-come-first-served basis

BUSINESS BRIEF

UK Provides 90 Million Pounds For Infrastructure Development To Nepal

The Ministry of Finance and British Embassy Kathmandu have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for UK-Nepal collaboration through the Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP) here on Thursday.

Finance Secretary Toyam Raya and British Ambassador to Nepal Nicola Pollitt signed the agreement from their respective sides at a function held in the Ministry. The LISP programme is co-designed between the Government of Nepal and British Embassy Kathmandu. Up to 1.7 million Nepali citizens will directly receive more sustainable and inclusive infrastructure services as a result. The UK will provide up to 90 million pounds (Rs. 14.4 billion) support for this work, according to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry.

Importantly, the programme will support Government of Nepal to improve the delivery and sustainability of wider investments in local infrastructure, worth over 2 billion pounds (Rs 320 billion) over the next six years.

Speaking on the occasion, British Ambassador Pollitt said that the UK and Nepal have a long and proud history of collaboration in building, maintaining and reconstructing infrastructure. This has delivered significant results for the people of Nepal over the last six decades, for which we and



the Government of Nepal are immensely proud.

“LISP is an important programme for both the Government of Nepal and the British Embassy Kathmandu, and another great example of our historic partnership”, she said.

Likewise, Finance Secretary Raya acknowledged the contribution and continuous support of the British Government for the social and economic development of Nepal since long. He also highlighted that this programme would support for the local level infrastructure and capacity building of local governments which will enhance the quality of public life in local levels.

In addition, the Government of Nepal will also provide up to 40 million pounds (Rs 6.4 billion) co-financing to encourage local governments for sustainable and resilient infrastructure service delivery, according to the Ministry.

Nepal Airlines, Qatar Airways, Buddha Air, Himalaya Airlines, Secured Airlines Awards

Buddha Air and Qatar Airways have bagged the Best Airlines of the Year award for 2022 on domestic and international category respectively. Buddha Air’s Birendra Bahadur Basnet also became the CEO of the year.

The awards were organised by the Best Aviation Awards Nepal (BAAN) earlier this week. It aimed at bringing Nepali tourism to the attention of media around the world and announced the awards in 16 different categories.

Likewise, Himalayan Airlines got the best airlines award on hybrid category and Emirates Airways on offline category. Nepal Airlines was honoured with the best national airlines and best service provider for aviation – it manages the ground handling at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

Other best are Qatar Airways for business class, airlines rewards programme, and air fare policy, Fly Dubai for economy class, Air Arabia for cabin crew, Turkish Airlines for transit airport lounge, and Jazeera Airways for front desk support.

Similarly, Sarik Bogati of Qatar Airways received the best airlines manager of the year award while Society International got best general sales agent for foreign airlines.

According to the organisers, the winners were selected on the basis of results obtained from the combination of online voting by the public, data processing by the nomination board and the decision of the jury. Various business leaders, experts, bankers, tourism entrepreneurs and industrialists were included in the jury.

Nine internal airlines and 29 international airlines conducting flight services to and from Nepal were included in the competition.

Private Sector Should Be Strong And Powerful: FNCCI Senior VP Chandra Dhakal

Senior Vice President of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Chandra Prasad Dhakal has said that there is a need for a comprehensive change in the way society and the state view the private sector.

“We have to work to make the private sector respectable and to restore the damaged reputation of the private sector. For this, we need to unanimously select the leadership of district, municipal, province and centre as much as possible. The private sector should be strong and powerful,” he made this remark while addressing the 6th Provincial Assembly of Bagmati Province of the FNCCI.

He urged everyone not to raise the issue irresponsibly just for cheap popularity and applause in the crowd.

“I also want to tell my friends in the private sector to be realistic and practical. Don’t go out of it and compete to be popular in the crowd. This may one day lead to a crisis that we have not imagined of,” he said.

Stating that the economic



condition of the country has deteriorated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said that there has been a decrease in the flow of remittances as the workers who have returned to Nepal cannot go abroad immediately in the aftermath of the COVID-19.

“During the coronavirus pandemic, around Rs. 4.5 billion of loans had gone from banks in a period of six months. At that time, when the liquidity in the banks increased, the banks encouraged industrialists to take loans. Industrialists have also invested in real estate by taking loans,” he said.

He said that there has been improvement in some indicators of the economy and expressed confidence that the economy would not deteriorate from the current situation.

“The number of people going for foreign jobs has also increased. The number of tourists from abroad has also started to increase. Remittance inflow has also increased. There has also been an improvement in the liquidity of banks and financial institutions. And, I don’t think the economy will deteriorate more than this in the coming days. I believe there will be some improvement,” he said.

Stating that he fully supported the demand that women should be represented in the new leadership of the FNCCI, he also expressed his commitment to make genuine efforts to increase the representation of women in the federation during his tenure.

Dhakal said that some of the provisions in the constitution of the federation were not compatible and he would proceed by amending it.

Nabil Bank And WVI Nepal comes In A Partnership For Social Cause

World Vision International Nepal has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nabil Bank. The MoU



will be contributing to promote collaborative planning and implementing Financial Inclusion initiatives programs in Nepal to improve access to financial services among the vulnerable population particularly women, people with disability and excluded communities, in which both parties are involved at the national and local levels.

This MoU shall provide both WVI Nepal and the Nabil Bank to identify, develop and implement financial inclusion projects to contribute to National Development goals of Nepal and achieving sustainable development goals.

The partnership shall further promote collaborative planning and implementing projects and initiatives to promote financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and economic development in Nepal where both Parties are currently operational and/or have the interest to expand the operation.

The Bamboo Series Discusses BCM As A Recourse To Make Businesses Resilient

The third event of The Bamboo Series organized by the

NET consortium (National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre - NDRC Nepal, Enterprise for Management, Economic Reform and Gender Equality - EMERGE, and Tangent Waves) was held to discuss on the topic ‘Resilience of Women Businesses on March 7.’



The event provided great insights into the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs during disasters like COVID-19. It highlighted the urgency for entrepreneurs to be aware of Business Continuity Management (BCM), harness the skills to develop a Business Continuity Plan (BCP), and implement it to make their business disaster resilient.

Participants included Ms. Olivia Setkic from Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB, Sweden, Dinesh Chandra Joshi from NDR Net and Prakash Ghimire from Media, Netizennepal.com as well as women entrepreneurs from different business sectors.

The session was intriguing, with participants sharing their thoughts on BCM and BCP. Dinesh Chandra reiterated entrepreneurs’ challenges and expressed that the private sector needs to develop BCP to remove the hurdles laid bare by disasters like COVID-19. He also stressed the need to simplify the process of business impact assessment making it easy to understand, develop and implement the plan.

Prakash Ghimire added that it would be interesting to know how important it is for the public sector to adopt BCM and develop and implement BCP. Nisha Shrestha, social filmmaker, focused on visual advocacy, stressed that it is easy to make plans but challenging to implement; however, the session clarified the need and importance of developing a BCP.

Nepal Defeats UAE To Secure Position In WC Qualifiers

Nepal defeated the UAE by 9 runs according to Duckworth-Lewis rule to qualify for the 2023 One-day Men’s World Cup qualifiers.

Chasing a huge target of 311 runs, Nepal scored 269 runs for six wickets in 44 overs, when the umpires stopped the game due to insufficient light following rainfall.

Earlier, UAE scored 310 runs at the loss of 6 wickets in stipulated 50 overs. Asif Khan scored 101 runs in 42 runs, while Vriitya Aarvind and captain Mohammad Wasim contributed 94 and 67 runs respectively.

For Nepal, Bhim Karki scored 67 runs, Aarif Sheikh scored 52 runs while Kushal Bhurtel and Gulsan Jha contributed 50 runs each.



POLITICS

Prachanda On Trial

Despite securing the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's insecurity still hangs in his mind

By A CORRESPONDENT

Despite the support of 172 individuals from 10 different political parties, including the prime minister, one cannot be certain that the government will serve the full term as intended.

According to a confidential deal, Prachanda will serve as prime minister for the first two years, Madhav Kumar Nepal for one year, and Deuba for the remaining two years. Unfortunately, the announcement of government plans and projects was delayed along with the increase of the cabinet.

The main leaders of the ruling coalition are claimed to have reached an understanding with the party leaders regarding their involvement in the government after many rounds of meetings. The sharing portfolio has been tentatively agreed upon by the 10 party coalitions.

Prime Minister Prachanda declared in a speech to the House of Representatives that the administration had carried out its duties

efficiently in a short amount of time government, the CPN (UML) and



and would speed up the process following expansion.

The country's economy is being actively and obediently revived, good governance is being maintained, and development projects are moving forward, according to PM Prachanda.

Stating that he could not feel that he had to seek a vote of confidence again just barely two months into the formation of the government, he maintained that he had to resort to the move after the then alliance partners in the

the Astray Prajatantra Party quit the government.

