



**VIEWPOINT:**  
**Dr. Tilak Rawal**



**OPINION :**  
**Jaideep Mazumdar**



**ENCOUNTER :**  
**Tatiana v. Lechilina**

New

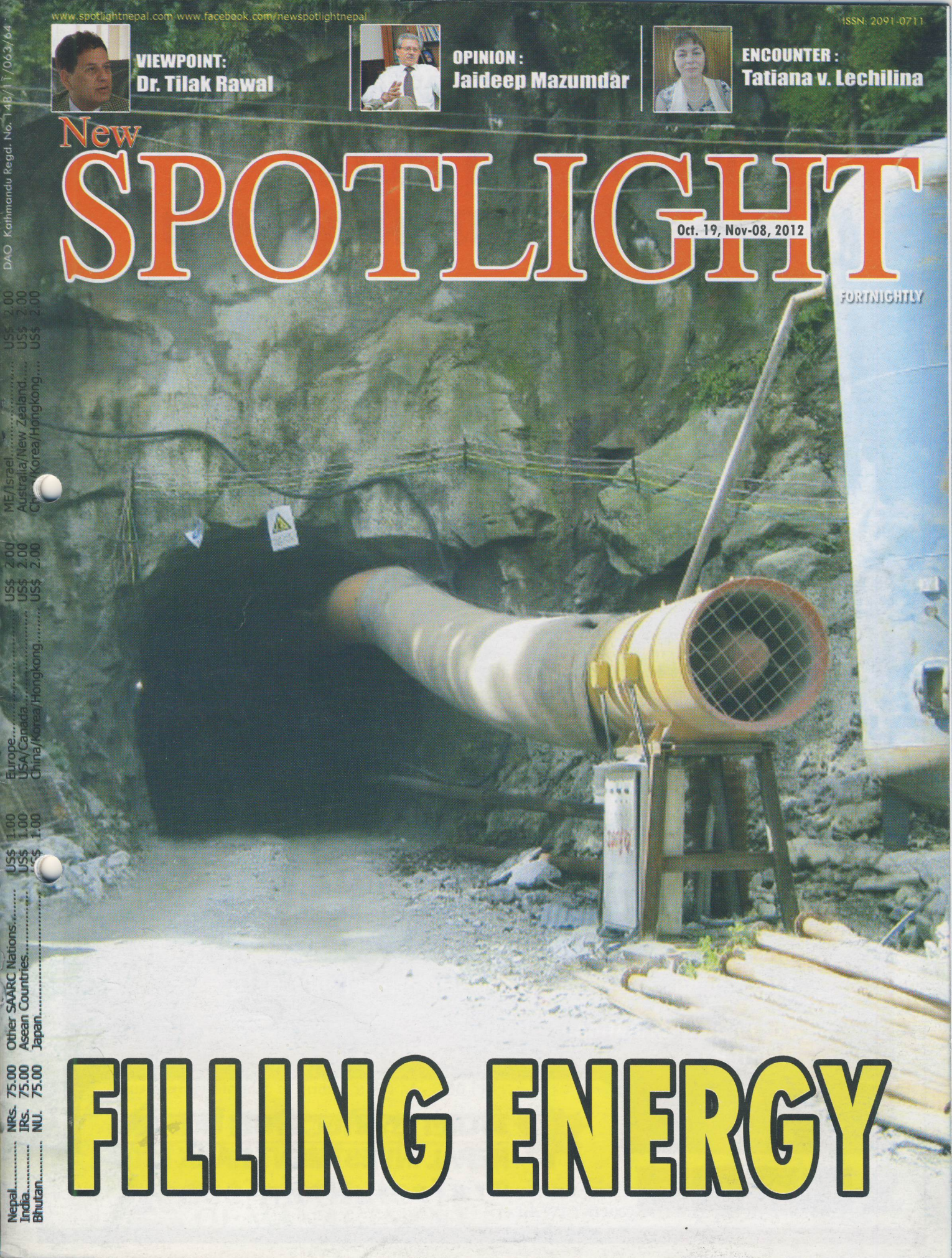
# SPOTLIGHT

Oct. 19, Nov-08, 2012

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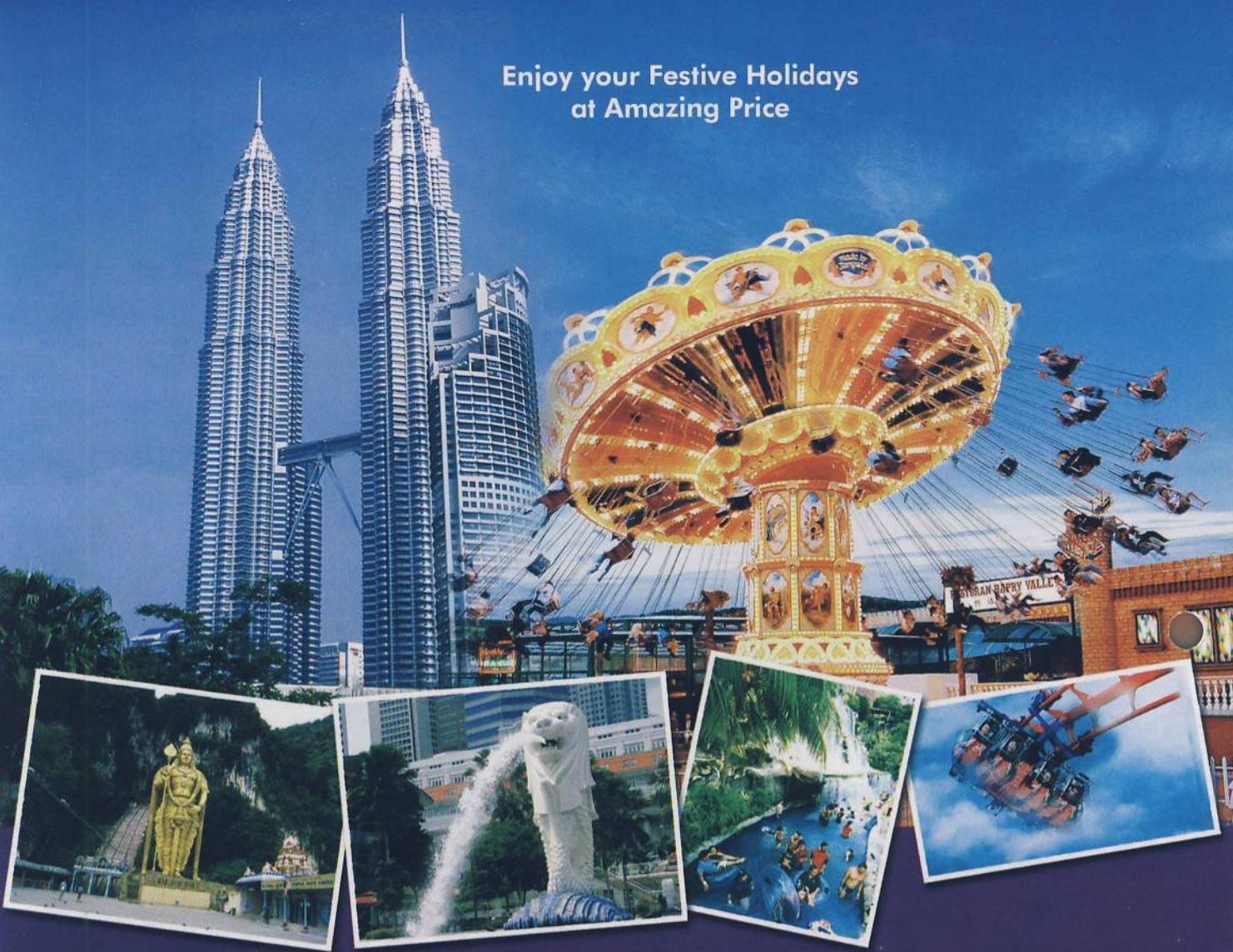
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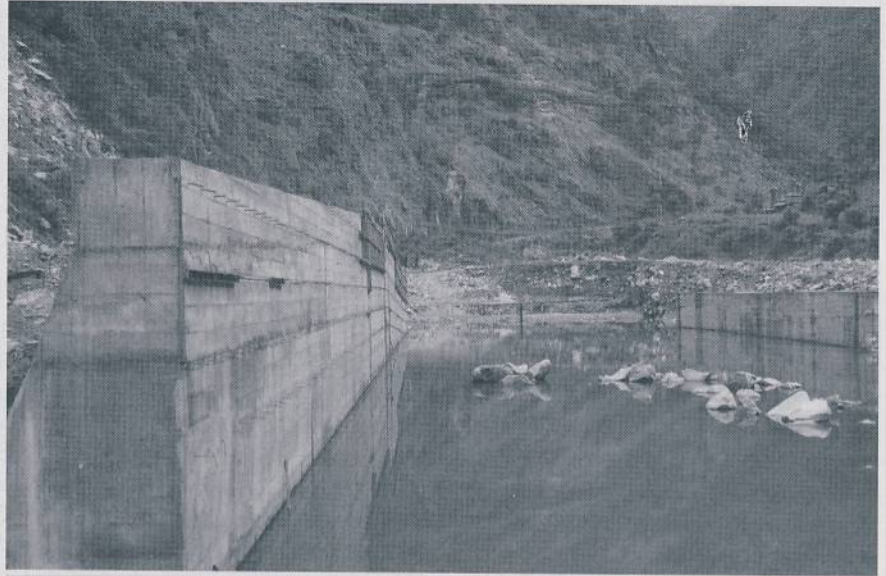


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As we predicted earlier last week, political settlement still remains elusive in the country. Given the current political trend, the nation is unlikely to see the change of guard of the present government any time soon. Whether political leaders hold the elections or revive the CA, Nepal's political instability is likely to continue for some years to come. Although the country has been passing through a series of political instability, Nepal's business leaders organized an international conference of business leaders of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry. This conference helped boost the confidence of international investors. We have covered this and all other contemporary issues of the last fifteen days. However, we decided to make Trishuli 3 A and its issue of Augmentation as the cover story for this issue. We discuss different aspects of augmentation of Trishuli 3 A and its costs and benefits on Nepal's own perspective. All is not well in the country. However, the festive mood of Dashain has already made people jubilant and the market has already surged because of buying spree for the festival. New Spotlight family wishes all its subscribers, patrons, well wishers and readers Happy Dashain 2069.



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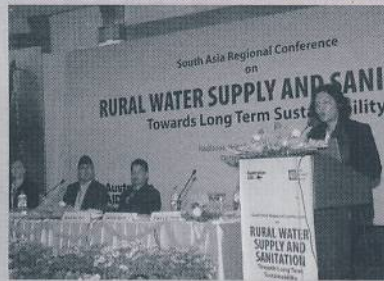


## Experts Discuss Region's Sanitation

Experts, practitioners and policy makers in the field of rural water supply and sanitation in South Asia gathered here recently to share their experiences and knowledge of best practices as well as challenges in implementing rural water supply and sanitation initiatives in the region. They shared their views and insights on critical issues like the long term sustainability of rural water supply schemes, increasing access to sanitation, challenges of declining water quality and quantity, monitoring and evaluation and public-private partnership in rural water supply and sanitation.

"The barriers to better opportunities as a result of lack of access to improved water supply and sanitation are huge; more so, if you are poor, female and live in a rural community," said Tahseen Sayed, the World Bank Country Manager for Nepal.

Chairing the inaugural session of the conference, Kishore Thapa, Secretary at the Ministry of Urban Development, stressed that the government has given top priority as per its national policy to



ensure drinking water supply to all.

Caroline Mills of AusAID highlighted the role of the Australian government in helping developing nations achieve better service delivery of potable water and open defecation free environment with one overriding goal of saving lives.

The three day South Asia Regional Conference on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation was organized by the World Bank in partnership with AusAid. Around 80 high level officials from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as experts and practitioners from Brazil, Vietnam, the Netherlands and the United States of America, participated in the conference.

## Celebrating 20 Years Of Support For Dalit Education

U.S. Ambassador Peter W. Bodde attended a special event organized by the Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO), a leading Dalit rights organization, to celebrate the 20th year of its Nepal Children Scholarship Endowment Program on October 8, 2012.

This program started in 1992 with support from the U.S. Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) with an initial grant of \$600,000.

Of those receiving the support, 1,208 completed secondary education; 217 completed higher education; 145 received scholarships for technical education; and some became doctors and engineers.

## Online Applications For UK Visa

From Monday 15 October 2012, if you are making a UK visa application as a visitor or under the points based system, you need to make this application and your appointment at the visa application centre online.

From this date, the UK Border Agency will not accept applications in these

categories if they have been completed manually.

Online applications and appointments will be mandated for all visitor visa applications, for example for tourism, business or to see family, and applications under Tiers 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the points based system. Please note, applicants will not be required to make settlement visa applications online until a later date.

## WFP Help For Food Security Monitoring

The World Food Program (WFP) signed an Agreement with the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) to transfer and institutionalize the national food security monitoring system under the ownership of the Government of Nepal (GoN).

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System, popularly known as Nepal Khadya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP), has the primary objective of collecting, consolidating and analyzing food

security data to be used by decision makers, allowing them to take coordinated and timely action to alleviate food insecurity in the country. NeKSAP was established in 2002 by WFP and is currently managed in collaboration with MoAD.

"NeKSAP has evolved over time based on strong collaboration between various national institutions," said WFP Deputy Country Director, Nicolas Oberlin.