After successfully electing Nepali Congress leader Ram Chandra Paudel as president and Loktantrik Samajbadi Party leader Ram Shaya Yadav as a vice president defeating UML candidates, the alliance gave the message that they stand for a cause.

Given the unstable nature of Prachanda and other smaller political parties, everything is possible. Seeking two votes of confidence from the House of Representatives in two months, PM Prachanda has shown he would have to take a few more confidence motions. "We have no disagreements over the portfolio division, and the name will be revealed in a few days."



POLITICS



89 members of the HoR voted against the motion, while one member abstained. PM Prachanda received the support of the majority of HoR members, Speaker Devraj Ghimire declared after the confidence motion vote.

On December 25, 2022, Nepal's Prime Minister Prachanda, the chairman of the CPN (Maoist Center), was chosen. On January 10, when 270 members were present, PM Prachanda won the vote of confidence for the first time with 268 votes in favor and almost 98% of the vote in the House of Representatives. The HoR consists of 275 individuals.

Political stability has a long way to go, regardless of what the political leaders may say. Nothing is ruled out given the makeup of the House of Representatives political leadership and power dynamics.

According to the constitutional lawyer, PM Prachanda has to prove a majority even if one party withdraws its support from the government. "Due to unclear conditions in the constitution, running the coalition government is very complex. PM has to prove his or her majority in case of withdrawal," said constitutional lawyer Dr. Bhimarjun Acharya.

As in the elections of president and vice president, ten Party Backs PM Prachanda, who secured 172 Votes Against 89? Former Prime Minister and Nepali Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba has said that the coalition will last for full five years.

Prime Minister 'Prachanda' has said that politics has caught the rhythm.

Just two months after the government's formation, he claimed that he could not understand why he needed to request a vote of confidence once more. He insisted that he was forced to make the move as a result of the departure of the government's former coalition partners, the CPN (UML) and the Rastray Pratantra Party.

The coalition made it clear that they support a cause after defeating UML candidates to elect Ram Chandra Paudel of the Nepali

Congress as president and Ram Shaya Yadav of the Loktantrik Samajbadi Party as vice president.

It is conceivable because Prachanda and other minor political groups are so unstable.

Having requested two votes of confidence from the House of Representatives in the space of two months, Prime Minister Prachanda has demonstrated that he will need to take a few more motions.

Out of the 262 members of the House of Representatives who were present, 172 supported PM Prachanda's motion to give the government a vote of confidence.



The World Is In A Water Crisis. Agriculture Can Lead The Way Out Of It



BY: MARIA HELENA SEMEDO

The world isn't heading for a water crisis. It's already in one. In many places, water withdrawals exceed recharge rates. Climate change is causing droughts and floods all over the globe. Water bodies that support vital biodiversity and production of food, both aquatic and on land, are compromised by reduced irregular flows and pollution.

At the UN 2023 Water Conference, the international community aims to emerge with a Water Action Agenda to protect one of humanity's most critical resources. Agriculture, the sector most dependent on freshwater, must be central to this agenda.

The numbers are already stark. Over 700 million people face high and critical water stress and over 90 percent of natural disasters are water-related. The situation is worsening. Global water availability and quality are deteriorating. Climate change is intensifying. Competition between sectors and countries is increasing. By 2050, two-thirds of the world's population could face water shortages.

Agriculture currently accounts for 72 percent of freshwater withdrawals. On current trends, an additional 35 percent water resources will be needed by 2050 to meet growing demand for food, fibre and feed. At the same time, demand for other uses is increasing. These numbers clearly don't add up.

This is hugely worrying for efforts to end hunger and poverty, because there can be no food and agriculture, and the livelihoods it supports, without clean and sufficient water – for irrigation of crops, for livestock, and for the many species that live in aquatic ecosystems. Agriculture – including forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – also plays a crucial role in the management of surface water, groundwater recharge and even circulation of atmospheric water, thanks to forests.

If we are to protect the future of food, and meet the Sustainable Development Goals, the needs and role of agriculture must be supported. Agriculture itself needs to get more efficient at using water, better at keeping pollutants out of water bodies, and more resilient to climate change. So, how do we do this? The key is to act now with integrated water resource management approaches to produce more food, fibre, feed and biofuel with less water, more sustainably.

At the top-level – the kind of outcomes we need to see from the UN 2023 Water Conference – we need strong political will. We need collaboration, not competition, between sectors that use water. Proper planning can reverse land and water system degradation and reduce competition for resources when combined with innovative technical, institutional, governance and financial support. For example, watershed management approaches that manage freshwater systems and their fisheries, forestry, and agriculture services minimize trade-offs and leave no one behind.

Targeted investments and innovations in solutions for treated wastewater reuse, coping with drought and water scarcity, and circular bioeconomy approaches can help tackle water-related challenges. The sustainable use of biodiversity adapted to climate and soil conditions is key.

These top-level approaches will only work if they feed down to the people who will implement the changes. We need to support those who grow and produce food on rained systems, water harvesting, efficient irrigation methods, drought-resistant crops and much more. We need to support them to restore wetlands and other ecosystems, which perform critical services; secure land tenure is critical here. All approaches must encompass indigenous knowledge, science and technology, and country experiences. Crucially, those who produce our food need to be helped with the transition so that their livelihoods don't suffer any short-term dip.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working on all these threads. The Addressing Water Scarcity in Agriculture and the environment initiative, built on successes in the Near East and North Africa, is expanding to Asia and the Pacific. FAO is developing projects on indigenous drought resilient crops. The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) is a platform for countries to share their knowledge, creating solidarity and community of practices and expertise. WASAG is also helping countries to formulate projects using innovative financing mechanisms. Farmers are being provided with the tools they need to cope with water scarcity.

Under the FAO and United Nations Environment Programme-led UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, country-led projects, supported by partners, are revitalizing hundreds of millions of hectares of vital ecosystems – from forests to oceans and wetlands. As national governments are at the centre of water governance, FAO is backing country-led National Water Roadmaps, which create a big picture approach to integrated and sustainable water management within nations, bridging sectors and actors.

FAO will fully support the Water Action Agenda that emerges from the UN 2023 Water Conference through the transformation to more efficient, resilient, inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems – systems that use less water, produce more nutritious food, create jobs and back a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Yes, we are in a water crisis. But we can exit this crisis, together, and agriculture must lead the way.

Maria Helena Semedo is the Deputy Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization



KUL MAN GHISING Peak Hour

Kul Man Ghising, managing director of the Nepal Electricity Authority, is on a mission to dismantle obstacles to the construction of transmission lines, distribution systems, and hydropower projects to achieve the government's objective of providing electricity to every family in Nepal by 2025. MD Ghising has faced several challenges in his quest to offer electricity to everyone.

By KESHAB POUDEL

Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority, lives by his commitments and passions. His drive and dedication are to help the government's goal of supplying electricity to everyone by 2025. Nepal can put an end to decades of load-shedding because of his commitment and determination.

He would readily spare his time to listen and whisper inside his secretariat as the leader of Nepal's largest public utility. A middle-class Tamang from the distant Ramechhap district, MD Ghising preferred to operate at the grass-roots level, negotiating and con-

versing with ordinary people and political figures. At a time when NEA's projects have been suffering blockages, MD Ghising decides to visit the site to accelerate the construction operations and complete the projects in time.

MD Ghising has spent the majority of his weekend days at the disputed spots because there are blockages and disagreements practically everywhere. construction work and finish the projects on schedule.

During ordinary business hours, MD Ghising is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of Nepal's largest public utility, which employs over 10,000 people

and manages about 2500 Megawatts of power. In order to visit the places to remove the impediments, MD Ghising uses the weekend and public holidays that he was meant to spend with his family.

Hetauda-Inaruwa 400 kV, Naya-Khimti-Barabishe-Kathmandu 400 kV transmission line, and Kaligandaki corridor Parbet Phalebas were two highly contentious transmission line projects that MD Ghising inspected during the first three weeks of March. 102 MW Middle Bhotekoshi project,

After opening the 33-11 kV substation at Sarangghat, Bandipur Rural Municipality Ward No. 6, with Arnaud Cauchaois, country

COVERSTORY



director of the Asian Development Bank, he traveled to several locations in Tanahu and met with the chief district officer of Lamjung District to discuss the problem of land claims for the 220 kV Marsyangdi Corridor Transmission line project.

Following his meeting, MD Ghising went to a meeting with Tanahu Hydro Power Company Limited's contractors, consultants, and authorities. He gave the concerned personnel instructions to finish the project by 2024 as planned.

"NEA has been putting all of its focus towards ensuring that all Nepalese families have access to energy. Our march is about to come to a close. To make this a reality, contractual arrangements have already been completed. Moreover, NEA has been trying to improve the supply and quality of electricity in the areas that are linked to the main grid."

Also, he expressed his gratitude to the Asian Development Bank for its generous commitment to support for the construction of transmission lines and hydropower

projects as well as improvements to access. He cites the Tanahu Hydropower Project and transmission lines as other examples.

Arnaud Cauchaois, country director for the ADB, noted that Nepal has made significant strides in the past ten years to expand access to energy. In contrast to Nepal's increase of 4.3 percent, he claimed that the average increase in access to electricity worldwide is 0.8% percent. He declared that

ADB applauds the leadership of NEA's ongoing work. Additionally, he stated that the ADB would keep helping Nepal build its infrastructure.

On March 20 and 21, a joint high-level team led by NEA MD Ghising and Arnaud Cauchaois, country director for ADB, spent two full days inspecting infrastructures that were currently being built and meeting with pertinent officials. Together with the powerhouse and main tunnel, the team also examined the headworks, river diversion, and tunnel.

MD Ghising gave the directions to complete the 140 MW Tanahu Hydropower Project on schedule during a joint meeting with the officials, contractors, and consultants on March 21 in Damauli.

Also, the team had conversations with the consultant and contractor for package 3 of the 220 kV Damauli Bharatpur Transmission line project. The project should be finished by May or June 2026.

Arnaud Cauchaois, the



ADB's country director, also gave the contractors instructions to finish the project on time. He emphasized the significance and difficulty of package 1 and gave instructions to enhance both equipment and human resources.

There won't be a time extension, and the project ought to be finished on schedule, according to MD Ghising. He gave instructions to workers to reach the deadline. He claimed that cutting slopes and diverting rivers are difficult, and he ordered contractors to add personnel and equipment. Kiran Kumar Shrestha, managing director of Tanahu Hydropower Company Ltd., provided an update on the project's status.

Obstructions in Transmission Lines

The majority of the strategically significant transmission line projects, many of which were started about a decade ago, have encountered obstacles and become blocked. The ongoing transmission line's completion is crucial for increasing domestic electricity availability and exporting excess electricity. Similar to the hydropower projects that are now being built, these projects also need to evacu-



ate the electricity from them.

As the nation has pledged to provide electricity to all citizens by 2025, it is the sole responsibility of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to carry out its work. Ghising, the NEA's managing director, has come under pressure to do so and has already demonstrated his technical prowess by putting an end to two decades of load-shedding during his first term.

The removal of all barriers erected in the nation's major transmission and distribution projects is

one of the issues facing this second administration. With the support of a vested set of political parties, the organizations that have been putting up barriers to the construction of transmission and distribution lines also possess considerable force. Nobody supports the NEA's efforts to eliminate the barriers, including local political leadership and common people.

Given this circumstance, NEA's MD Ghising has no choice but to visit the sites and talk about the problems with the locals, elected leaders, and concerned officials.

Hetauda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa 400 kV Transmission line

The building of the 400 kV double circuit Hetauda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa transmission line, which is crucial for strengthening Nepal's internal power transmission system and easing energy trade between Nepal and India, has encountered various obstacles during the past six years.

A high-level delegation led by MD Ghising met with the mayor of Hetauda Sub-metropoli-



COVERSTORY

tan City, Mina Kumari Lama, and the chairs of wards 15 and 16, Sunil Moktan and Ramakrishna Koiral, to explore finding solutions to the issues.

Ghising requested their collaboration in order to finish building the transmission line, provide a sufficient supply of electricity throughout the nation, and make it easier to trade electricity with India.

A contract was signed in February 2013 calling for the construction to be finished in 30 months. It was not possible to deliver energy from the Dhalkebar substation in Dhanusha due to insufficient line capacity as a result of the Hetaunda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa 400 kV transmission line's construction being behind schedule. Only a 132 kV transmission line connects

Dhalkebar to the western region at the moment.

The Dhalkebar substation cannot receive enough electricity, and the country's capacity to export excess electricity to India and import electricity when necessary has been hampered by a lack of transmission lines.

The 220 KV substation being built at Hetauda as part of the project is expected to be operational by June of this year. Moreover, the 400 kV substation being

built in Hetauda is now close to being finished.

Kaligandaki corridor transmission line

MD Ghising visited Phalebas in the Parbat district as part of his mission to remove the blockage from the 220 kV Kaligandaki Corridor Transmission Line Project.

The villagers have been preventing the building of the transmission line for the past three years by demanding that the transmission line's path be changed.



They claim that extending the transmission line along its current route will cause damage to a Devasthan school and stadium.

Due to the difficulty caused by the residents, work on four transmission line towers at Phalebas has been put on hold.

He spoke with the political leadership, including the mayor, deputy mayor, ward chairman, and DCC Chiar, and asked them to help remove the blockage.

Additionally, he urged the

residents not to hinder the building of the transmission line because it is crucial for the transfer of power produced by the hydroelectricity projects that would be built in the Kaligandaki and its tributaries.

The first leg of the transmission line, which will span 39.6 kilometers from Dana in Annapurna Rural Municipality-3, Myagdi district, to Khurkot in Kushma Municipality-2, Parbat district, has already been built and is in use. Khurkot's 220/132 kV sub-station and Dana's 220/132/33 kV sub-station have both been built.

The 88 km transmission line under the second leg of the corridor from Kushma to the new Butwal sub-station at Bhumahi, Sunawal Municipality-13, and Nawalparasi is about finished.

Only four of the 235 towers in this segment are still under construction at Phalebas. According to

project manager Ghosh, construction on the transmission line is expected to be finished by mid-July of this year.

MD Ghising Visited Tamakoshi-Kathmandu 220/400 kV

Mid-July of this year is the deadline for completing the building of the Tamakoshi-Kathmandu 220/400 kV transmission line and substation, according to MD Ghising, who recently inspected the

Bahrabise substation under the project.

The crew has been given instructions by the NEA to finish building the New Khimti-Bahrabise, Bahrabise-Kathmandu, and Bahrabise substations by mid-July, and they have also promised to facilitate and coordinate the removal of any construction-related difficulties.

Under the project, a 132 kV transmission line measuring 14 km in length from Lapsephedi to Changunarayan in Bhaktapur, a 220/132/11 kV substation in Bahrabise, and a 400 kV double circuit measuring 46 km from Bahrabise to Lapsephedi in Kathmandu are all being built.

Moreover, 400/220/132/11 kV substations are being built in Lapsephedi, Bahrabise, and New Khimti. To feed the Kathmandu Valley with power from the Tamakoshi and Sunkoshi rivers and their tributaries and to connect it to the national grid, work has begun on the Tamakoshi-Kathmandu transmission line and substation.

To build the substations in Bahrabise, the Chinese firms Guangxi Transmission and Substation Construction and Shenzhen Clou Electronics won the contract. Nevertheless, according to MD Ghising, their work isn't up to par.

A total of 71 towers have been built, and 17.5 km of wire has

been extended, out of the 118 towers that were originally planned for the New Khimti-Bahrabise stretch of the transmission line.

Out of the 122 towers in the Bahrabise-Lapsephedi sector, 111 have had their foundations laid, and four more are currently having their foundations laid. Around 103 structures have been built thus far, and 12.5 km of wire have been added.

Project Madhya Bhotekoshi was also subject to an inspection by MD Ghising. The 102



MW Madhya-Bhotekoshi Hydropower Project in Sindhupalchowk has approximately 95% of its work finished.

Mid-July of this year is the projected completion date for the project, which is being constructed under the direction of Chilime Hydropower, a division of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).

The project's principal structures, including the dam and sand-settling pond, have all been built (referred to as "head works").

According to the NEA, protection work is now being advanced in the head works area.

The contracting company put forth a lot of effort and finished the job in roughly two years, according to NEA Ghising, managing director.

Ram Gopal Shiwakoti, the chief executive officer of the company, stated that since the contracting company's performance has improved, they are working on an integrated timetable with the aim of finishing the construction by mid-July.

MD Ghising spent a lot of time inspecting and visiting 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi during his first term. His diligent oversight was rewarded by the timely completion of Nepal's massive project. Similarly, several transmission line projects and the completion

of the Kulekhani III and Trishuli 3 A, Chameliya were significant milestones.

During his second term, he has been working hard to finish the hydropower projects by its subsidiary Chilime as well as the strategically significant transmission line projects. For this, MD Ghising has been spending his weekend time on the project sites rather than with family. MD Ghising is in a haste that will probably last the duration of his second term.

Bihar Grid

Bihar Grid Will Be Used To Export Power From Nepal To India, Says MD Ghising

By A CORRESPONDENT

With the decision to create a method within a month to export Nepali electricity to other Indian states utilizing the Bihar Grid, Nepal Electricity Authority's long-standing concern about what to do with the excess electricity generated during the wet session was put to rest.

After numerous attempts to save millions of rupees from waste and export excess electricity to India, NEA's Managing Director Kul Man Ghising is ultimately successful in obtaining a concession from an Indian electricity utility.

In his second term, MD Ghising has dedicated a large portion of his time to utilizing the excess electricity produced in the nation by finishing the transmission and distribution lines domestically and negotiating with Indian utilities.