## Indian Aid For Tanahu School

The Embassy of India, Kathmandu, and the District Development Committee, Tanahun, and Shree Shiva Saraswati Higher Secondary School signed a memorandum of understanding for providing Indian grant assistance of NRs. 22.23 million for the construction of a double storied school building under Nepal-India Economic Cooperation Program. This is the fifth development project in the Tanahun District being undertaken with the Indian assistance under Small Development Projects.

According to an Indian Embassy press release, the project will be implemented by the District Development Committee, Tanahun, in accordance with the existing norms and regulations of the Government of Nepal.

## Sukkot Festival

One of the biggest Jewish festivals, "sukkot" was celebrated in the residence of Hanan Goder Goldberger on 3 Oct, 2012 and 6 Oct, 2012 in which dignitaries from different spheres were invited.

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest, as well as the commemoration of the forty years of Jewish wandering in the desert after Sinai.

Sukkot is a seven-day harvest holiday that arrives during the Hebrew month of Tishrei. It starts four days after Yom Kippur and is followed by Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Sukkot is also known as the Festival of Booths and the Feast of Tabernacles.

## German Embassy Hosted Reception

Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany celebrated German National Day in Kathmandu. German Embassy also hosted a reception on the occasion and chief guest of the program was vice president Parmanna Jha. Senior government officials, dignitaries and foreign diplomats based in Kathmandu attended the reception. Addressing the reception German ambassador to Nepal Frank Meyke highlighted German Nepal relations. ■



## “Government Is Concerned Only About Revenue”

BINOD CHAUDHARY

President of Confederation of Nepalese Industry (CNI) Binod Chaudhary has charged the government with showing more interest to increase the revenues. Addressing the 34th general assembly of Rupandehi Industries Association, Chaudhary said that instead of creating an investment friendly environment, the government is making efforts to set the record in collection of revenues.

In the last few years, all the governments have been trying to increase the annual revenues and they have not cared about



making an investment friendly environment. Because of the government's policy focusing on revenue generation, entrepreneurs are directly and indirectly in trouble. Due to political instability and frequent changes in the government, less than 25 percent development budget is spent. Despite announcement of the Investment Year, there is no environment for Investment.

Due to failure to promulgate the new constitution and political uncertainty, it is almost certain that the Investment Year is just turning into a mere slogan. As long as the government does not give priority to the economic sector, no transformation can materialize.

Due to the government policy, Nepal failed to achieve economic progress, he said, urging the government to bring Industrial Act through ordinance to implement the special economic zone program. In the one year time, the prices of Solar and Hydro Power is going to be similar, the government has to give priority to the solar power to end the prolonged load-shedding in the country. The private sector is ready to work with the government.

## Top ADB Official Reiterates Support

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will continue to work closely with the Government of Nepal in helping to reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth for all Nepalis, said Juan Miranda, Director-General of ADB's South Asia department at the end of his two-day visit to Nepal.

Miranda said that he has been following developments in Nepal with keen interest. “ADB appreciates that Nepal has maintained steady economic growth and macroeconomic stability despite challenging conditions,” he said.

Miranda stressed the importance of staying the course on economic reforms and development to address poverty and other development challenges as well as achieve higher economic growth.

Miranda also discussed the Melamchi Water Supply Project with the Government. “We had a productive discussion with the Ministry of Urban Development on the specific actions to move forward, including the smooth settlement with the

outgoing contractor, and swift selection of an internationally reputed, committed and dedicated contractor who can deliver high quality infrastructure in a timely and efficient way,” he added.

## India Offers Help To Overcome Power Crisis

India has offered Nepal help in mitigating its power crisis, saying the two nations could work together in the field of non-conventional sources of energy to overcome the electricity shortage.

“India is ready to extend help to Nepal to mitigate its energy crisis,” Indian Ambassador Jayant Prasad said at a symposium on Alternate Energy, organised by the Indian Embassy. The two neighbouring countries can work together in partnership in non-conventional sources of energy as well to get rid of the current power shortage, he said.

On the occasion, a representative from Kirloskar Brother Ltd, India, made a presentation on how a country like Nepal, which is blessed with thousands of rivers and rivulets can benefit by using Pump as Turbine (PAT) system in a small scale.

## Book Released

SAWTEE and South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) launched a book titled Regional Economic Integration: Challenges for South Asia during turbulent times amidst a function recently.

The book launch program commenced with Madhu Raman Acharya, Executive Director, SACEPS, delivering his welcome speech. The book is edited by Dr. Saman Kelegama of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Colombo, and Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Puspa Sharma and Paras Kharel of SAWTEE.

Chief Guest of the program was Lal Mani Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies.



Prof. Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, provided critical comments on the book. Similarly, Dhan B. Oli, Director, SAARC Secretariat, remarked that this book should serve as a clarion call for redoubling the efforts towards achieving enhanced regional integration in South Asia. Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE, who chaired the program, also spoke about the need to strengthen regional trade.

## Banks Mulling Housing Loan

With the financial system enjoying a healthy liquidity position, a growing number of commercial banks are considering housing loan as a way to expand their lending portfolio. Some of the commercial banks have already rolled out different schemes to sell their housing loan products, while others are in the process of following suit.

Taking advantage of the festive season, banks have lowered interest rate in the range of 10-12 percent. Considered as one of the safest products, home loan is extended to individuals based on their regular incomes. ■



# President's Confusion



**DR. TILAK RAWAL**

President Ram Baran Yadav must be in a very confused state while watching the erratic behavior of the major political parties regarding forging consensus to clear the current political stalemate. Party leaders appear very serious a day or two after their meeting with him, showing conciliatory gesture, which is soon followed by blame game so popular amongst them. Unhappy at the repeated failure of party leaders to reach consensus, President Yadav invited leaders of twenty one parties represented in the dead CA for interaction on the last day of September. Urging leaders to set a deadline for reaching consensus on the future political course, the President also signaled in a sober way that he would not remain a silent spectator in the event of leaders failing to forge consensus, despite repeated promises.

As usual, the political parties assured him that they would reach consensus on all issues by mid-October. As in the past, Prachanda, in his capacity as the chair of the largest political party, took the initiative to see leaders of major parties such as Koirala and Khanal and whatever was thrown for mass consumption made people hopeful that something nice was happening towards forging consensus. This did not, however, last long as twists and turns have again found a dominant place in their initially unconditional-sounding commitments to forge consensus.

A seemingly confused and unhappy President has indicated again that he will not remain a spectator to the crisis after mid-October. Parties are taking turns in floating proposals with lots of strings attached to them. The issue of CA revival has again assumed prominence, especially after Prachanda's proposal along this line to Nepali Congress. This proposal has come at a time when people thought the parties were done with this, in view of their earlier decision, despite persistent sharp division in both NC and UML over this issue. Prachanda has also stated publicly that resurrection of the CA and not holding fresh election is the best option to clear the current stalemate.

This flexibility of Prachanda has surprised NC stalwarts, amongst others, even those canvassing support for resurrection of CA. Political pundits belonging to different parties argue that Prachanda is trying to avoid election at a time when he is poised to receive a major threat from no other than the recently formed CPN Maoist led by Kiran. There is some sense behind the argument that the split has weakened his party and Prachanda needs time to weaken his rivals for which he needs resurrection of CA. What cannot, however, be ignored is the fact that almost all the major political parties are skeptical about their electoral fate because people, given an alternative,

will not easily vote for them in the current circumstances. Intra-party wrangling and desertions, if not resolved properly, will cost NC and UML as much as the split in case of the Maoist party.

No matter how much we doubt his intention, Prachanda's proposal to resurrect CA and leave the contentious issues to be resolved by the new parliament has surprised even his rivals who suggested more or less this line before the CA dissolution. If elections are at all held, individuals with clean credentials will be chosen and the party led by Kamal Thapa (RPP, Nepal) is likely to make some electoral gains. Commoners have been profusely confused by our leaders time and again and it now appears that they haven't succeeded in confusing also the President who has been seeing how the self-given deadlines are broken, the newest being the mid-October one. Some leaders have also succeeded in dividing people along ethnic lines, creating a battle

**Commoners have been profusely confused by our leaders time and again and it now appears that they haven't succeeded in confusing also the President who has been seeing how the self-given deadlines are broken, the newest being the mid-October one. Some leaders have also succeeded in dividing people along ethnic lines, creating a battle ground for the poor people to hurt themselves.**

ground for the poor people to hurt themselves. Far-western region of Nepal, inhabited by the poorest Nepalis, suffered a lot in the recent past due to clash between indigenous Tharus and those from the hills: Tharus wanting a separate

state for them and the latter protesting hard for an intact region. The region, where dozens of people starve to death and cholera takes a heavy toll on them every year, suffered a lot in the past when it was brought to a standstill for more than a month by the supporters of intact Far-west. As if the injuries inflicted on the poor there were not enough, DPM Gachchhadar in a recent political gathering in Kailali vowed to sever the two districts (Kailali and Kanchanpur) from the region, setting ablaze the flame of racial conflict that had almost extinguished. This was highly unbecoming of a person of Gachchhadar's stature and political experience, which infuriated people who virtually chased him away from the area. No less worrisome is the decisions of CPN-Maoist to restrict Indian vehicles from entering Nepal, ban on screening Indian films and indication by the party that they could form an army of their own. Formation of the National People's Volunteers by the party soon after the completion of integration into Nepal Army of former Maoist combatants is also looked at with lots of confusion and skepticism.

While summoning our leaders to break the political stalemate next time around, Mr. President, ask them to do something about the deteriorating condition of common Nepalis. Economy has been totally ignored all these years and workers' remittance has been the lifeline of our economy kept on ventilator since long. People facing scarcity of drinking water, electricity, cooking gas etc are faced with double digit



inflation, more than 11 percent, during festival time when even low income people tend to eat and cloth themselves well. Economic theories and principles do not apply in case of our economy. For example, talking of the external sector of the economy and its sensitiveness to exchange rate fluctuation, it is observed that our international trade is inelastic to fluctuations in the value of our currency because when our currency sharply depreciated against US\$ and remained constant with Indian currency, being pegged, in the recent past, more goods from here should have flown to the west to fetch better returns and imports from India should have accelerated on cost grounds. This did not happen, indicating that problems of structural nature have chained our economy so hard that changes here and there cannot make it move. In South Asia, we have the war-torn Afghanistan to look at and derive some solace because they are not doing well either, and on the corruption front, we are engaged in a battle to assume the position of the most corrupt nation in this region. All other South Asian nations are doing much better than us.

Worthy of mention is the case of Bhutan that has maintained a remarkable balance between modernity and tradition. While physical infrastructure work is progressing, utmost care is taken to prevent environmental degradation. A low carbon economy, Bhutan wants only quality tourists in and is on the way to doing away with application of chemical fertilizers. Even if we fail to learn good things from Bhutan, we will definitely be flocking in large number into Bhutan to get a breath of fresh air and to try organically grown food there. Chinese are worried that their economy is slowing down, Indians are trying hard to achieve a growth rate higher than the expected six percent, Europeans, suffering setbacks after setbacks, are trying hard to push reforms amidst political chaos and Obama administration in the US is happy that the sickening unemployment level is going down but who do we have here to worry about our stagnated economy that has not been given even a full-fledged budget? Mr. President, will you?

*Dr. Rawal is former Governor of NRB*

## POLITICS

## At A Standstill

*Given the present political scenario, any major breakthrough is unlikely before Dashain and Tihar festivals*

By A CORRESPONDENT

Desperate from and tired of listening to the pledges and words of political leaders, president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav finally lashed out at the leaders of political parties who failed to find any solution even after holding several rounds of bilateral and multi-lateral discussions among themselves.

Even four months after the announcement of the elections, political parties are yet to decide whether to go for fresh elections or revive the Constituent Assembly. A

group of over 200 former CA members even organized a meeting to lobby for the CA revival. Changing stands one after another, political leaders are making the situation full of confusion and uncertainty. Finally, president Dr. Yadav has opened his mouth.

"Political parties need to reach a 'package deal' on all issues, including the formation of a new all-party government, declaration of the election date, modality of election and the appointment of heads in different constitutional bodies to resolve the long-standing political impasse," he said.

Asserting his constitutional role and hinting at the possibility that he could intervene in the political process, president Dr. Yadav said, "The Interim Constitution has stated that there will be a president, whose prime duty would be to safeguard the constitution. Abide by the constitution. What does it mean to safeguard the constitution now? I should burn incense sticks and pray on the book or safeguard the country," he asked.

Whatever the warning the president issues, it is not going to make any difference in the current political scenario. As prime minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and UCPN-Maoist leader Prachanda know the constitutional and political limits of the president, they have ignored president Dr. Yadav's plea.

"I am not going to resign without the formation of an all-party government. I know the president too is aware about his constitutional role and obligation," said prime minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, addressing a press conference.

By taking two controversial decisions, namely, promoting Col Raju Basnet and Nepal Police chief despite opposition from the international and national human rights groups, prime minister

Dr. Baburam Bhattarai is cultivating two important constituencies of the state. In case of a power tussle with the president, the army and police forces are going to

be major factors in what happens next. Nepal's neighbor India and even western countries, including the US, despite their unlinking of present government's certain decisions, including to promote the two accused human rights offenders, bet on Dr. Bhattarai.

At a time when two main opposition parties, Nepali Congress and CPN-UML, are internally bitterly divided on political agenda and selecting the unanimous candidate for prime minister, Dr. Bhattarai doesn't see any challenger for him.

After desertion by the Janjati leaders, CPN-UML has lost certain strength and the revolt by former members of CA against the party's decision to go for fresh poll has further weakened its base. Nepali Congress leaders are bitterly divided on the questions of next government leadership and the revival of CA. Demand of Congress leader Sujata Koirala to join the current government has created more confusion.

It is almost certain that Nepal's prolonged political instability will continue for some more time to come. ■





# Compromise For Power?



By YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

It was quite unusual when most ministers and politicians, along with Vice President Paramananda Jha and Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai, showed up at a reception hosted by General Gaurav Shumsher Rana to celebrate his elevation as the Chief of the Nepal Army in the second week of September. With the tussle between the President and the Prime Minister and its political fallout looming large, it was only natural for Bhattarai to be on the right side, although he spared no occasion in the past to humiliate and defame the Nepal Army. As the Prime Minister, he continues to block the supply of arms from India, for regular training and professional purposes of the NA.

Bhattarai tried to extract some political advantage for the Maoist combatants when Gen. Chhatraman Singh Gurung was the army chief. Bhattarai had to depend on the Nepal Army and deploy its personnel when his own combatants sort of 'revolted' against the leadership. Is Bhattarai's change of attitude towards the Nepal Army an outcome of his change of heart? Or, something dictated by necessity? After all, the Unified

Communist Party led by Prachanda and Bhattarai have all through been consistent—even after their joining the peace process—that after the Monarchy, the Nepal Army, the Judiciary and the Media must be either dismantled, or turned into pliable instruments, so that the capture of the state power would become a smoother affair.

President Ram Baran Yadav does not seem to be somebody with the courage to act against unethical and unconstitutional continuation of Bhattarai in power, but the fact that the President, as per the constitution, is also its guardian, is enough for him to send the chill down the spines of Prime Minister Bhattarai, who has not concealed his ambition to stick to the post indefinitely and illegally. Apart from that, the President also happens to be the Supreme Commander of the Nepal Army, and that equation will always make any unpopular and megalomaniac Prime Minister nervous. Bhattarai's presence in the Army quarters for Gen. Rana's reception should be analyzed in this context. And the recent promotion of Raju Basnet to the rank of Brigadier General, something the prime Minister himself had stalled a few times in the past, is no less significant. Has the army become stronger? Or, the Prime Minister weaker? Or, is Bhattarai stooping to conquer? They are natural questions in the current context.

Moreover, it is the time, Nepal army has been accepted as the most dependable state bearing institution in the absence of the Monarchy that was removed illegally, based on the resolution moved by a 'Minister' who had lost the mandate of

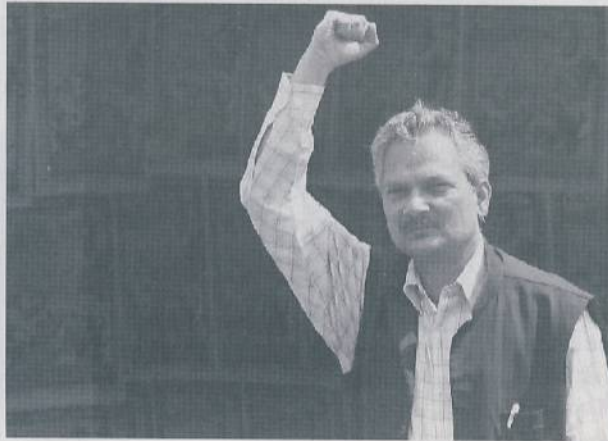
the people, and had no right to even enter the Constituent Assembly as per the constitution. Nor had G.P. Koirala—given the fact that he had not taken the fresh oath of office and secrecy after the election to Parliament cum constituent assembly, the right to enter the House as the Prime Minister. All that was done in a haste, to demoralize mainly the Nepal Army, and also to issue a message to the judiciary that they should be answerable to the new political bosses, and for that, no norms or constitutional niceties or due processes were required. Big democracies like UN, India, US, UK or the Scandinavian countries, promptly endorsed the norm-less parliamentary coup and recognized that whatever their ally—Maoists and the Nepali Congress — did should be accepted as valid.

But in the days and months and years that followed, Maoists' real intentions stood exposed. They have been consistently destroying or trying to destroy all the institutions without creating any legitimate alternative with an objective to transfer the power of the state (or those institutions) to the party. The Monarchy was removed in a haste as the army, the judiciary and all other institutions had to turn to the new 'revolutionary' force for patronage, in the absence of the firmly established and deeply entrenched institution.

The Election Commission is going to be without its officiating Chief Commissioner next month, while the other remaining two commissioners will retire in the coming two months. Bhattarai knows he can continue in power only without election, and the election will not be possible without the Chief and other commissioners. Both Prachanda and the Prime Minister's wife, besides some other senior leaders of the Party, have been accused of minting money. The Prime Minister has provided immunity to them by not constituting the Commission of Inquiry Into the Abuse of Authority (CIAA).

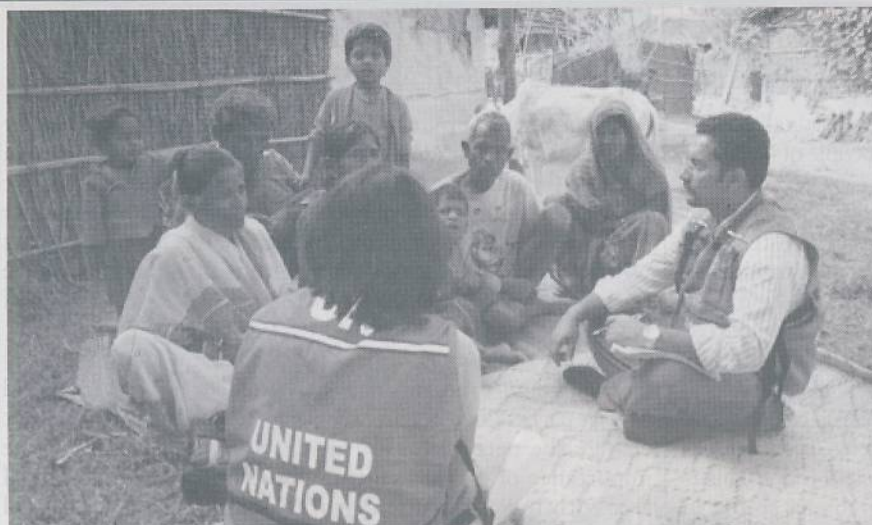
What the guardian possibly needs to do is to solicit support of the Big political parties at least and entrust the Chief Justice or any retired, credible Chief Justice, to head a probe commission into all these corrupt deeds. Even the Civil society leaders can form a citizens' probe to make these leaders, who are plundering the nation, accountable.

But the politics in the country has all been about power. Maoists have sized up the NC and UML leaders and their greed for power. And the Civil Society leaders are no less power hungry. But where the Maoists have failed so far is to get the Nepal Army as an institution in the trap of their greed and power equation. That is what makes Bhattarai adopt a new tactic vis-à-vis the Nepal Army ■



PM Bhattarai





Collecting evidence on right abuse

File Photo

## OHCHR REPORT

# Right or Wrong?

*Despite Nepal government's efforts to block the report, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published its report on Nepal*

By A CORRESPONDENT

Seven years after the signing of the peace process and conclusion of violent Maoist armed conflict, the Geneva-based Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published its report on the Maoist conflict in Nepal. The last minute effort of Nepal government to stall the conflict mapping report failed and the report is now public.

Many people involved in the Maoist conflict in one or the other way, however, have already joined the political mainstream and have become ministers and prime ministers, how the conflict mapping report will help to heal the wounds of the victims of conflict remains to be seen.

At a time when UCPN-Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda and senior leader Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, under whose orders and command, the 12-year long deadly conflict was fought, became prime ministers and most of the UCPN-Maoist leaders who were directly or indirectly involved in human atrocities got the cabinet berths, the OHCHR mapping report is likely to raise more questions over the legitimate security personnel of the state.

"It is unfortunate that human rights activists are raising the right violation

issues criticizing some senior officials of Nepal Army and Nepal Police. However, they are not raising any concern on rights violators who became ministers and prime ministers," said Rajendra Bahadur Thapa, retired brigadier of Nepal Army.

The report was published on the day the final batch of Maoist combatants were integrated in the Nepal Army. However, the government is yet to bring two separate transitional justice bills related to Truth and Reconciliation and Commission on Disappearance.

As the OHCHR report on Nepal's 10-year conflict archives over 20,000 documents related to human rights violations, the government's recent decision to give pardon to hundreds involved in human rights atrocities is now under international surveillance.

Prepared by a team of international experts, the 300-page report profiles a number of serious "human rights and international humanitarian law violations" by both the then CPN-Maoist and security forces during the 1996-2006 insurgency. The government has rejected the report outright, questioning its credibility and sources of information. Accusing the OHCHR of "crossing its

mandate," it says no government entity or official was involved in the preparation of the report.

However, the OHCHR believes that the publication of the report will help Nepal in its pursuit of truth and justice and in ending impunity.

The report released by UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) chronicles some 30,000 documents and cases of the insurgency-era human rights violations. The report documents and analyzes the major categories of conflict-related violations of human rights law and international humanitarian laws that took place from February 1996 to November 21, 2006.

"The Report aims to assist the government of Nepal, the future transitional justice commissions, the National Human Rights Commission and civil society to advance transitional justice, combat impunity and enable the conflict's many victims to obtain justice," said Hanny Megally, who heads the Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa Branch at the OHCHR, in a video conference from Geneva.

The report implicates some 9,000 individuals or groups and comes in the wake of government registering strong reservations arguing that the move could seriously jeopardize the ongoing peace process.

Divided in 11 chapters, the report provides an overview and objectives of the report in the first chapter. While the second chapter deals with the historical context of the Maoist conflict, the third chapter presents information on conflict-era institutional structure and chain of command relevant to the investigation of alleged violations or abuses. It chronicles separately the human rights violations perpetrated by then Royal Nepalese Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [present day UCPN (Maoist)] in the fourth chapter.

Likewise, the report deals with applicable international laws on the incidents of human rights violation, cases of unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrests, sexual violence and accountability, and the rights to an effective remedy in the succeeding chapters. The concluding chapter makes a range of recommendations addressed to all major stakeholders in the Nepali transitional justice process. ■



## 'Indian Policy Hurts Nepal'

By PAMPHA BHUSHAL



Our first phase of protest to safeguard the national interest received a wide support. We want to thank people of Nepal for agreeing to defend the country's interest. Our recent move against blocking the entry of Indian registered vehicles is not directed to any country. It is taken to defend the interest of Nepal. We have already made it clear that Indian government's expansionist and hegemonic policy hurts the Nepalese people. This is the reason a large number of people supported our campaign. The banning on vehicles with Indian number plates and screening of "vulgar Indian movies" all over Nepal raised consciousness of Nepalese people towards nationalism. The party decided to ban Indian plate vehicles as India does not allow vehicles with Nepali number plates in India. This is unfair. We should not allow Indian-plate vehicles to ply in Nepal until India allows Nepali vehicles.

The TSC proactively went ahead of the CPN-Maoist in implementing the party policy. These are some of the issues that we raised in our 70-point demands. Our politburo has already taken a decision in this regard.

On September 5, the CPN-Maoist had submitted their 70-point demand, including a ban on the entry of Indian vehicles and the screening of Hindi movies, to Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai.

As I have mentioned, the decision to ban the vehicles with Indian number plates was taken with an aim to promote economic development based on national independence, protection to local employment opportunities, utilization of Nepali investment and in view of obstruction on the operation of Nepal's transportation means in India. We don't have any enmity with the people of India and transporters. Our aim is solely guided to defend the rights of Nepali film producers and transport entrepreneurs.

The decision of our party to ban Indian films that defame and disrespect Nepal and Nepalis, promote obscenity and spread cultural pollution has wide support. The CPN-Maoist has banned Hindi movies and music in the ten districts of 'Tamsaling' and we will call a nationwide ban, if necessary. We have not forced anybody and it is very encouraging that it is a bid to safeguard national sovereignty.

Preventing all Indian-registered vehicles from entering Nepal and all cinema halls from screening Hindi movies means to develop a self-reliant national economy, protect employment opportunities for Nepali people, secure Nepali investment and ease the difficulties facing Nepali vehicles in India.

We are against only those Hindi movies that hurt the sentiments of Nepali people or undermine the notion of Nepaliness. However, since we can't figure out which Hindi movies are against Nepal and Nepali people, we will impose a blanket ban on all films.

We can form an independent mechanism later to censor anti-Nepal Hindi movies after consulting all stakeholders. CPN-Maoist aims to prohibit all cable channels from screening 'anti-Nepal or vulgar' Hindi movies, songs and programs in the long run. But, we won't target the cable channels immediately as we now lack an efficient mechanism for censoring television content. The ban on the entry of vehicles with Indian number plates is to create pressure for the easy entry of Nepali vehicles into India.

*Bhusal is Maoist Central Committee Member. As told to New Spotlight.*



## 'People Want No Harm To India'

By RAJENDRA MAHATO

I am very happy that Vaidya-led Maoist group finally withdrew their tirade against Nepal's close neighbor India because they did not find anyone to support their act. Except a few hardcore political sympathizers, an overwhelming number of Nepalese rejected their anti-Indian stand. This showed that Nepalese are now matured enough to realize the importance of economically giant India in the overall development of Nepal.