Increase domestic consumption or export to India are the two alternatives available to

NEA with the over 1000 MW of electricity excess from the upcoming session. Evacuating power from hydropower plants for domestic market distribution is a significant task because of the numerous barriers to transmission line installation and distribution system growth.

MD Ghising has been traveling the nation recently and meeting with stakeholders to

Nepal-India Power Exchange Committee Conference in New Delhi has made significant progress in the export arena. The group decided to create a method by the end of the month to export Nepali electricity to other Indian states utilizing the Bihar Grid.

The meeting was co-chaired by Executive Director of Nepal Electricity Authority, Ghising, and Member (power

system) of the Central Electricity Authority of India, Ashok Kumar Rajput.

A meeting of the Nepal-India Power Exchange Committee is to prepare a modality for power export from Nepal to other states of India through central

transmission line via Bihar grid. Likewise, MD Ghising carried on the conversation he had started with his Indian colleague.

MD Ghising has accomplished something on both fronts. The recently concluded

central transmission line via Bihar grid. The 14th meeting of the committee concluded on March 17 at New Delhi, India, decided to prepare the modality of power to be exported by Nepal within a month.

“Both sides will finalize





the modality within a month for the same. This has ensured the additional market for the sale of surplus electricity during the rainy season,” shared NEA Executive Director Ghising.

Kataiya (Bihar)-Kushaha (Nepal) and Raxaul-Parawanipur 132kV transmission line are connected with Bihar. The meeting as per the Power Exchange Agreement has determined the price of per unit electricity at Rs 11.54 for the fiscal year 2022-23. The new tariff is not based on the ‘Take or Pay’ modality, he clarified. “This is the tariff Nepal purchases when in need. Since we only import electricity when needed, the tariff is cheaper than in the current Indian market. We don’t get this rate even when we export electricity.

“He shared that while making requisition for electricity with India in last December, they had proposed that Nepal would purchase electricity from the Indian company through bidding, in which the electricity would be procured for Rs 7.50 for per unit in February and March and Rs

8.70 per unit in April and May.

Ghising explained that the companies selected in the competition are only allowed to sell electricity produced from imported coal to Nepal, and due to fluctuating price of coal, the Indian company was not adamant to ink an agreement with the authority even at the proposed tariff.

According to him, the system of imported coal was not applicable in Bihar State. Hence, the rate of electricity has become cheaper. The average price of electricity per unit in the competitive market is INR 12. “An additional INR 1.5 is added to this tariff including transmission charges. Hence, the rate fixed at present is cheaper than others.

“The meeting decided that a modality will be fixed within a month for Nepal to export electricity to Bihar. “With this, the market for Nepal’s surplus electricity has been assured.” Nepal imports electricity from India when needed through Power

Exchange Agreement

and as per the Mahakali Treaty as well as through competition. Electricity is being imported to Nepal through Dhalkebar-Muzafarpur cross-border 400 kV double circuit transmission line and other transmission lines. NEA has traded surplus electricity worth Rs 8.4 billion to India in this fiscal so far.

Ghising, managing director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), characterized the choice as another step forward. Following the most recent conference between the foreign secretaries of Nepal and India, which was presided over by the secretaries of Nepal, Bharat Raj Paudyal, and India, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Nepal and India have made significant strides in the field of electricity.

Bheri-Babai Diversion

Gains Momentum

With the initiative of then Director General of Irrigation Madhav Blebase, who is currently member of Public Service Commission, the project decided to use TBM for tunnel.

By KESHAB POUDEL IN SURKHET

After successfully completion of tunnel using Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), the second phase work of the Bheri-Babai Diversion Multi-purpose Project (BBDMP) is gaining momentum.

With the initiative of then Director General of Irrigation Madhav Blebase, who is currently member of Public Service Commission, the project decided to use TBM for tunnel.

During his tenure as Director General, Belbase, who retired as a secretary of Drinking Water Vehemently argued to convince the policymakers. As Belbase has brought this technology, he is also known as father of TBM in Nepal which is now used by Sunkoshi-Marin Diversion Project as well.

One of the objective of BBDMP) is to achieve round the year irrigation for 51,000 ha agricultural land of Banke and Bardiya districts and generate 46 MW electricity by transferring 40 m³/sec of water from Bheri River to Babai River (water surplus basin to water deficit basin) by completing the project within FY 2079/80.

The project is first to use TBM successfully for the construction of 12.2 Km long tunnel. Its other aim is to enhance the technical capacity of technical personnel working in water resources and irrigation sector for the development of multipurpose projects and use of TBM technology;

To implement infrastruc-

ture development and capacity tunnel.



building programs to enhance social and economic status of the communities in project affected area.

One of the missions is to successful usage of Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for fast construction of the tunnels and promotes use of such technologies in other infrastructure development.

The construction of a 14-meter-high dam in Bheriganga Municipality-5 Chiple of Surkhet is in full swing. Following the completion of the project, 48 MW electricity will be generated from a power house which is also now under construction in Ward No. 11 Hattikhali of the same municipality through a 12 km 210 meter long

As Belbase argued that the work of tunnel has completed in time. Although the process of tender award delayed for few years, the work progress is gaining momentum.

As the tunnel construction has already completed, the construction of the dam, civil works and powerhouse of the national pride project has been expedited recently.

The Chinese company Guangdong and Nepal's Raman Construction JV are speeding up the second phase of construction of the dam site and power house. The project has stated that the construction work of headwork and powerhouse under the second phase is in

full swing.

Information officer said that the construction of automatic gate, penstock, steel lining, power house, turbine, electrical equipment and substation at Chiple in Bheriganga of Surkhet is ongoing.

However, the distribution of compensation has been delayed as the government has not decided on the amount to be given to the settlers without land ownership certificates.

About 32 hectares of land in Bheriganga, Gurbhakot and Lekbenshi municipalities will be drowned due to the construction of a dam at Chiple in Bheriganga municipality of Surkhet. So far, the project has distributed compensation to the affected people living in nine hectares of land who have land ownership certificates.

A project official said that the compensation of up to maximum of Rs. 500,000 have been distributed to people with land ownership certificates. According to him, out of the 32 hectares of projected land, people living in almost 23 hectares of land do not have land ownership certificate.

According to the project office, no procedure has been

formulated for the compensation of 22.81 hectares of uncertified land. He said that a file has been submitted to the federal government to determine the amount of compensation by collecting the details of the settlers of uncertified land but no decision has been taken yet.

“We have the money and there’s no problem in distributing it,” he said, “But, the government has not decided how much compensation to pay. We can distribute it once the decision is made by the cabinet.”

According to him, six and a half hectares of uncertified land has been registered in the field book. But the landowners have not yet received certificates.

All the works of the second phase are targeted to be completed by fiscal year 2080 and it is estimated that Rs. 6.16 billion will be spent for the project. If the Bheri-Babai diversion multi-purpose project is constructed, the project will provide irrigation facilities

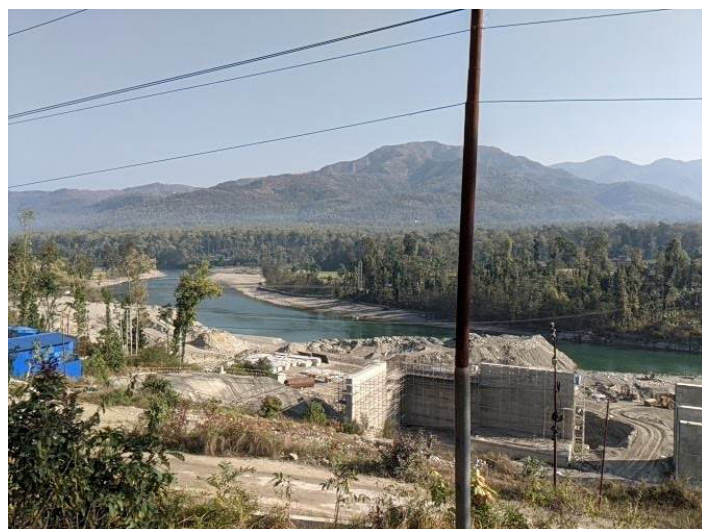


and Rs 3.1 billion will be earned annually, besides Rs 2.1 billion that will be earned directly through electricity generation.

Strategic Plan of BBD-MP

According to the project, the vision is to achieve sustainable economic growth of Nepal through enhanced agricultural production and productivity by providing year-round irrigation; and generating reliable electricity with focused development of inter-basin water transfer and multipurpose projects using modern technologies like TBM by the means of effective and efficient public sector.

The mission is the development of basin diversion multipurpose projects for optimum utilization of available water resources available in the country providing year-round irrigation, generating reliable electricity and also for other multipurpose benefits.



to 51,000 hectares of land in Banke and Bardiya every day.