I don't think any political party can gain any mileage by harping on anti-Indian slogans. The recent act of Vaidya led Maoist party is also not an exception. Terror and threat cannot change the perception of Nepalese people who know the importance of Nepal's cultural, religious and geographical ties with India. Because of unreasonable act of Vaidya led Maoist party, Nepalese traders, and tourism entrepreneurs have lost a billion or so rupees and the shutdown of cinema halls has badly damaged the business. Instead of harming India, Vaidya's act harmed the interest of Nepalese people.

It is very unfortunate that Nepal's communist parties always play with the sentiments of people living in Madhesh. Banning Hindi movies and Indian-registered number plates from entering Nepal, they have badly hurt the sentiments of Madheshis. We consider this is a threat against us. If they continue this kind of act in the coming days, people in Madhesh will retaliate against such act. India is our close neighbor with whom we have roti and beti relations. Hindi is a common language in Madhesh. The Maoist party must stop this kind of hatred against a particular country with which Nepal has historically strong relations. What happens if people from other side of the border take such a decision. Nepalese will starve without food.

Due to threat and terror, they forced people to shut down the cinema. Because of their physical threat, Indian registered vehicles too avoided entry into Nepal. It is the only insane people who can support and commit this kind of political propaganda against neighboring country like India. What I find in the message of the people against Vaidya led Maoist and other anti-Indian groups is that people will not support them and they have to change their redundant old perception that one need to be anti-Indian to be a nationalist. In the context of globalization, Nepal cannot remain in isolation and I don't think Vaidya faction will be able to harm Nepal-India relations.

Whether one likes it or not, India is Nepal's important friend and neighbor. We rely for everything on it. Following the stalling of Indian vehicle movements in Nepal, the prices of essential commodities have gone up many folds. There is a scarcity of essential commodities. Similarly, Nepal's entertainment industry is badly suffering in the last two weeks. The blockade of Indian registered vehicles to Nepal also stopped Indian tourists and pilgrims, who come to worship at religious shrines, including Pashupatinath. Vaidya must understand that Pashupatinath is the only Hindu temple where every Hindu has the right to come to visit irrespective of their citizenship. Blocking Indian pilgrimage, Vaidya group has committed a religious crime. By rejecting the call of Vaidya group, people have shown that they are not interested to harm the good and friendly relations with India. This is the message for all the anti-Indian forces in Nepal.

*Mahato is president of Sadbi awana Party. As told to New Spotlight.*





## CACCI CONFERENCE

# Opening Opportunity

By DEBESH ADHIKARI

Nepal has been struggling to lure foreign investment, but the team led by Suraj Vaidya, president of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries, has proved that they can change the game. In a gathering of over 100 international business groups from Asia and the Pacific region, Vaidya explored the opportunity for the foreigner investors to invest in Nepal. At a time when Nepal Investment Year 2012 has nearly elapsed without succeeding to bring any new investment, the Conference of Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) gave a sigh of relief.

Over 100 foreign investors from 21 various countries of Asia Pacific region got a good opportunity to know the investment potential, opportunities and regulatory process of Nepal. Although foreign investment is not a matter of overnight business, it will take a pretty long time to materialize the commitments made by the international investors in the CACCI conference. One of the important parts of the conference is that it was able to disseminate the message to the foreign investors that Nepal's industrial policy is investment friendly and Nepal's industrial environment is conducive, despite

prolonged political instability.

When Suraj Vaidya contested the elections for the FNCCI president, many expected that his personality and capability would bring much needed change. By organizing CACCI conference, Vaidya proved it.

With investors announcing investment commitments in a number of sectors such as hydroelectricity, agriculture and food processing, the three-day regional conference of Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) concluded.

"I am investing US\$ 5 million in Nepal's hydropower sector," announced Ambassador Benedict V Yujuico, a Filipino investor and president of CACCI. His investment, according to Yujuico, would come in Upper Mai Hydroelectric Project (9.98 MW), which is being developed by High Himalaya Hydro Company.

Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, former president of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) said the two sides are yet to sign a formal deal.

Similarly, investors from Taiwan and South Korea also announced that they would make investment in agricultural

and tourism sectors, respectively. Top businessmen of the region, who gathered in Kathmandu for the 26th conference of CACCI, admitted there were structural problems in Nepal's hydropower sector.

"But still we want to make the investment and become part of the country's development," said Yujuico, who has invested in countries like the USA, Singapore and the Philippines. Yujuico even appealed to all the investors attending the conference to invest in Nepal.

FNCCI officials said numerous Nepali entrepreneurs have received strong commitments from investors from South Korea and Taiwan for new investments. "We had appealed to the business leaders from Taiwan to invest in food processing and packaging industry," said FNCCI President Suraj Vaidya. "Their responses have been positive."

FNCCI also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Chinese International Economic Cooperation, Taiwan and Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (ICCIA) aiming to lure more investment from the respective countries. "These MoUs will lead us to more cooperation and communication and ultimately new investment," Vaidya stated.

The discussion at the conference had revolved around specific sectors such as hydro, construction, alternative energy, small and medium enterprises, tourism, health and education, among others. Around 300 business leaders from 21 countries across the region participated in the conference.

CACCI, held from October 4-6, was able to inject a new hope in foreign investment sector. After holding the conference, Vaidya proved that he is the right man in the right time.

"Investors from the Asia-Pacific region got the first hand information on the real situation in Nepal. We received a very strong interest from business leaders to invest in Nepal. Some of them even declared their immediate investment plans. However, the investors also expressed concerns over some of the legal framework, particularly on protection of foreign direct investment (FDI). In a nutshell, the conference was successful and responses from investors were very encouraging. But we must understand that getting investment from abroad is a long process," said Vaidya. ■



# 'Hydropower Priority For Investment'

TATIANA V. LECHILINA

Tatiana v. Lechilina, deputy director of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, was recently in Kathmandu. Leading the Russian team in CACCI conference, she spoke to NEW SPOTLIGHT on various issues.

**How do you see the possibility of Russian investment in Nepal?**

There are immense possibilities to lure Russian investment in Nepal. Given Nepal's position between two economic giants, Russians can invest in Nepal. One of the important things about Russia and Nepal is that they have had good relations at all times. Many Nepalese who get education from the Soviet Union are now constructing roads and running hospitals in Nepal. These Nepalese who can speak Russian are assets to lure Russian investment. Nepalese have also been helping Russia. Many Nepalese who live in Russia are now investing in Nepal. For instance, Upendra Mahato, Jiba Lamichane, both of them are playing important role in organizing non-residential Nepalis. They can play an important role in bringing Russian investment in Nepal.

It is a fact that Nepal and Russia always shared good relations at political level and Russia has no differences with Nepal on several international agenda. Nepal supports Russia.

In business sector, our relations are very good as leaders of business and trade are visiting each other's country. Last year, a high level delegation of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Russia and opened a road to expand trade relations between the two countries. The delegation also signed an MoU with our chamber and discussed with industrialists and investors in Russia. This business delegation came to Nepal to pay the return visit. Such exchange of visits will help to improve the bilateral trade as well as help to increase the investment in Nepal. During our meeting with the leaders of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, we have discussed the way to disseminate the information regarding the areas of investment in Nepal. One of the aims of our visit is to get firsthand knowledge on investment opportunities for investment available in Nepal. As Russian business communities know very little about Nepal and we want to gather the information as much as possible from Nepal. They don't know economic, political situation, export possibility, monetary policy and Nepal's needs. For instance, what Nepal wants to import from Russia.

We are here not only to present ourselves but to get as much information about Nepal. I am sure that after our delegation returns to Russia our business groups will have adequate information to analyze the situation in Nepal. With the information, they will be able to decide the areas for investment in Nepal and areas for exporting Russian goods. I do hope that the visit will pave the way in enhancing the trade relations between the two countries.

**In which areas are Russians interested to invest in Nepal?**

Hydropower will be our first priority for investment because we have the technology as well as money to invest. Similarly, there is market for hydro power within Nepal and export.

Agriculture will be another important sector for investment. We want to share our agro-technology with Nepal so that Nepal's agriculture production grows. Tourism is another sector where Nepal can make a lot of gain. For this Nepal can campaign in Russia for tourism. Along with Russian climbers, there are lots of other Russian tourists who are interested to see cultural parts of Nepal. We can also help to construct the road. Russian can invest in the roads and cement factories.

**How do you see the present level of trade?**

It is very sad that Russia-Nepal trade is very low, despite the possibility to increase the trade. There is the need to increase the exchange of business mission and business delegation. Participation in fair and exhibition will also contribute to enhance our mutual friendship. ■



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of  
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YEAR	DEPOSIT	LOAN	TOTAL INCOME	OPERATING PROFIT	NET PROFIT
1st	528	516	27	10	2.80
2nd	1178	983	94	27	14.27
3rd	1788	1410	193	57	32.49
4th	1894	1711	264	63	36.01
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## NRN DAY

# Call For Investment

*Although some NRNs living in different parts of the world started to invest in Nepal, the amount is still too little*

By A CORRESPONDENT

After uniting all the Nepalese living in different parts of the world and coming to invest in Nepal in various sectors, founding chair of NRN Association Upendra Mahato has shown where NRN can contribute to uplift Nepal by using their expertise.

The current president of NRN Association Jiba Lamichhane too is generous to invest in Nepal, whatever the resources he has. However, NRN's role in Nepal's economic development is yet to be fully utilized for the benefit of Nepal and Nepalese people.

When Mahato started to unite non-residential Nepalese living in various parts of the world, nobody imagined that this group of people can be a real asset for the country and they can genuinely contribute to Nepal's economy.

Thanks to the initiative of Mahato and his colleagues, including Lamichhane in Russia, there are very nominal investments from other NRNs. However, things seem to be changing now. This year, Nepal is expected to see investment of Rs 6.41 billion in the tourism sector soon from a non-resident Nepali (NRN).

On the NRN day, Shesh Ghale, an NRN based in Australia, formally announced his decision to make an investment of 75 million Australian dollars (approximately Rs 6.41 billion) in Nepal. "The money would be used to set up a five-star hotel in Kathmandu," Ghale told an audience present during the inaugural session of NRN Day 2012. Ghale said the construction of the hotel will begin from next year and will complete within the next three to three-and-a-half years.



Former President Of NRNA Mahato

Russia based NRNs have already invested in telecom, hydropower and banking sectors. In a recent interaction in Russian Culture Center, former president of NRN Mahato said Nepal can lure a lot of investors from Russia. "Russia is a rich country and we can bring a lot of investment from there," said Mahato. "We are working to facilitate them."

"As the president of NRNs based in Russia, I also see a lot of possibility to bring Russian investment in Nepal particularly in agriculture, hydropower and construction sector," said Lamichhane.

"NRN community needs to invest in the country. Of course there are problems but we should be optimistic and keep pushing for new investments in the country," said Suraj Vaidya, president of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)

The community of NRNs, which is scattered all over the world, has long been asking political parties to resolve the political impasse that has hindered all development activities and discouraged potential investors from making new investments in the country.

## "NRNs Are Positive About Collective Investment Projects"

JIBA LAMICHHANE

President, Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA)

It has been nearly a decade since the establishment of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA). What are its current agenda?

We haven't left the dual citizenship agenda that we have been raising from the beginning. Many of our agenda regarding foreign employment have been addressed and a few are still in the process of being addressed. Our agenda regarding investment has been addressed by the 2064 NRN act. However, time has come to modify the act. Meanwhile, we will always fight with the slogan "Once a Nepali, always a Nepali" for the citizenship.

People have been saying that NRNs have not been able to invest in the country as expected. What do you have to say on this?

NRNs have invested in Nepalese tourism, education, hydroelectricity, among others, from the very beginning. We have gone abroad for only 15-20 years and are established there, but still we are not in that strong position to bring in huge investments. Like India and Pakistan, we do not have Non-Resident citizens who are well established abroad over 4-5 generations. The ratio of investment in Nepal and the success achieved by Nepalis abroad is not that much wider and we cannot say that it is so less.

Not only investment, people also expected the NRNs to bring new technologies in the nation. Are people wrong to have such expectations from the people who are successful abroad?

We have given it the top priority. We believe that the money and skills earned by NRNs abroad can help bring social transformation in the country and many are working in Nepal with such beliefs. In the regional NRN meeting held in Australia around a month back, the talks of opening an open university took an advanced course. We have formed a committee for infrastructure development. There are many other such examples.

How much valid are the government's expectations to attract foreign direct investment with the help of NRNs?

Foreign direct investment is not that simple compared to investment from NRNs. We are the first generation NRNs; we are emotionally attached to Nepal by birth as well. Others will seek profit for investment, but we do not only look after profit. Multinational companies search nations where there is low risk and high return. It's not that we haven't brought any foreign investment. In hydroelectricity sector, we have brought in investment. According to investors, the complexities in labor issues are much more severe problems here rather than the political instability.

Where has the 100-MV hydroelectricity project reached?

We have not made that big a commitment. We have announced 100 MV project after analyzing our current status. At first we wanted to start only a single project, but after discussing further, we decided to invest in medium projects in many places so that people from those places will have emotional attachment with the projects. NRNs are positive about collective investment projects.

(Extract of the interview published in Karobar Daily)





# India, China And Nepal: An Emerging Trilateral Relation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

By JAIDEEP MAZUMDAR



On this 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Nepal, I was struck by the fact that The Communist Party of Nepal is older than the Republic of India and older than the People's Republic of China. It is fitting therefore that on the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of its founding, we are discussing "India, China and Nepal: An Emerging Trilateral Relation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century".

## INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS

In many ways, the last twenty years or so have seen India and China rediscovering each other. At the political level, there is unprecedented dialogue between the leaders of the two countries at the highest levels. Our leaders meet either bilaterally or on margins of international and regional summits at least two to three times a year. This has resulted in building trust and confidence between the two sides. Both India and China aver that there is enough space in the world for both countries to grow. We have agreed to describe

our relationship as a "Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity". Earlier this year, President Hu Jintao on a visit to India proposed five points on how to raise this strategic partnership to an even higher level. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh then described the relationship as "one of the most important bilateral relationships of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".

The number of bilateral mechanisms we have instituted together are too numerous to mention. We have recently instituted a Strategic and Economic Dialogue, we have a defence dialogue, our armies carry out joint exercises and our navies are doing the same with close cooperation in anti-piracy in the Indian Ocean.

We have close coordination and cooperation on burning international issues such as on climate change, and in the G-20, we have cooperated well in giving developing nations more say in the global financial governance architecture.

Nor is this relationship limited to governments. In 2010, I had the privilege of helping to organize a Festival of India in China spread over eight months and covering the length and breadth of the country involving many dozens of performances and hundreds of artistes. A similar festival was organized by China in India. Visits of school children and youth are organized from both sides every year. Indian television dramas are dubbed or subtitled in Chinese and have proven to be immensely popular. During my visits to

provinces in China, many people have told me how popular and addictive they are. On the other hand, the Central Board of Secondary Education of India has only last month signed an agreement with the Confucius Institute Headquarters to introduce Chinese as a foreign language for middle school students in CBSE schools in India starting with 500 schools and gradually extending to all 11,500.

But in no other area is the growth of our relationship as spectacular as that in the field of economics. Nearly 20 years ago when I was a young First Secretary in Beijing, our bilateral trade was 438 million US dollars. By 2000 this had grown slightly to just about 3 billion US dollars. In a decade since then, this figure into perspective, the bilateral trade between India and China is four times Nepal's entire GDP. And we are targeting bilateral

**We have agreed to describe our relationship as a "Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity".**

trade of US\$ 100 million by 2015.

Today, China is India's largest trading partner in the world and India is China's seventh largest export destination.

And nor is this relationship limited to only trade. There are presently 723 Indian projects in China with well known names like Infosys, TCS, APTECH, Wipro, Mahindra and Mahindra, Dr. Reddy's, Suzlon Energy, Reliance Industries and many others all active in China. As many as 10 Indian banks have operations in China.

Similarly more than 100 Chinese companies have operations in India ranging from automobiles, energy, machinery, telecom to steel. A company like Huawei has located its international R&D center in Bangalore that employs over 2000 Indian IT professional.

Till December last year, the total contractual investment of projects being implemented by Chinese companies in India was US \$ 55 billion covering such sectors as energy, aluminium and steel.

These economic relations have blossomed as they are backed by a host of bilateral agreements including BIPPA signed in 2006 and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement signed in 1994.

## INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

Turning to India-Nepal relations, India is

Nepal's biggest trading partner and also the largest foreign investor. India is also home to an estimated 5-6 million people from Nepal who live and work in India. They can freely reside, purchase property and work not only in the private sector but in the Government of India and in State governments. There are Nepali citizens in the Indian army at every level - from generals, brigadiers and colonels to soldiers. It is the historical, cultural and civilizational affinity between the two countries and an open border that makes all this possible.

Economic development today is all about connectivity and energy. It is for this reason that India is building over 1400 kms of roads in Nepal and constructing five rail lines connecting Nepal with the Indian railway network for the rapid movement of goods and people.

Even in the area of hydropower India and Nepal are complementary. India

presents a vast ready market for hydropower for Nepal. With only run-of-the-river projects, in the summer when there is peak demand in India, there would be surplus in Nepal to export and in winter when Nepal is unable to generate much electricity as water levels in rivers go down, she can use whatever is generated to meet domestic demand and import any shortfall. Already in India, power trading between regions is a thriving business. Even with only 4% of India's electricity being traded, the turnover in power trading is Indian Rs 30,000 crores. Such power trading has the potential to make Nepal the richest country in South Asia.

Finally, for any country, peace, stability and prosperity of its neighbours is of utmost concern. There is an old Chinese saying that it never rains on your neighbour without you getting your feet wet. India is committed to assist Nepal in any way it desires to build a peaceful, stable and prosperous Nepal.

For India, China and Nepal, Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends and Economics has made us partners. Those who are joined by geography, history, and economics cannot but work together for their common benefit.

*Mazumdar is Charge d' Affaires a.i., Embassy of India. Excerpts of the paper presented by Mazumdar at the seminar on India, China and Nepal: An Emerging Trilateral Relation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*





AIR ACCIDENT

# Human Error

*The recent air crash questions the ability of Nepalese pilots to handle the aircraft at emergency situations*

By KESHAB POUDEL

- A Dornier 228-202 passenger plane, operated by Sita Air, was destroyed when it crashed shortly after takeoff from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport (TA), Nepal. All 19 on board were killed. At an altitude of 50 feet, the airplane was hit by a bird. According to the CAAN, a vulture struck the right hand engine of the aircraft.
- A Twin Otter of Nepal Airlines slipped at the taxi way in Jomsom but there was no casualty and damage to the aircraft.
- Tara Air Twin Otter flying to Nepalgunj from Simikot, Humla, met a minor accident while taking off at Simikot Airport. The aircraft was badly damaged. Chief of CAAN at Simikot Airport Tek Bahadur Patali said the plane hit the pole after oversteering toward left of the runway while taking off. The pole was erected to operate a crusher for repair of the airport.

Although these airplanes crashed in different circumstances and different places, civil aviation experts, however, see a similar cause behind these accidents. They pointed towards the failure of pilots to handle airplanes at the emergency situations.

"When some emergency situations arrive, pilots, who are supposed to avert the crisis and safely handle the plane, are cease to act themselves, causing the fatal accidents. Pilots are trained to

handle all kinds of emergency situations and safely land the aircraft in any circumstance," said an expert.

The bird-hit is a common phenomenon around the world and the bird is not the only factor to make the flight unsafe. The safety of aircraft depends upon pilots and the craft's mechanical state. For instance, when a bird hit Buddha Air's plane in Biratnagar damaging the window of the front cockpit, the pilot managed the situation and safely landed the aircraft.

Like in other parts of the world, when an accident occurs it is investigated by the committee set up by the government with jurisdiction over the area where a plane goes down. The sole objective of such a committee is to prevent accidents and incidents. Investigations are conducted in accordance with the international standards and recommended practices as described in ICAO Annex 13 - Aircraft accident and incident investigation.

Since the first aircraft accident in 7 May 1946 in Simara, there have been 31 fatal accidents in Nepal with 683 casualties, and the committees formed by the government have pointed out human error for the accidents.

Although flying is statistically one of the safest means of transportation, pilots are humans and do make mistakes. Unfortunately, a pilot's error can lead to catastrophic consequences and cost

people their lives. Pilot error accounts for 49 percent of all aviation accidents, and approximately 83 percent of all private aircraft accidents worldwide and Nepal is no exception.

"Pilot error" can be defined as a mistake, oversight, lapse of judgment, or failure to exercise due care by the pilot of an aircraft while it is in operation. Some examples of pilot error include: Incorrect use of aircraft equipment, such as safety or landing gear, errors in navigation, sometimes due to inclement weather, miscommunication with air traffic controllers, inadequate monitoring of speed, altitude and other flight parameters, failure to manage fuel levels and failure to follow procedures in safety checklists. Although pilot errors are unintentional, they make up for a huge price to pay.

Nepal relies heavily on its fleet of ageing aircraft for STOL airport which are often used to bring supplies as well as passengers to remote areas.

A report released by the investigative panel constituted to probe Agni Air plane crash in Jomsom outlined how the pilots failed to respond effectively to the problems when the plane reported the 'light indication problem'. The investigators have made 14 safety recommendations that include single fleet-policy to be strictly adhered to at the earliest. They also said CAAN pilots should maintain sufficient flying hours on the type of aircraft, especially on the STOL fields.

The tragedy occurred when the plane heading to Jomsom from Pokhara with 18 passengers and three crew members on board crashed into a hill during landing at the Jomsom airport.

The PIC and the assisting pilot were busy in the cockpit after the problem surfaced, and suddenly things started to go wrong when both of them engaged to fix it, making them unaware of the situation outside, the report said. The aircraft took its course itself for a while. Then, the pilots responded to the situation by executing a sharp left U-turn at a very low speed and altitude.

Accidents can occur anywhere in the world, and, therefore, it is unjust to blame Nepal as an insecure place. What Nepal needs to do is to improve the personal capability of pilots to handle the emergency. As the number of aircraft increases, Nepal needs to introduce strict measures to reduce the human error. ■



# Long-term Approach on Climate Adaptation

By BATU KRISHNA UPRETY



No doubt, climate change has greatly affected Least Developed Countries (LDCs), although they emit negligible amount greenhouse gases – the contributor for climate change. LDCs are forced to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. It is not a choice but as a 'survival agenda' to countries like Nepal. The developed countries have also realized this reality and are supporting climate adaptation activities in LDCs, as a part of their global commitment under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, at its 7<sup>th</sup> session in 2001, adopted a package of decisions to support LDCs and developed countries are now supporting climate adaptation to address most urgent and immediate adaptation options. Although it is not an attempt to address the root cause of climate change, i.e., GHGs emission reduction, but it helps to adapt to climate change impacts. Climate change is a perennial challenge and needs continued support to let the people of LDCs to survive.

The COP at its 16<sup>th</sup> session in Cancun, Mexico adopted a decision to encourage the developing countries for the preparation and implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) – a plan that addresses medium-term and long-term adaptation needs. The COP at its 17<sup>th</sup> session in Durban adopted the initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs in LDC Parties and requested LDC Expert Group (LEG) to prepare technical guidelines based on the initial guidelines to assist LDCs to initiate the NAP process. It is basically a process to enable LDC Parties to formulate and implement NAPs, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). The technical guidelines will be issued during COP18, and may be launched in early to mid-2013. This will help LDCs to start the NAP preparation process in 2013. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is expected to provide funding from LDC Fund for NAP process.

The technical guidelines will provide a basis to LDCs in initiating the NAP process, characterizing data and

information on capacities, climate risk and climate-resilient development, building capacities on climate change adaptation, assessing climate vulnerabilities at different sectors, identifying, appraising and prioritizing adaptation options, developing adaptation strategy, enhancing long-term capacity for, and regularly reviewing the NAP process and promoting reporting as well. The NAPA followed the 'project approach' and the NAP will focus on 'process' to provide LDCs additional opportunities to integrate and internalize climate adaptation as a means for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change regularly. Hence, the NAP calls to developing a process as a medium and long-term approach to adapt to climate change impacts.

The LEG at its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 26 to 29 September 2012 refined the draft technical guidelines for the NAP process.

Opening the LEG meeting and LEG Training Workshop for the Pacific, the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Mr. Willy Telavi highlighted the impacts of climate change faced by Tuvaluan people and funding gaps for investment on adaptation. The 34<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Tuvalu was also observed on 29 September 2012, and we LEG members and other participants were invited to observe it. One-day field trip was organized in Funafala island, an island inhabited by 3 families, and enjoying climate adaptation activities.

Tuvalu, one of the smallest and most remote nations in the world and located north of Fiji in the central Pacific with about 11,000 people, enjoys with two flights a week from Suva, Fiji, one hotel and 5 guest houses in Funafuti (capital of Tuvalu), and lots of motorbikes for transportation. Australian \$ (=Tuvaluan \$) is commonly used. As there are no lakes or rivers, the country relies on rainwater stored in tanks for its water supply. It seems that Tuvaluan people are happy, culturally rich and have memorable traditions.

The government building is located at about 2 minutes walking distance from the International Airport constructed in 1994. The airport can be used for all purposes outside the flight times.

Running in the runway (morning walk) is equally enjoyable in Funafuti. Pigs faming on one side and settlement on the other side of the airport compels Tuvaluan to maximize the use of airport ground and clearly indicates the scarcity of the land, as it is sea-locked.

The Tuvalu LEG meeting discussed, *inter alia*, on publication of case studies on NAPs, best practices and lesson learned, support needs to LDCs to initiate the NAP process, and LEG regional training workshops. Nepal's



Prime Minister addressing the meeting



case on NAPA and LAPA process will be included in LEG publication. This LEG meeting is a turning point to finalise the technical guidelines to assist LDCs to be engaged in the NAP process. Nepal should speed up NAPA implementation, and start the NAP process realizing her delay in NAPA preparation. Nepal, being the Chair of the LDC Group for 2013 and 2014, will have additional opportunities to share learning and experiences from the NAP process, if it is timely initiated. In a nutshell, it is clear that climate change will continue to happen, and LDCs need to adapt to it. The NAP will promote medium- and long-term adaptation in LDCs and Nepal should realize it timely.