It is estimated that agricultural produce will increase in Banke and Bardiya

MUSIC CONCERT

Event With A Cause

Australian Embassy Supported To Host A Concert To Raise Awareness On Autism

By A CORRESPONDENT

Nothing derailed the pope's plans to attend a concert by the Nepali band 1974 AD, even though the pre-monsoon weather pattern blanketed the Kathmandu Valley with thunder, lightning, and a brief downpour.

The performance is being held to raise money for autism care in Nepal and is being organized by the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu in close collaboration with the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Autism Care Nepal Society, and 1974 AD.

Felicity Volk, the Australian ambassador to Nepal, who had recently returned from a two-week trip to the isolated Nepali district of Karnali, welcomed a large crowd, which included diplomats located in Kathmandu, admirably.

While the COVID-19 Pandemic was still in full swing, Ambassador Volk arrived in Nepal. Since then, she has been showing interests in numerous sectors, meeting new people, and traveling across challenging terrain in Nepal's east and west.

Her most recent trip to the rural and challenging Karnali Province districts of Kalikot, Jumla, and Dalikeh, where she spoke with people from all walks of life, including elected women leaders, illustrated her concerns about the area's future development.

She also pledged support for the significant concert hold to generate awareness on Autism

"Thank you everyone for your

support to #EmbraceAutism. The Australian Embassy sends its deep gratitude to the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Autism Care Nepal Society & 1974 AD for coming together to celebrate diversity. A few glimpses from yesterday's celebration," tweets ambassador. Twitter

Organized to raise awareness and celebrate people with neuro-developmental differences, the concert is supported by the Australian Embassy.

According to an estimate, 300,000 children in Nepal have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Autism affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Early intervention can improve learning, communication and social skills, as well as underlying brain development.

According to Chairperson of Autism Care Nepal Society, Dr Sunita Malekhu, "Autism is rarely discussed and there is limited public knowledge of this disorder despite its prevalence in Nepal. Parents, health professionals, community stakeholders are quite unaware about child development delays and differences, leading to late diagnosis.

"It is crucial to share information on these issues, raise awareness and help our people to recognize this condition at an early age. Given timely diagnosis and treatment, people with autism can lead fairly functional lives with modest support.

"ACNS believes this concert will create history to #EmbraceAutism and ensure better recognition, understanding, acceptance, visibility and action for autism to guarantee social inclusion."

Deputy Mayor of the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Sunita Dangol, said that KMC has made disability inclusion a special priority and is working with different organizations to real-



ize this. "I call everyone to participate in the special awareness campaign and Concert for Autism," Deputy Mayor Dangol said.

Australian Ambassador to Nepal Felicity Volk said the Australian Government similarly prioritizes disability inclusive development. "This concert is history-making," Ambassador Volk said, "but it is one moment in time. When concert-goers leave Tudhikhel on Saturday night, filled with the energy and passion that comes from listening to one of the world's greatest rock bands, my hope and prayer is that they'll use that energy to share the message #EmbraceAutism.

"And I hope they'll find practical ways to support neuro-diverse people in the weeks, months and years to come. Because there is great beauty and strength in our uniqueness."

The 1974AD has said, "1974AD band members #EmbraceAutism. We are very glad to be performing our Concert for Autism and hope this event will be instrumental in spreading messages about autism. Autism speaks and it is time we listen."



Money Around



BY: HEMANG DIXIT

Money' in existence. The white one would be that earned by regular above the board services and the black one by disreputable work. Tainted one has a tendency is to bring about trouble as exemplified by the fact that Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot for 'thirty pieces of silver'! In the present age there is an atmosphere of artificiality about money as one becomes aware of individuals or even countries which are advocating the use of the currencies such as Bitcoin and others for widespread use. Is an age of artificiality or even scams surrounding us?

When money in the form of various metal coins or even paper became difficult to carry around the use of using 'plastic money' or ATM Cards came into being.

One recalls that in ages past it was the peoples from Europe who went sailing both East and West, discovered new lands and by way of barter trade transported goods back to their own lands in massive galleys across the seas. Though the Europeans had minted money in their own lands, these were of no use to the natives of far off shores!

I read many years ago that when a 19th Century voter of England was asked whether he should heed to the needs of his voter or his financier replied that his loyalty lay with the financier. That system is true and prevalent all over the world, including Nepal. Money talked then, it talks louder now. Visits by outsiders to government offices during the night to avoid CCTV cameral has become standard practice now that its effectiveness i.e. images which should last for three months can be erased within seconds by helpers!

Money sent home by Nepali workers in the Gulf and Malaysia via hundi has been exploited by certain sections of our own society. Our industrialists or the 'haves' have industries or interests in phoren lands, keep their wealth in banks there or 'off shore' and use it elsewhere rather than in Nepal. Have the national feelings of such 'big wigs' evaporated and are they 'citizens of the world'?

Money is the root of all evil. The easiest way to get money is by providing information either above or below the table. 'Money talks' simply means that information is easily available when one is prepared to pay for it! This statement can perhaps be disputed as perhaps by a user in FB who posted, 'They say money talks, but mine just waves goodbye!

A regular Twitter Vimal Lamic on 18th January stated that a Nepali contractor who had received a medal for construction in Bhutan had left a Rs. 57 'aarab' project in Nepal in limbo. Was it because of kickbacks which had to be given to higher ups? How will our country ever prosper in this world with such goings on?

The only one method to stop those with 'money bags' from being elected is by having state funding of elections. State should refund election expenses to those getting 10% of the votes cast – the limit to be raised from the current 3%. This clause, for

those not getting 10% will deter many frivolous or non serious candidates from contesting. Winning candidate must get over 50% to win. Therefore 'Run off' between two highest candidates is essential to elect genuine candidates. These measures will cut election spending.

Furthermore in such electioneering setup there must be provision for the voter to tick 'None of the above' if s/he thinks so. Only by taking such steps will the wheeling and dealing i.e. by hook or by crook of losing candidates of major parties to get back to parliament be curtailed!

Though lower limit for candidates seeking election exists, there must be also be an upper ceiling e.g. at retirement age for government service. Putting 58 years as an upper limit for seeking office is a reasonable idea. The last practice of only 15 days canvassing and 48 hours of rest or recuperation prior to the opening of voting centres to be retained as it cuts election costs. Any candidate found to be flouting the rules should be barred immediately!

With the President and Vice-President elections being over the current discussion is the cost to the nation for the facilities and security being provided. Why should house allowance be provided when they have a house in the country? Why can't they go back to it? Also the vehicles and high security with blazing sirens when 'No horn' rule exists to not only these Ex Presidents but also to the large number of aged Ex PMs? We must stop throwing all this money around. Let it go to the raising of standards of the poor Nepalis who abound all over the country.

Prospective political candidates must keep in mind the words of Rudyard Kipling who wrote, "Beware of over concern for money, or position, or glory. Some day you will meet a man who cares for none of these things. Then you will know how poor you are." Ignoring such thoughts will make newly elected members just 'Nine day wonders'?

More recent words to remember are those of the Beatles who sang:

Can't buy me love, love

Can't buy me love oh

I'll buy you a diamond ring my friend,

If it makes you alright.

Yes our situation in Nepal is alright for those at the top and running the country and not for others!

The author is a retired medical doctor and writes fiction under the pen name of Mani Dixit also. Website: www.hdixit.org.np. Twitter: @manidixithd

Nepal for Water Security

The Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI) is participating in the UN Water Conference with a position statement that is concise and clear thanks to the technical support of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI)-Nepal.

By KESHABPOUDEL

The narrative that Nepal is one of the water resource richest nations, second only to Brazil, is one that Nepalese adults are familiar with. Brazil came top, followed by Nepal, for unknown reasons.

The situation is different. Both Nepal and the rest of the world lack water resources. More important than getting clean water is getting enough water for the majority of Nepalese. Similarly to this, Nepal's vast tracts of agricultural land are still without irrigation infrastructure.

Almost a thousand Nepali children under the age of five pass away from diarrhea caused by unhygienic water every year, according to the World Health Organization. According to UNICEF data, 10.8 million people in Nepal lack access to better sanitation and 3.5 million lack access to even the most basic water services. With 71% of all water sources and 91% of those utilized by the poorest quintile being polluted with *Escherichia coli* bacteria, the functional status of water schemes and the quality of water remain poor.

The principal economic sec-

tor in Nepal is agriculture, which is dependent on it for more than 80% of the population. The plan for reducing poverty in Nepal acknowledges the importance of agriculture in achieving broad-based growth and raising the standard of living for the majority of people in the country. Nonetheless, 75% of Nepal's yearly rainfall falls during the monsoon season, which runs from June to September.

Nepal claims to have abundant hydropower, however during the winter it imports electricity.

1.80 million ha of the 2.60 million hectares (ha) of land under cultivation are irrigated, according to an Asian Development Bank analysis. Only 38% of irrigated land is irrigated year-round, despite 70% of surface water irrigation infrastructure's command areas being

irrigated. The Department of Irrigation oversees the remaining 25% of irrigated land, with farmers managing 75% of it.

Writing a well-received Nepali position paper on the water is difficult in a nation where myth predominates over reality. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI)-Nepal, led by Dr. Manohara Khadka, has a strong team of experts and has once more given the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI) the much-needed assistance in preparing Nepal's position paper, which is clear and succinct.

Prepared by MoEWRI with support from The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Nepal, the Position Paper on Improving Water Security in Nepal, developed for the UN 2023 Water Conference, highlighted the necessity of using water in a balanced and integrated manner to help Nepal meet its goals for Sustainable Development Goals 6 on drinking and sanitary facilities, irrigation use, industrial development, and climate-resilient growth, as well as hydropower. IWMI-Nepal has been offering water





solutions for sustainable, climate-resilient development providing necessary support to Nepal Government.

To guarantee that the draft was well received and that the opinions of larger stakeholder groups were included, MoEWRI and IWMI-Nepal jointly conducted several sessions. To develop Nepal's position paper and gather further feedback from pertinent parties, they lastly convened a consultative session.

Workshop for consultation on Nepal's position paper for the UN Water Conference in 2023, titled "Enhancing Water Security in Nepal. According to IWMI-Twitter, Nepal's participants come from the government, development agencies, civil society organizations, and academic institutions.

Gopal Prasad Sigdel, Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, stated that the UN Water Conference 2023 gave all sectors the chance to come together to create this position document.

Secretary Sigdel reaffirmed the fact that Nepal's position paper, which will be presented at the 2023 UN Water conference, was revised and reframed as a result of this consultative session. Secretary Sigdel expressed his gratitude to everyone who participated for helping to create Nepal's position paper for the UN Water conference in 2023.

By her vote of gratitude, Dr. Manohara Khadka, the country representative of IWMI-Nepal, brought this

consultative workshop to a successful conclusion. The comments and ideas will not only improve the position paper but also provide direction for the future of water security.

Participants in the discussion, which was moderated by Professor Vishnu Prasad Pandey of the Institute of Engineering (IOE), TU, shared their opinions on Nepal's position paper, which emphasized the need for Nepal's commitment to water security to extend to all areas.

In his introductory remarks, Sanjeeb Baral deputy director general gave a brief explanation of the position paper that water experts in Nepal had created. He claimed that in this workshop, conversations and feedback from numerous stakeholders might enrich the Position paper.

The purpose of this position

paper, according to Baral, is to emphasize the growing water security concerns in Nepal and offer answers to the problems associated with managing and developing water resources while fostering equitable socioeconomic development.

The Government of Nepal created Nepal's position paper for the UN-Water conference in 2023 with support from IWMI-Nepal. It includes an outline of the country's water resources, difficulties & challenges with their

management, development, and strategies for achieving water security.

Dr. Santosh Nepal of IWMI-Nepal gave a thorough explanation of the Nepal position paper's outline. Reiterating the value of water resources and their critical role in the three pillars of sustainable development, which include social, cultural, economic, and political values, he emphasized their relevance.

The position paper discusses an overview of water resources, including their availability, development, and use, as well as how to establish an environment that will support their growth. –

"Position paper addresses issues in the development and management of water resources, including decreased water supply, deterioration of the aquatic environment, hazards associated with climate change and water, water access, gender equality, social inclusion, and governance difficulty."

Maximizing water-related benefits and reducing disaster risk are both important components of improving water security in Nepal in light of climatic and non-climatic changes.

Dr. Nepal also outlined crucial tactics for achieving this goal. "Cross-sectoral collaboration is essential to guaranteeing Nepal's water security. Before attending the UN Water Conference in 2023, the government of Nepal convened a consultative workshop to review their position paper, according to Dr. Santosh Nepal. In Nepal, the effects of climate change will





affect all industries. Agriculture-related problems cannot be handled by focusing solely on the agricultural industry. The management of watersheds, spring conservation, groundwater recharge, and glacier melting all have an impact on the amount of water available for agriculture. Climate change will have an impact on all of these. Hence, it will be difficult to address the effects of climate change and associated adaptation strategies without cross-sectoral coordination.

Nepal's position paper is clear on the country's stand. "Achieving a balance between water uses for development and the environment is a critical issue for global water security. It is imperative to manage and develop water resources with a focus on ensuring water security, considering both benefits and risks associated with water usage. However, water security is challenged by the impacts of climate change, such as rising temperatures, melting glaciers, changing precipitation patterns, floods and droughts. Furthermore, other socio-economic changes such as migration and managing water demand for other competing water sectors are exacerbating water security challenges. In Nepal's context, enhancing water security requires managing water resources in sectors that have major water usage, such as domestic, agricultural, hydropower and industrial sectors, while maintaining water requirements for environmental usage as

Nepal is making every effort to submit its case at the conference, which is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unite the globe around fixing the water and sanitation crises, as World Water Day is being observed concurrently with the beginning of the UN 2023 Water Conference on March 22-24.

The position paper intends to spur political momentum for SDG 6 implementation and mobilize water action. The article also discusses all of the important topics, including water for collaboration, water for sustainable development, and water for the environment and climate resilience.

Dr. Khadka, a country representative, Pragya Deepak Gyawali (NAST), and Baral, Deputy Director General Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, facilitated the discussion leading three different groups in three themes, which was vigorous.

The participants representing energy, climate, irriga-

tion, and water and sanitary issues engaged in extensive discussion on the agenda, from Dr. Prachanda Pradhan, the pioneer of the community irrigation program, to secretary Sigdel and other youthful stakeholder groups.

Gyawali stated that the position paper addressed all water-related concerns, including SDG 6. According to Gyawali, this research takes a comprehensive approach to water while taking the long-term effects of climate change into account.

Nepal's position paper for the UN 2023 Water Conference, which will take place in one week, has already been finished after long discussions between the government, civil society, and international organizations. MoEWRI has been prepared to participate in the conference and host a side event as a key ministry for the UN 2023 water conference.

"The MoEWRI has created a position paper to summarize the state of the existing situation and the priorities moving forward. It provides an overview of Nepal's water resources, the problems and difficulties associated with their management, and solutions for ensuring water security throughout the nation."

The overview of Nepal's water resources, problems with managing them, development, and strategies for achieving water security are all highlighted in the country's position paper for the UN Water Conference in 2023.

Nepal's position paper, along





with others, expressed the commitment regarding the use of water and its sanitation, accelerating progress on SDG 6 and other internationally agreed-upon water-related goals and targets. It was prepared and finalized through intensive interaction among government officials, development organizations, civil society organizations, and research institutes.

In his introductory remarks, Sanjeeb Baral, Deputy Director General of the Department of Water Resources and Irrigation (WDRI), provided a brief explanation of the position paper created by water experts in Nepal. He claimed that in this workshop, conversations and feedback from numerous stakeholders might enrich the Position paper.

According to Baral, the goal of this position paper is to draw attention to Nepal’s growing water security concerns, offer answers to the problems associated with managing and developing water resources, and advance inclusive socioeconomic development.

The first UN Water Conference took place in 1977, and the second one will take place in 2023. The conference will put a special emphasis on integrated water resource management and sustainable development in order to achieve social, economic, and environmental goals. The meeting intends to spur political momentum for SDG 6 implementation and promote water action. Five major topics will be covered at the conference: Water is important

of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation (MoEWRI) has been preparing to attend the conference and also host a side event.

The first UN Water Conference took place in 1977, and the second one will take place in 2023. The conference will put a special emphasis on integrated water resource management and sustainable development in order to achieve social, economic, and environmental goals.

The most recent figures indicate that countries must work four times as quickly on average to reach SDG 6 on time, however, this is a problem that cannot be resolved by one actor or group.

2 billion people globally, or 1 in 4, lack access to clean drinking water. Everyone is impacted by water, so action is required from everyone.

In the four months of the South Asian monsoon and the remaining eight months of the year, Nepal experiences a water shortage. The Department of Hydrology and Meteor-

ology’s rainfall data supports Nepal’s uneven water allocation. With rising flooding in some parts and water scarcity in others, Nepal is extremely sensitive to climate change. A mere 3 percent improvement from 2000, just 27% of the population has access to safely regulated water. Even though 62 percent of the population has access to at least basic sanitation services, access to safely managed sanitation is still limited across the nation.

As a key ministry for the UN 2023 water conference, the Ministry

for a variety of reasons, including i) health; ii) sustainable development; iii) environment; iv) cooperation; and v) the water action decade.

As a key ministry for the UN 2023 water conference, the Ministry

From the perspectives of water and sanitation, water-energy-agriculture, and other uses, Nepal’s Status Paper focused on routes to water security that start with activities and policies connected to other sectors.

Despite being one of the most mountainous nations on earth, Nepal suffers from severe water shortages in several parts of the country. More important than getting clean water is getting enough water for the majority of Nepalese. The majority of people have access to piped water, while 30% still use hand pumps and a fifth still gather water from dangerous boreholes or open sources.