Uprety is Vice-Chair, LEG (LDC Expert Group) and Member, Nepal's Core Negotiating Team to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; E-mail: upretybk@gmail.com



## AUGMENTATION OF TRISHULI 3 A

## Cheaper &amp; Better

As Nepal has been facing an acute power shortage and meeting the gap by bringing power from expensive sources, an additional 30 MW of cheaper power produced through the augmentation of Trishuli 3 A turns out to be a boon for the country. Close from the main load center in Kathmandu, the additional 30 MW power will help maintain the power supply in the capital and reduce the additional burden of foreign currency needed to pay for import of diesel and electricity from India. After a study of a high level technical committee, the Augmentation of Trishuli 3A Hydro Electricity Project 60 to 90 MW has been found to be financially and technically in the interest of Nepal Electricity Authority

By A CORRESPONDENT

As predicted by Nepal Electricity Authority's 'A Year in Review' for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the coming winter will see more severe power shortage than the last year. It has predicted that the next year's summer will have more hours of load shedding than this year's.

The current forecast has shown that Nepal's acute power shortage will continue for a long time to come as the demand of electricity is rising in all the seasons and there is a major project to fill the gap. Given the current power project development and high prices in exporting power, it will be very difficult for the country to maintain electricity supply.

According to a study, Nepal is facing an acute power shortage with a deficit of

above 500 MW in the power system. Added to it, there is much shortage of power/energy even during the wet season. It is expected that Nepal will be facing severe energy crisis for another 10 years. In that context, what is required now is to put the best efforts towards the generation of additional power.

"NEA's current huge shortfall of supply over demand cannot be removed outright and it is bound to remain there for the next 3-4 years. For the intervening period, some measures will be pursued to restrict the number of load shedding hours to 12-14 per day per consumer during the dry session," writes Mahendra Lal Shrestha, acting managing director of NEA.

As the country's power demand is

growing, the government is adding new power generation station; Trishuli 3A is being developed looking at the power demand in the country.

According to NEA annual report 2012, the annual power demand of the integrated power system (INPS) in fiscal year 2011/2012 is estimated to be 1026.65 MW with 448 MW power actually supplied. NEA contributed 349.71 MW by hydro and 5.3 MW by NEA thermal, 102.2 MW by IPP hydro and the rest 121.44 MW by was import.

Compared to the preceding fiscal year's figure of 946.1 MW, the annual peak power demand of the INPS registered growth rate of 8.5 percent. As there is estimated demand of 5,194.78 GWh, out of which only 4,178.63 (80.4



percent) could be supplied, the rest 1016.15 GWh (19.6 percent) was restored to load shedding.

Given the current demand of electricity, there will be at least 6 to 7 hours load shedding even during rainy session in coming years.

In this scenario, the augmentation of Trishuli 3A from 60 to 90 MW will be a boon to improve the power supply situation in the country.

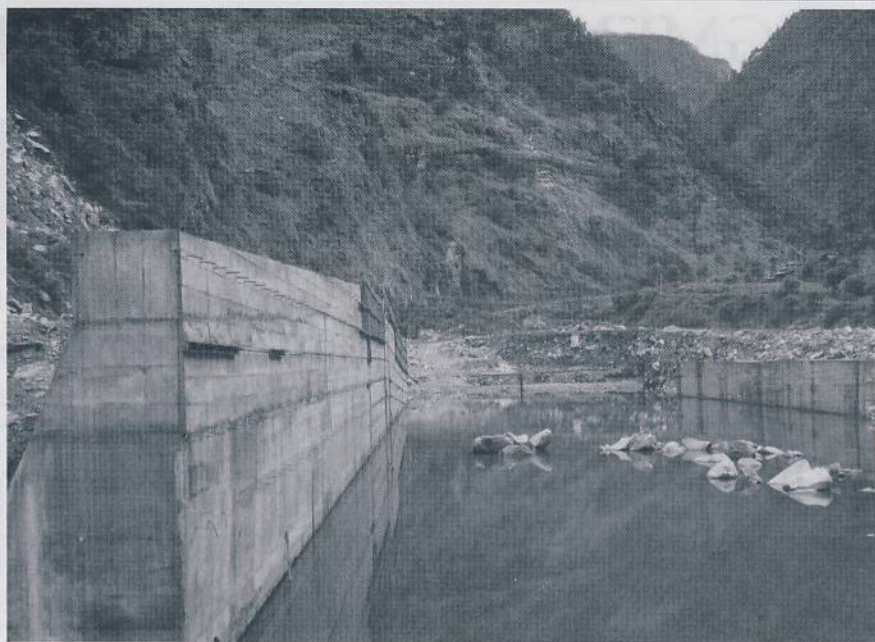
"It is of utmost importance for the government to intervene and take concrete steps towards upgrading the installed capacity of Trishuli 3A and kick off other projects at the earliest. Irrespective of government declaring power crisis in March 2011, no tangible initiative has been taken towards correcting the gap in the power sector. Augmentation of Trishuli 3A project will be the first work of its kind.

#### Background of Trishuli 3A Hydro Electric Project (60 MW)

The project is being implemented by NEA with concessional loan for the first time from China Exim Bank amounting 120 Million USD (for power generation, transmission, etc). The present plant capacity of Trishuli is 60 MW, based on Q 70 design, which is not considered as an optimized one. The bid was submitted in February 2009 and the contractor received the commencement letter only on June 2011, i.e., upon loan being effective. Currently, the detailed project design is under process.

"In view of the government's declaration of the power crisis, adopting the policy to upgrade the capacity of existing plant based on Q40 design flow and to optimize the available resources of Trishuli, the contractor explored the possibility of optimizing Trishuli 3A and submitted its proposal on 23rd March, 2011 for augmentation of the existing capacity of project to 90 MW. This augmentation will stand out to be a better option because the plant of 90 MW capacities in Q 52 will be able to best to harness the energy available in the Trishuli river," experts argue.

Further, the augmentation of this project will also enhance the capacity of



Right guide wall concrete at Diversion Weir

the downstream project, Upper Trishuli 3B, from 37 MW to 55 MW. Thus the resource potential can be utilized in effective manner and will largely benefit NEA, the customers and country currently suffering from huge power deficit. This shall also fulfill the demand already raised by the local people.

"It is of utmost importance for NEA to undertake policy decision to revise the scope at the earliest possible so that the augmentation could be incorporated in the ongoing design process. For the same, negotiation with the EPC contractor has to be initiated at the earliest," said an expert.

#### The benefits

If the project is augmented, Nepal's power system will have 30 MW of installed capacity added. This will contribute in minimizing the widening gap between the demand and supply scenario of the country. As the project site is near the load center, i.e. Kathmandu Valley, the additional energy can be evacuated to KTM with minimal loss. If Nepal has surplus power, this 30 MW power also can be exported.

**Increase in the level of energy generation:** With the current design based upon Q70, it has been observed that the available water in the river is not fully utilized. After the proposed augmentation with Q52, a total of about

148 GWh (148 million units) of additional energy will be available in the system annually. This is a considerable amount of energy. Further, this will enhance the dry season energy by about 8.5 GWh. In the current situation of acute energy deficit this will be very important.

**Optimization of the water resources:** In the existing 60 MW configuration, there is a surplus of water being wasted during April to December. The same can be effectively harnessed provided the plant is upgraded to 90 MW making local population happy thereby mitigating the project from local obstruction.

#### Technical

Experts believe that there is no need for modification/augmentation to the head works and transmission lines. Modifications to intake, tunnel, powerhouse and generating equipment only are required.

"This means, little modifications in the current design (for 60MW to 90 MW) would be sufficient for the upgrade," said an expert.

Producing 30 MW additional power is not an easy task and importing such bulk power is another difficulty task given power shortfall in Nepal's neighbor India. No matter what benefit, however, the process is going on to sabotage the



project. In his article in Kantipur, columnist Gokarna Awasthi (October 9, 2012), writes there is no reason to push this project ahead when even Nepali Congress leader Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Maoist leader and minister for Tourism Post Bahadur Bogati and former water resources minister Gokarna Bist opposed it.

If the project's capacity is increased by 30 MW of power by just investing a little amount of money, there is nothing wrong. However, invisible forces have been trying to sabotage the augmentation as undermining the national interest.

"There is no reason to oppose the project because the project is technically

augmented plant capacity 90 MW will remain the same while some modification will be required only in waterways, intake, powerhouse and generating equipment. This signifies that augmentation will not cause much delay.

#### Financial

The contracted price for 60MW capacity is US\$ 89.18?????. The price offered by the contractor for the total capacity of 90 MW is US\$133.77. With this offer it is observed that the additional 30 MW will be developed at a price much lower than what would be required for an independent project of same capacity. The incremental cost per KW associated with the augmentation is about US\$ 1486.3 per kW and Incremental Energy

generating unit as with case of 60 MW is taken, even the least river discharge in dry season is more than the capacity needed by 1 set of generating unit under full load operation (30MW). This will lead to wastage of the available water discharge when 1 set of generating unit is under examination and repair maintenance. This would cause adverse affect on the generated energy during the dry season. If the examination and maintenance is done in wet season, then the loss of generated energy is more than that in the dry season. Thus, the plant with 3 units will enhance the operational flexibility and reliability.

The per unit cost of hydropower developed by NEA in past is observed to

#### Project Comparison

Project Name	Installed Capacity (In MW)	Cost/KW (Installed Capacity)
Trishuli-3A (for incremental capacity)	30	US\$1,486
Kali-Gandaki	144	US\$ 2,411
Middle Marshyangdi	70	US\$ 4,960
Chameliya	30(as projected cost of completion)	US\$ 5,092

NEA has done PPA and purchasing power from sources mentioned below at the respective prices:

Himal Hydropower (Khimti):	NRs. 9.78
Bhotekoshi:	NRs. 8.50
Private Developers:	NRs 4.80 (up to Q 40)
Upper Tamakoshi:	NRs. 4.06 (Q 32)
Import from PTC, India: Approx.	NRs. 10.40

and financially viable for Nepal. At a time when the country has been facing acute power shortage, Nepal has no option other than to start the project and if possible there is the need to work to increase the capacity," said Bikash Thapa, Editor of Urja monthly, who has been writing on energy issue for quite a long time in his interview with Mountain Television.

#### Project Period

In the current socio-economic situation of Nepal and as experienced so far, an independent project of 30 MW takes around 4 1/2 -5 years to generate and transmit power (for e.g. Chamelia 30MW Hydro Power Project,) apart from about 3-4 years duration for project identification, engineering and feasibility studies. The additional 30 MW for Trishuli 3A can be generated within a time period of additional 6 months only. Further, head works in the

cost stands at Rs 2.68. These are much lower than the current rates.

The cost associated with the design modifications and equipment will, however, be not proportional as compared to the negotiated and contracted price for 60 MW. This is attributed to the price escalation over the period of time.

**Benefit to NEA system:** Supply of additional energy in wet season can reduce the burden of Kulekhani. This saving of energy of Kulekhani during wet season can be used during the dry season. This will result in lowering the energy imports from India thus reducing our outflow of foreign currency. This further reduces the dry season power shortage. This will make NEA power system operation more flexible, reliable and profitable.

**Operating maintenance:** Operating condition of 3 sets of generating unit is always better than that of 2. If 2 sets of

be higher than both the incremental cost of additional 30 MW or the cost of project at 90 MW.

As the study has shown that Augmentation of Trishuli- 3 A project is viable in terms of technical and financial basis, the government needs to take the decision looking at the broader interest of the country. "Augmentation of Trishuli -3 A project will benefit the nation for the short term and longer term. This is what I am looking for," said Hareram Koirala, secretary of Ministry of Energy and chairman of Nepal Electricity Authority. "Technically, this is a very suitable project to augment."

At a time when no project is in the NEA's pipeline, a plan with additional 30 MW power generation plant with NEA means a lot of things. In case of additional power, it can export it to India also because the India's power demand goes high during the summer. ■



# Sylvain Lévi's *Le Népal*



By BIPIN ADHIKARI

There were a few very important foreigners who contributed to Nepali history when Nepal itself was not much known to the world. They included Colonel William Kirkpatrick, Francis Buchanan Hamilton, Brian Hodgson, H. A. Oldfield, Daniel Wright, Perceval Landon and, of course, Sylvain Lévi. All except Lévi (1863 – 1935) were Englishmen who were connected with the East India Company or the British government, or both.

Sylvain Lévi was a French scholar. He visited Nepal in the last days of Prime Minister Bir Shumsher. He was an orientalist with good knowledge of India, Tibet and China. His knowledge of Sanskrit was commendable. His book *Théâtre Indien* was an important work on the subject. Lévi also conducted some of the earliest analysis of Tokharin fragments discovered in Western China. He is known in Nepal as the author of three volume *Le Népal: Étude historique d'un royaume hindou* (Paris: Ernest Deroux, 1905, 1908). At the time it was published, it was the first attempt to portray a full scale history of Nepal based on thorough analysis of all available sources.

Lévi starts his book with a very lucid introduction of the Kingdom of Nepal. He then describes Nepal valley, the people residing in Nepal, their economic, political and legal institutions, and details about local gods and goddesses, and the Hindu and Buddhist religions as practiced in Nepal. His analysis of religious and cultural practices along with principal festivals shows how intensely he must have studied these aspects of Nepal's social life during his short stay in Nepal. Apart from the study of King Nanya Dev, he has also described the history of Bhadgaon, Kathmandu and Patan – the three major principalities of Nepal before the country was unified (or re-unified). His last chapter is the study of King Prithvi Narayan Shah and the dynasty of Gorkha Kings.

Sylvain Lévi considers Nepal, and the Kathmandu valley in particular, as India in the making. In other words, in

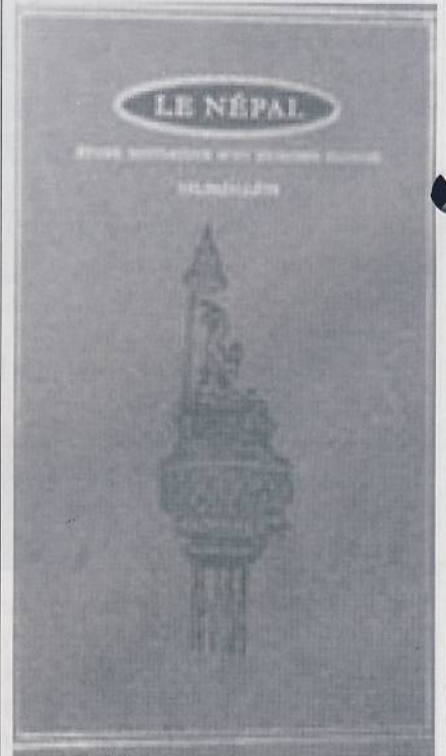
his opinion, Nepal's medieval and modern history repeats the genesis of India. Just as in other parts of Asia, in Nepal, too, it is Buddhism that first contributed to 'civilizing' a multitude of tribal and regional cultures in Nepal, the final cultural 'annexation' of which was then achieved by Hinduism. Lévi commented that the traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism are so closely interwoven in Nepal that it made no sense to see Nepalese god as either Hindu or Buddhist. He also shows the concern that there were a few learned scholars here and there in Nepal, but the torch of ancient knowledge was dying out.

Dilli Raman Regmi, a Nepalese scholar and politician, who familiarized Nepalese people about *Le Népal* by his writing in English maintained that Sylvain Lévi's contribution to the knowledge of Nepalese history was not less than the contribution of Pandit Dr Bhagwanlal Indraji, who published the first collection of twenty three Nepalese inscriptions in 1888. More important than this was the fact that out of them fifteen collections were of ancient Nepal.

Lévi was fortunate enough to be allowed by the Nepalese administration to stay in Nepal longer than any other scholar. While in Nepal he used his time and energy to collect rumblings of inscriptions available to him. He also obtained chronicles compiled by efforts of scholars of the early 19th century based on both Buddhist and Brahmanical traditions, which he used along with the inscriptions, to write the history of Nepal. D. R. Regmi noted that he was not able to use as much Nepalese sources as he used Tibetan and Chinese sources. For example, he knew of only 17 Sanskrit inscriptions of the Licchavi period of Nepal, for instance, while today there are over 200 such inscriptions known.

One can also find some inaccurate information in *Le Népal*. For example, according to Sylvain Lévi, the Newar

people had migrated to this country from regions north of the Himalayas, a view conflicting with the indigenous belief that the Newars have moved to the Himalayas from an earlier homeland in Southern India. One can see that there is no concrete evidence in support of either of these theories. No doubt immigrants from India as well as from Tibet have at times exerted a



considerable influence on Newar culture, and some of them have ultimately been absorbed into Newar society, but there is every reason to believe that the bulk of the Newar people has been settled in the Nepal valley since prehistoric times.

To a modern reader, Sylvain Lévi's *Étude historique d'un royaume hindou* may appear outdated in some ways. Nevertheless, it was unmatched as a book which had a wealth of information and analysis when it was published. Dilli Raj Upreti, the Nepalese diplomat who rendered Lévi's *Le Népal* into Nepali in 2005 must be thanked for his effort to make it accessible to all Nepalese people. ■



INGOS AND NGOS

## Taxation Issues

A report presented by the Department of Inland Revenue showed that INGOs and NGOs annually paid over 630 million rupees in tax

By A CORRESPONDENT

Tax is now a major source of annual revenue in Nepal. Data shows, the number of large taxpayers has presently touched 722. At the present rate of business expansion, MoF has estimated it to rise to 1,000 soon.

AIN Chairperson Ashutosh Tiwari also made a presentation on INGOs' concerns regarding Tax and Vat issues. With an objective to discuss taxes, the Inland Revenue Department has been holding the discussions with several stakeholders. This was one of them.

Supported by GiZ, altogether 40 INGOs and 70 NGOs had attended the meeting along with officials from the Ministry of Finance, SWC, NGO Federation, IRD Officials and experts.

According to a paper presented by Madhu Kumar Marashini, deputy director general of the department, 24427 NGOs and 291 INGOs registered in PAN in IT and 776 NGOs and 11 INGOs registered with PAN/ VAT 776. There are a total PAN in IT at 24718 and PAN VAT at 787.

According to Marashini, NGOs paid Rs. 279.91 million as income tax, Rs. 279.91, Rs. 43.43 million as VAT and Rs. 68.68 million as TDS 68.68. Similarly, INGOs paid Rs. 227.89 as income tax, Rs. 1.53 million as VAT and Rs. 23.59 million as TDS.

Director General of Inland Revenue Department (IRD) Tanka Mani Sharma said that the government was marking the current fiscal year 2012/13 as Tax System Reforms Year.

"We have already worked out numerous programs, laying a strong emphasis on making taxpayers aware about the prevailing tax law and system," he stated. Under the programs, he said the IRD will launch education, information exchange, communication and services related campaigns targeting the taxpayers.

All Inland Revenue Offices will together organize a total of 1,000 such awareness campaigns, he said. Sharma further informed that the IRD has set a target to open tax office or taxpayers' service center in all 75 districts of the country, so that taxpayers need not travel out of the district to file taxes and settle tax liability. ■

DISASTER

## School Safety

Save the Children organized a seminar on school safety

By A CORRESPONDENT

In case of major disasters like earthquake, a large number of Nepal's school buildings will collapse. According to a recent study, Kathmandu valley's 50 percent schools are vulnerable to disaster.

At the function organized by Save the Children, various stakeholders and speakers highlighted the National Workshop on School Safety and state of schools. Last year, many school buildings collapsed in the eastern region when an earthquake of magnitude of 6.9 Richter scale hit the area.

Pamela Meston of Save the Children highlighted the importance of school safety measures in the country like Nepal. "Nepal needs to take certain drastic steps to make school buildings are disaster safe," said Matson.

According to a study, amongst all the public facilities, children in schools are the most vulnerable groups during any disaster. "It has already been proven that during disasters schools and school children are the most affected," said Meston.

Schools, if better prepared for disasters, can also play a lead role in the community responding to disasters.

"Nepal has made certain progress but it has yet to improve the school buildings prone to disasters," said Overtoun Mgemezulu from UNICEF.

Participated in by various stake holders including the representatives from Nepal Red Cross, community schools, ECHO, Department of Education, NSET and other stake holders, the discussions were held on the assessment made to make the school buildings resistance to the disaster. ■

विजया दशमी तथा

शुभ दिपावली-२०६९

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We heartily wish peace,  
prosperity and happiness  
to all Nepalese on the  
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# Dashain Aayo



By ABIJIT SHARMA

As the month of October beckons the festive season of *Dashain*, I wait here in Delhi desperate to be back home and get into the festive mood. Time and again in my column I have mentioned how I miss Nepal after having come to India. The festivals and the celebrations around it are what I pine for, especially.

Despite sharing similar culture and tradition, Nepal and India do share a vast difference in the festivities. In many cases the observance of different festivals holds completely different significance in the two countries. Perhaps that is the reason why I've always failed to develop a liking for celebrations here.

'*Dussehra*' as it is famously known in India is celebrated for the same reason as it is in Nepal; the victory of the good over the evil. The ten days of celebration include the staging of the *Ramayan* play, burning of the huge effigy of demon *Ravan* and the worship of Goddess *Durga*.

The staging of *Ramayan* in various parts of the country is one of the greatest attractions of the festival. Especially in villages, it provides great entertainment and also a break from work to enjoy time with family. The burning of demon *Ravan*'s effigy holds no less

importance. People do gather in huge numbers to see the demon being demolished and chant praises of Lord *Rama*. The worship of Goddess *Durga*, is one of the festival's central features especially in the Bengali community. In contrast, *Dashain* is completely another sort of gala. Bright colorful kites adorning the sky, the lush green paddy fields, the cool yet cheering warmth of the weather typically signifies the arrival of the festival. Nowhere is that to be seen in India. How can *Dashain* be complete without the *chahalpahal* of family members and the cards? And then you have the amazing smell of *khasi komasu* all around. You can simply not remain immune to it even if you are a veggie like yours truly.



Right from the time *jamara* is planted the festive mood begins. And no matter how much I grow up, I cannot help but get excited at the idea of shopping for new clothes! Be it paying visit to *Durga Bhawani* temples or the preparation of sweets especially the *Sel Roti* the fiesta is no where close to *Dussehra*. And finally, the *tika* and

*dakshina* moments are so priceless!

*Dashain* or *Dussehra*? It's definitely *Dashain* for me!

## Things to be considered while going for foreign employment:

1. Do not go for foreign employment based on others encouragement and influence. There are opportunities inside the country.
2. While going for foreign employment always know for what work you are going and only go after acquiring appropriate skills for the job.
3. The person who is sending you for foreign employment might be a fraud, so never completely trust him. Discuss with knowledgeable people. You might take help from your teacher, VDC secretary and social activists of your village.
4. Always have proper insurance before going for foreign employment. Take work permit after taking orientation trainings from Foreign Employment Department.
5. Always take authentic bills after paying money to anyone.
6. Always go from the national airport when leaving for foreign employment otherwise you might be a victim of a fraud.
7. Leave a copy of your passport, visa and work permit with your family.



### Foreign Employment Promotion Board

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**Note:** For more information, please contact the school/college office.



## DASHAIN

## Festive Offers Galore

By DEBESH ADHIKARI

The City Center, one of the most popular shopping destinations for the people of Kathmandu, is all set to attract customers for the upcoming Dashain and Tihar festival by offering lucrative discounts. Other malls are not falling behind in this respect either. Civil Mall, People's Plaza, and World Trade Center, among others, have also announced attractive schemes and offers.

The race in offering discounts is even fiercer in the streets of New Road, Ason and Durbar marg.

Likewise, MAW and Chaudhary Group have also introduced various schemes for the festive season. Ace Travels, one of the biggest travel agencies of the country, is giving discounts to people who want to go on a vacation

particularly the big business houses, local retailers and shopkeepers are feared for being deceitful to the customers by putting up fake discounts and offers.

"In a cloth shop in New Road, they said 60 percent discount will be given on all purchases. So I and my family went to shop there. But, the price was so much inflated that even after 60 percent discount the price was high," said a customer who went for shopping with his family.

In the festival month, employees get Dashain bonuses along with regular salaries. As the income of people increases, so does their spending. Records have shown that people also use their past savings to cover Dashain expenses.

Normally people buy new clothes for Dashain as a tradition. Many also wait until Dashain or Tihar to buy new electronic goods, automobiles, or for other big purchases.

Dashain is normally viewed as the main season by businessmen.



during this Dashain/Tihar.

There are many others who are giving discounts in view of the festivals in mind. From clothes to automobiles and electronics, discounts are available all around. Dashain and Tihar are the occasions when the country goes on a lavish shopping spree, making these festivals attractive with discounts and offers.

When the people are spending, it is normal for businessmen to attract customers by giving them eye-catching offers. Although some are giving customers real value for their money,

Business goes sky-high in nearly every sector but the main concern is the unhealthy practices.

"I bargained and reduced the price after getting the initial discount offer. Nobody knows what the real prices of these clothes are. I think the government should control the prices. These types of offers with no real values should be controlled straight away," said a student who went shopping for Dashain.

However, not all shopkeepers are doing unethical businesses. Some are offering real discounts.

"This time is also the time to clear out



summer stocks. People normally don't buy summer clothes after Tihar as winter will take the grip then. So, we are giving discounts to clear stocks and we are also putting out-fashioned items on sale," said a businessman at Jamal.

Others have different strategy. "For Dashain, we buy goods in bulks and the selling rate is very high so we can still earn good profits even by selling goods at a discounted price. The competition in the market is rife and customers are well aware now, so it is difficult to cheat them," said another businessman.

At festive times, businessmen should give people offers which will give them the real pay off for their money and make their Dashain a happy one! Government should also monitor the rising unhealthy practices. Meanwhile for now, people should themselves judge the real worth of a product and decide whether they are really getting discounts or not before making a purchase! ■

बडा दशैं २०६९ को  
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समस्त ग्राहक वर्गमा  
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दीर्घायु एवं सफलताको  
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शुभकामना व्यक्त  
गर्दछौं ।



नेपाल टेलिकम  
परिवार



# All Red Meat Is Risky, A Study Finds

Eating any amount or type increased the chances of early death among adults tracked more than 20 years.

Eating any amount and any type of red meat increases the risk of premature... (William Thomas Cain / Getty...) any amount and any type — appears to significantly increase the risk of premature death, according to a long-range study that examined the eating habits and health of more than 110,000 adults for more than 20 years.

For instance, adding just one 3-ounce serving of unprocessed red meat — picture a piece of steak no bigger than a deck of cards — to one's daily diet was associated with a 13% greater chance of dying during the course of the study.

Even worse, adding an extra daily serving of processed red meat, such as a hot dog or two slices of bacon, was linked to a 20% higher risk of death during the study.

"Any red meat you eat contributes to the risk," said An Pan, a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston and lead author of the study, published online Monday in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

Crunching data from thousands of questionnaires that asked people how frequently they ate a variety of foods, the researchers also discovered that replacing red meat with other foods seemed to reduce mortality risk for study participants.