The position paper for Nepal was created by the Ministry with assistance from IWMI Nepal and can balance all the problems that pertain to integrated water management. As a nation vulnerable to water-induced disasters, the conference’s adaption of the resolution is equally crucial.



BEEN

Promoting Hollow Brick

BEEN Project has been launched to facilitate the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and circular building sector.

By KESHABPOUDEL

Many people, including his relatives, were startled when Rajesh Maharjan, a resident of Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC), opted to use hollow clay brick in his new home. Maharjan carried out his decisions with the support of his family, notably his wife Kalpana Shrestha.

As someone who has worked in the development sector for a while, Maharjan selected hollow clay bricks because they are a recent innovation that is less expensive, energy efficient, light in weight, and environmentally beneficial.

The first building made of hollow bricks is Maharjan's three-story multipurpose structure, which is located in Gwarko, Ward No. 9 of the LMC. The newly constructed structure, which is currently in the finishing stages, serves as a model for learning about the cost, benefits, and long- and short-term advantages of using hollow bricks.

Hollow clay brick has a reputation for being a cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and resource-efficient building material.

But no matter how many buildings are built, neither one nor ten will make the product economically viable or considerably aid in the reduction of emissions. A sizable market is required for



mass production. The three tiers of governments must all make policy changes in this building construction area and consumers must be made aware of the hollow brick's strength.

BUILDING Energy Efficiency in Nepal (BEEN), a four-year project funded by the European Union under the SWITCH-Asia Program and led by the University of Innsbruck, Austria in collaboration with MinErgy Pvt Ltd, Nepal, Greentech Knowledge Solutions Pvt Ltd, India, and Asociación Española de Normalización (UNE), Spain, aims to transform the use of brick in Nepal from traditional brick to modern energy efficient

hollow brick.

“Research and tests have previously established the resource-efficiency of hollow Brick. Brick is extensively used all over the world and uses less clay and coal, reducing the production of hazardous pollutants like carbon dioxide. According to studies, a brick with a 15% hollowness can save up to 24% clay and up to 30% fuel. Tubular hollow cavities increase insulation, which helps to lower energy costs for maintaining thermal comfort during building operation. If a room is constructed using hollow bricks rather than solid ones, it is predicted that up

to 5% of the energy used for air conditioning will be saved,” said Suyesh Prajapati, team leader of the BEEN project.

“Hollow brick manufacture and use can drastically save fuel costs for brick entrepreneurs, energy expenses for building occupants, and eventually provide economic benefits to the country. Brick kiln emissions are also reduced by the reduction in coal consumption. In addition to stressing the technical, market, and contributions of hollow bricks to emissions reduction in urban settings, Prajapati noted that their application resulted in a reduction of structural load in the building and a reduction in building construction costs because of its lower weight,” Prajapati added.

Despite having so many benefits, it is not yet a widely used product in Nepal. Hollow brick has yet to enter the market due to a lack of marketing initiatives, proper knowledge of hollow bricks, and government policy.

“Hollow brick provides a lot of advantages. The structural load can be decreased by using hollow bricks. Moreover, it is less expensive than other bricks. The building will consume less ener-

gy to heat and cool because of the hollow brick,” said Maharjan, the homeowner.

From a long time ago, hollow clay bricks have been produced in Nepal, however, the amount of bricks produced has been quite small. Chiribabu Maharjan, the mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan, asserts that he built his home in Sanepa, Lalitpur, in 2014 using hollow bricks. Nonetheless, there is still a very minor gap between the supply and demand for hollow brick—less than 100,000 each year.

The first large-scale commercial manufacture of hollow clay bricks has begun in Nepal after being jointly launched last month at the Hosanna Brick Factory in Harisiddhi by the mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC), Chiri Babu Maharjan, and the ambassador of the European Union to Nepal, Nona Deprez.

With a production capacity of over two million bricks annually, Hosanna Brick Factory is now offering various sizes

of hollow bricks. The factory installs modern types of equipment with an investment of over Rs.20 million. The hollow brick produced by the factory will be availa-



ble in the market as per the demand of consumers.

Of the 100 brick factories in the valley, the Hosanna Brick Factory in Harisiddhi, 10 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu, was chosen to begin commercial production and marketing initiatives. The factory is in charge of the effort to bid goodbye to Nepal’s century-old, emissions-heavy traditional clay brick. The factory is the most qualified candidate to lead, given its 20 years of experience in traditional brick production and promotion.

The manufacturing of 2 million bricks will initially have a minimal impact on the market and would help to reduce emissions, but Nepal produces 5.14 billion bricks on average annually. Annual CO2 emissions from brick manufacture are 1.2 million tons.

Nonetheless, since the brick sector in Nepal is one of the major consumers of coal, any action taken to substitute coal or reduce its use will have a long-term



NATIONAL

positive impact on the environment. A large number of harmful emissions are produced each year by 1340 brick factories in Nepal, which use roughly 504,000 tons of coal and hundreds of tons of biomass.

The event, which was launched in front of elected representatives, government officials from the federal, provincial, and municipal levels, as well as brick producers on January 20, has begun a new chapter in the history of Nepal's brick manufacturing.

The owner of Hosanna Brick Factory, Krishna Awale said that his factory could meet all consumer demands for hollow brick for now.

“Our existing capacity is sufficient to meet market demand. To develop the market for our products, we do, however, need assistance from all levels of government. The federal government ought to change its housing regulations to permit the use of hollow brick in the construction of public structures,” said Awale.

Building Energy Efficiency Nepal (BEEN) Project has launched promotion activities in close collaboration with local levels, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), the Alternative Ener-

gy Promotion Center, NGOs, the Brick Factory and Brick Producer Association.

It is anticipated that the practice of employing the traditional brick and replacing it with hollow brick would change given the broader involvement of different stakeholder groups.

At a time when urbanization is speeding up, the official pro-



motion campaign, which will cover 60 municipalities all over four bio-climatic zones in Bagmati, Lumbini, and Gandaki provinces, was a watershed moment in promoting energy-efficient buildings.

Creating Market

Around 6 billion bricks are needed annually for the Nepalese construction market, but the only options available up until now have been traditional clay bricks, hollow cement blocks, and a few other partition materials. Even the government's policies, rules, and directives place limitations on the use of hollow bricks.

In light of this, hollow brick, which has just entered the

market formally, will need to win over new customers like Maharjan in addition to gaining the support of the Ministry of Urban Development, and the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), Provincial Government, local governments.

Awale, the owner of the factory, believes that a promotion campaign and policy-level action are essential to popularizing the hollow clay brick. He advocated for the necessity to widely broadcast communications outlining the power and advantages of this technology.

Lower pricing, meanwhile, may still draw some buyers. Maharjan, a homeowner, believes that a product's pricing can have a significant impact on the market. Maharjan, despite the reduced production cost, paid a comparable price.

Entrepreneurs asserted, however, that as demand rises, prices will gradually decline. Initially, purchasers will pay the same price as a typical brick due to the early stages of manufacture. Prices should decrease if the company starts producing in large quantities, according to Awale.

Industrialists in the brick industry are more eager to adopt innovations even when the market has not yet been created. President of the Association of Nepalese Brick Industry Shankar Bahadur

Chand stated, “this is a future for us, and we are prepared to switch to hollow brick”. To encourage hollow clay brick, the policies must be changed, though. By changing the regulations at all three tiers of government, the market must provide for us incentives for hollow bricks.

Urbanization in Nepal

In South Asia, Nepal is one of the nations that is urbanizing quickly. Unplanned urban sprawl and haphazard building development have both increased energy usage. The study found that heating and cooling absorb 60% of the energy used in Kathmandu’s modern structures. Building stock has a larger carbon footprint since it is made of materials with a high embodied energy.

According to census figures from 2021, urban regions housed 66.08 percent of the population. If Nepal doesn’t take immediate action to alter the way buildings are built in metropolitan areas, a tremendous amount of energy will be needed.

To promote an energy-efficient urban development that creates safe, green, healthy, and resilient places, BEEN is calling for innovative pledges from new environmentally friendly and cost-effective construction materials like hollow brick, which are highly relevant to Nepal.

“Hollow bricks will be

used to reduce everything. Because hollow bricks require less energy and clay during production, they are environmentally benign. Hollow bricks promote thermal comfort. It keeps the interior walls of the structure warm in the winter and cool in the summer. In order to make the building more earthquake-resistant, hollow brick can be used,” said Prajapati.

In Nepal, bricks are fired using 504,750 tons of coal per year, according to an ICIMOD re-

sues will manifest themselves right away.

Because of the rising cost of coal, brick manufacturers are losing money on investments in traditional brick production. “Several factories might use this new technology if an acceptable hollow brick policy is released. Standard rules and regulations are now missing for the promotion of hollow brick,” claimed Chand.

Hollow Brick, which was first used commercially in Nepal fairly recently and is intended to

help with pollution control, is still a new product. BEEN, a four-year project, will make difference.

The use of hollow brick will significantly help Nepal reach its ambitious goal of zero emissions by 2050, as was outlined in its Nationally Determined Commitment (NDC).

Both load-bearing

and non-load-bearing building can use clay hollow burned bricks. Also, clay hollow bricks have a high level of durability and are widely employed in a variety of appropriate applications, according to Prajapati. “Once people are aware of all the advantages, demand for hollow brick increases. The benefits of brick are currently only known by a small number of individuals, though.”

Customers have no information about hollow clay brick



Entrepreneurs contend that once the speed of construction picks up in the countries and consumers become aware of the cost and strength of the hollow brick, the demand and supply chain is-

port from 2018. The ability of hollow bricks to retain clay and fuel is one of their main advantages. The hollowness determines fuel savings. According to studies, a brick with a 15% hollowness can reduce fuel and clay usage by up to 30% and by up to 24%, respectively.

NATIONAL

because the market is dominated by traditional clay brick and other materials, and they rarely choose the brick because of this ignorance.

“In general, the average cost of a hollow brick is between Rs. 17 which is similar to the traditional brick. It has a different shape but more attractive is a Cube shape. The bricks are durable, thermal,” said Awale.

“In general, a hollow brick costs around Rs. 17, which is comparable to a regular brick. Although it has several shapes, the cube shape is more appealing. The bricks are strong and thermal, according to Awale.

The lack of national standards, a lack of consumer knowledge, and the capacity of the brick industries

present serious obstacles to the marketing of hollow bricks in Nepal, according to Prajapati.

Policies On Hollow Brick

Additionally, according to Prajapati, Nepal lacks norms, directives, and laws. The main prerequisite is the adaption of the national construction code, which emphasizes low-carbon and climate-resilient urban settlement in all municipalities.

According to officials at the Ministry of Urban Development, a federal agency responsible for regulating the quality and

standard of building materials, including brick, the present building codes, building guidelines, and building policies are sufficient to support hollow brick.

“Local governments have jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the creation and enforcement of building codes as well as the specification of requirements for building materials, including hollow brick. Only technical instructions can be issued by the Ministry of



The National Urban Policy mandates the use of environmentally friendly materials in building development, according to Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) spokesperson Pratigya Manandhar. All materials that promote the National Housing Policy are given precedence because its goal is to create a clean, safe, and prosperous urban environment, according to Manandhar.

The National Urban Policy of 2007 outlines the development of a building construction system that is safe, environmentally friendly, and accessible to the general public in Strategy 4.2.9 sub clause 3.2.9 (a).

To develop alternative build-

ing materials and construction technologies, Safe Citizen Housing Implementation Process 2075 encourages technology to research, development, and application while placing a strong emphasis on locally accessible traditional skills and expertise.

Urban Development, according to joint secretary Rajendra Dangal. The building construction handbook advises using lightweight materials while constructing buildings. This refers to the use of clay hollow bricks. The Ministry, however, cannot compel local or provincial governments to utilize a particular brick or materials. The Ministry is enthusiastic about promoting hollow brick because it is an environmentally beneficial and energy-efficient brick that can support Nepal’s objective of zero emissions.

ing materials and construction technologies, Safe Citizen Housing Implementation Process 2075 encourages technology to research, development, and application while placing a strong emphasis on locally accessible traditional skills and expertise.

Despite these provisions, the government has not yet approved the use of hollow brick in the construction of public buildings. “I want the new LMC building to use hollow brick. But DUDBC regulations prevent us,” LMC mayor Chiribabu Maharjan said.

“Hollow brick is cheap, safe, and environmentally beneficial, yet I can’t use it.”

Different opinions are held by Ministry of Urban Development employees. The DUDBC must be consulted and given prior clearance for any local decisions about the materials, according to joint secretary Dangal.

Entrepreneurs in the brick industry contend that a significant change in DUDBC policy is necessary to expand the brick market.

“The construction of public buildings uses a lot of bricks. Awale, a businessman, asserted that adding clay hollow brick to the list of materials will revolutionize the game.

With the transition from conventional Nepali brick to energy-efficient hollow brick, the introduction of hollow brick marked a turning point in Nepal’s history of brick production.

“In addition to Kathmandu, Lumbini Province’s Kapilvastu has also started producing hollow bricks. The production of bricks will also begin at a factory in the Gandaki Province with help from BEEN and in coordination with the Nepalese Brick Industries Association, according to Prajapati.

Hollow bricks are crucial for lowering buildings’ carbon footprints and creating a low-car-

bon, resource-efficient building construction industry in Nepal.

“After participating in activities, I feel inspired. Hollow bricks are utilized all over the world. I’m extremely happy to have representatives from many levels of government and organizations here. The fact that this initiative collaborates with other projects is important to highlight. Instead of overlap or gaps, I’m hoping for synergy, stated Ambassador Nona Deprez.



The department’s deputy director general, Jyoti Joshi, who is in charge of standards and metrology in Nepal, provided an update on the Nepal Standard for hollow bricks. Joshi stated: “The work to compare Nepal Standard to hollow brick has already begun.

Consumers Awareness

The hollow clay brick, which has several benefits for customers in terms of cost, technology, and environmental effects, has to be made more widely known to

consumers.

“To better inform consumers that purchasing this brick is in their long-term best interests as citizens since it affects the quality of the air we breathe and our health, is what is required right now. It all comes down to how well our planet, where we all live, is doing in the end. If we can all contribute in some tiny way to lowering air pollution and harming fuel efficiency, we will all benefit as citizens “in line with Deprez.

Mayor Maharjan, the mayor of LMC, has declared that the city will push for the use of hollow bricks in all new construction. “I will take all necessary actions to enforce the use

of hollow clay brick,” said Mayor Maharjan.

BEEN Project will support the capacity building of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by creating enabling policy and financing environments and increasing market share for energy-efficient and resource-efficient goods and services. BEEN Project has been launched to facilitate the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and circular building sector.

डढेलोढाट बचौं र बचाऔं ।

- सलाई, लाईटरजस्ता प्रज्वलनशील वस्तु बालबालिकाले भेट्ने ठाउँमा नराखौं,
- जंगलमा सलाई तथा लाईटरको प्रयोग नगरौं र गर्ने पर्ने भए सावधानीपूर्वक प्रयोग गरी राम्रोगरी निभाऔं,
- हाम्रो सानो असावधानीले जंगलमात्र होईन आसपासका वस्ती समेत उजाड हुन सक्छन्,
- जन, धन र वनको संरक्षण गरौं,

सचेत बनौं, डढेलोढाट आफू पनि वचौं र अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं ।

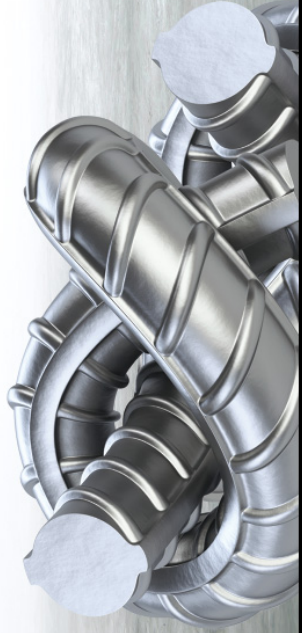


नेपाल सरकार
विज्ञापन बोर्ड

हिमाल स्टील
DUCTYL500D

**मचिषो जति,
बलिषो त्यति**

**बढी
हिमालले सुरक्षित घर बनाउँछ।**



१००% गुणस्तर परीक्षण | लोडशेडिंगमा पनि निरन्तर उत्पादन | ७६ डिपो मार्फत चाहिएको स्थानमा नेपालमरि तरुन्तै डेलिमरी हुने | निर्माणकर्मको पहिलो योजनाई | पारदर्शी वजन र मूल्य



हिमाल आयरन एण्ड स्टील (प्रा.) लि. | ज्योति भवन, १९९ कान्तिपथ, पो.ब.नं. १३३, काठमाडौं | फोन: ४२२५२३०, ४२२६५३० (मार्केटिङ्ग) | फ्याक्स: ४२२६३९४ | www.himalsteel.com.np

NIMB गज्जब ६ मुद्दती खाता

भविष्यका आर्थिक आवश्यकता पूरा गर्न
NIMB को योजना
गज्जब ६

। कसरी बनाइयो ।



थप जानकारीका लागि NIMB को नजिकैको शाखामा सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस् ।



NIMB

नेपाल इन्भेस्टमेण्ट मेगा बैंक लि.
NEPAL INVESTMENT MEGA BANK LTD.

समृद्धिको पथमा सँगै अघि बढ्दै

NEPAL INVESTMENT MEGA BANK LIMITED

www.nimb.com.np | Durbar Marg, Kathmandu | Phone: 01-4242530, 01-4228229 | info@nimb.com.np