Eating a serving of nuts instead of beef or pork was associated with a 19% lower risk of dying during the study. The team said choosing poultry or whole grains as a substitute was linked with a 14% reduction in mortality risk; low-fat dairy or legumes, 10%; and fish, 7%.

Previous studies had associated red meat consumption with diabetes, heart disease and cancer, all of which can be fatal. Scientists aren't sure exactly what makes red meat so dangerous, but the suspects include the iron and saturated fat in beef, pork and lamb, the nitrates used to preserve them, and the chemicals created by high-temperature cooking.

The Harvard researchers hypothesized that eating red meat would also be linked to an overall risk of death from any cause, Pan said. And the results suggest they were right: Among the 37,698 men and 83,644 women who were tracked, as meat consumption increased, so did mortality risk.

In separate analyses of processed and unprocessed meats, the group found that both types appear to hasten death. Pan said that at the outset, he and his colleagues had thought it likely that only processed meat posed a health danger.

Carol Koprowski, a professor of preventive medicine at USC's Keck School of Medicine who wasn't involved in the research, cautioned that it can be hard to draw specific conclusions from a study like this because there can be a lot of error in the way diet information is recorded in food frequency questionnaires, which ask subjects to remember past meals in sometimes grueling detail.

But Pan said the bottom line was that there was no amount of red meat that's good for you.

"If you want to eat red meat, eat the unprocessed products, and reduce it to two or three servings a week," he said. "That would have a huge impact on public health."

A majority of people in the study reported that they ate an average of at least one serving of meat per day.

Pan said that he eats one or two servings of red meat per week, and that he doesn't eat bacon or other processed meats.

Cancer researcher Lawrence H. Kushi of the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research in Oakland said that groups



putting together dietary guidelines were likely to pay attention to the findings in the study.

"There's a pretty strong supposition that eating red meat is important — that it should be part of a healthful diet," said Kushi, who was not involved in the study. "These data basically demonstrate that the less you eat, the better."

UC San Francisco researcher and vegetarian diet advocate Dr. Dean Ornish said he gleaned a hopeful message from the study.

"Something as simple as a meatless Monday can help," he said. "Even small changes can make a difference."

Additionally, Ornish said, "What's good for you is also good for the planet."

In an editorial that accompanied the study, Ornish wrote that a plant-based diet could help cut annual healthcare costs from chronic diseases in the U.S., which exceed \$1 trillion. Shrinking the livestock industry could also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and halt destruction of forests for pastures, he wrote. (LATimes)

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## Power To A Million

One million rural Nepalese benefit from the EUR 15 million (NPR 1.5 billion) European Union funded Renewable Energy Project

Close to a million people living in remote villages of 21 Himalayan districts of Nepal now benefit from services supported by renewable energy following the successful completion of the Renewable Energy Project (REP). The project was co-funded by the European Union through a EUR 15 million grant (approximately NPR 1.5 billion) to the Government of Nepal.

The Government of Nepal, which contributed EUR 675 thousand, implemented the project through its Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (APEC). The project has invested in the required infrastructure for renewable electricity generation.

The REP has established the foundation for rural communities in Nepal to move towards the sustainable use of resources, conservation of the environment and enhancement

of their local economies. More concretely, the project has provided solar systems to over 206 health posts, 378 schools, 29 community computer literacy programs, 59 community entertainment centers, as well as 124 community telecommunication centers across the country. In addition, the project has successfully promoted income generating activities by providing 107 agro grinding mills, 30 water pumping systems, 24 solar driers and 14 solar hot water systems.

The REP has put in place renewable energy infrastructures in these remote rural areas to facilitate income generation, sustainable growth and delivery of social services, thus alleviating poverty through the installation of 933 Photovoltaic (PV), and 38 thermal systems.

Dr. Alexander Spachis, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to Nepal, said that the REP is an excellent example of a joint undertaking between the Government of Nepal and the EU that has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of life in rural areas of Nepal.

## How Your Body Processes Alcohol

Food in your diet must be digested before being absorbed by your cells, but alcohol included in your diet flows directly through your body's membranes into your bloodstream, which carries alcohol to nearly every organ in your body.

The amount of alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) your body manufactures is influenced by your ethnicity and your gender. Asians, Native Americans, and Inuits secrete less alcohol dehydrogenase than do most Caucasians, and the average woman (regardless of her ethnicity) makes less ADH than the average man does.

As a result, more unmetabolized alcohol flows from their tummies into their bloodstreams, and they're likely to become tipsy on smaller amounts of alcohol.

Here's a road map to show you the route traveled by the alcohol in every drink you take.

Flowing down the hatch from mouth to stomach: The unmetabolized alcohol flows through your stomach walls into your bloodstream and on to your small intestine.

Stopping for a short visit at the energy factory: Most of the alcohol you drink is absorbed through the duodenum (small intestine). From there it flows through a large blood vessel into your liver.

In the liver, an enzyme similar to gastric ADH metabolizes the alcohol, which is

converted to energy by a coenzyme called nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD). NAD is also used to convert the glucose you get from other carbohydrates to energy; while NAD is being used for alcohol, glucose conversion grinds to a halt.

The normal, healthy liver can process about 1/2 ounce of pure alcohol (that's 6 to 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1 ounce of spirits) in an hour. The rest flows on to your heart.

Taking time out for air: Entering your heart, alcohol reduces the force with which your heart muscle contracts. You pump out slightly less blood, blood vessels all over your body relax, and your blood pressure goes down temporarily. The contractions soon return to normal, but the blood vessels may remain relaxed and your blood pressure lower for as long

as half an hour.

Meanwhile, alcohol flows in blood from your heart through your pulmonary vein to your lungs. Now you breathe out a tiny bit of alcohol every time you exhale, and your breath smells of liquor. Then the newly oxygenated, still alcohol-laden blood flows back through the pulmonary artery to your heart, and up and out through the aorta.

Rising to the surface: In your blood, alcohol raises your level of high-density lipoproteins (HDLs), although not necessarily the good

ones that carry cholesterol out of your body. Alcohol also makes blood less likely to clot, temporarily reducing your risk of heart attack and stroke.

Alcohol makes blood vessels expand, so more warm blood flows up from the center of your body to the surface of the skin. You feel warmer and, if your skin is fair, you may flush and turn pink. (Asians, who tend to make less alcohol dehydrogenase than do Caucasians, often experience a characteristic flushing when they drink even small amounts of alcohol.) At the same time, tiny amounts of alcohol ooze out through your pores, and your perspiration smells of alcohol.

Encountering curves in the road: Alcohol is a sedative. When it reaches your brain, it slows the transmission of impulses between nerve cells that control your ability to think and move. That's why your thinking may be fuzzy, your judgment impaired, your tongue twisted, your vision blurred, and your muscles rubbery.

Alcohol reduces your brain's production of antidiuretic hormones, which keep you from making too much urine. You may lose lots of liquid, vitamins, and minerals. You also grow very thirsty, and your urine may smell faintly of alcohol. This cycle continues as long as you have alcohol circulating in your blood, or in other words, until your liver can manage to produce enough ADH to metabolize all the alcohol you've consumed.

Most people need an hour to metabolize the amount of alcohol (1/2 ounce) in one drink. But some people have alcohol circulating in their blood for up to three hours after taking a drink.

Agencies





# Widening Kathmandu



By ADITI ARYAL

The talk of the town for quite some time has been road expansion. From every tea shop to bus stand, people love talking about how the houses have been broken down to create more space for vehicles and pedestrians, the amount of dust blowing in the air, the possibility of a better city and skepticism about all the government plans. Interestingly, everybody seems to have their own version of the affair and each version is different from another. Here's a glimpse of what's mine!

This entire idea of expanding the roads for a better traffic management finally sounded like a great initiative by the Prime Minister, something nobody else had dared do before. Defying the so-called powerful and influential peoples' power, as many of them had to give a large chunk of their property, was another successful move never attempted by any known individual earlier. Though breaking down the houses and shutters of the less privileged seemed to be a terrible move to make, the thought of a better city and controlled traffic took over the guilt.

This high vision expansion plan, however, still has many flaws. Perhaps these flaws are what have made people indifferent, passive and also to some extent resentful towards the change. The major weakness of the entire project seems to be the lack of speed in building on what demolished so fast. This gives people a good reason to whine and complain all day long about the dust and some other inconveniences, including the confusion created by the multiple government line departments due to lack of coordination. Because some are already upset and angry about their walled compound bulldozed by the government, they are not welcoming this entire programme. And such people and their thoughts have always stood in between the government and its developmental actions, widening the always prevalent missing link between policy making and implementation.

Nonetheless, moaning and grumbling during this *work-in-progress* is pretty much acceptable. The bumpy rides from one place to another, difficulty in walking due to negligent falling and placement of stones and mud all over, and ditches have made it extremely difficult to commute. Disturbances in telephone, television, electricity and internet services due to the digging and dumping has been posing another problem. Some

negative connotations and grumping over the present is not unexpected and unreal. But I think that we as citizens should really appreciate the first step ever to finally make roads for the Kathmandu traffic of 2069. Instead of dismissing the personal initiative of someone trying to outdo the roads that do not even match up our ever growing demands of vehicles, we should support the idea wholeheartedly and dream of a better tomorrow. Some people are



evidences of eye irritation, respiratory disorder and stress due to this cumbersome process are also visible. In a nutshell, this short run transition period sees more of disadvantages over advantages, and people not foresighted enough seem to not get a glimpse of what the future looks like and when this is coming to the end.

Coming to the future, in a country like ours, the long run is synonymous to

even known to give up more than half of their houses, and to actually respect their acts, we should not back out from not giving up a portion of our lands. If it is the development or lack of it that always is our main problem with the otherwise so beautiful city, we should go hand in hand with this step to development.

Let us dream of a better, wider and cleaner capital sooner than later! ■

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## MOVIE REVIEW

## Bhoot Returns



Ramgopal Varma, the maverick, is synonymous with 'dark films' [a terminology we often use in the industry]. Gangsters, underworld, crime, horror, supernatural... RGV has attempted it all. With BHOOT RETURNS, RGV revisits the horror genre yet again.

A quick clarification, before we proceed further. Is BHOOT RETURNS a sequel to RGV's BHOOT? BHOOT RETURNS doesn't continue from the first film. Also, the characters find themselves in altogether diverse circumstances. The sole similarity is that the house is haunted. In fact, the plot of BHOOT RETURNS bears a striking resemblance to the RGV-backed VAASTU SHASTRA [2004; Sushmita Sen, Chakravarthy], which was directed by Sourabh Usha Narang.

RAAT had its share of spine-chilling moments. BHOOT had moments that gave you goose bumps. PHOONK had its share of thrills and chills. With BHOOT RETURNS, RGV attempts to make the viewer break into a cold sweat, with 3D enhancing the shock element. More recently, Vikram Bhatt's RAAZ 3 hit the right notes and if BHOOT RETURNS delivers, the trend of horror films in 3D would only get an impetus. Does RGV get it right? Unfortunately, he doesn't!

Let's not compare BHOOT RETURNS with the Hollywood inspirations. But when one compares it with RGV's own creations [RAAT, BHOOT and PHOONK], one realizes BHOOT RETURNS ranks lowest on the list. After raising the bar of horror films with BHOOT, RGV lets you down badly this time.

RGV teases the moviegoer at regular intervals. Silence and stillness can create a stronger impact than frenzied, furiously fast-cutting frames or out of control effects. In BHOOT RETURNS, the scenes remain silent... then you get a jolt out of the blue, but the problem is that there's too much waiting, which makes you fidgety after a point. The concluding moments also lack originality, while the final sequence seems ludicrous.

Sandeep Chowta's background score helps resurrect several ordinary sequences, which, otherwise, would've fallen flat. Cinematography is uninspiring, while the technology [3D] hasn't been utilized to the maximum.

There's not much scope for histrionics here! Manisha handles her part with ease. Chakravarthy is monotonous. Madhu Shalini catches your attention with a fine act. The child artist, Alayna, looks adorable, but is far from convincing in the concluding stages.

On the whole, BHOOT RETURNS is amongst RGV's weakest films! (Courtesy: BollywoodHungama)



## Glorious Victory

After winning ICC World Cricket League Division 4 title in Malaysia last month, Nepal now is the joint-winner of the Asian Cricket Council Elite Trophy with UEA.



Nepal shared the Asian Cricket Council Elite Trophy in Sharjah with UEA in a thrilling final. Chasing a target of 242 runs, Nepal managed to tie the score by losing nine wickets in 50 overs. For Nepal, Subash Khakurel top scored with 55.

Saqib Ali led UAE's recovery from 24 for 3 to help them post 241. After a good 94-run opening stand, the Nepalese team looked set for the victory, but Nepal lost wickets at regular intervals. Shakti Gauchan, proved to be hero in the finals and the hopes of Nepal winning only returned after he smacked Shadeep Silva's left-arm for a six, but he could only manage only one run off the last ball.

Nepali skipper Paras Khadka was declared 'Man of the Series'.

The victorious team was taken for a parade on different parts of Kathmandu on Monday.

Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) has also declared Rs 30,000 cash prize for each member of the Nepali winning team.

## EXHIBITION

## The Japanese Dolls

By CORRESPONDENT

The Japanese dolls and traditional toys have their long history and they have their own peculiarity. The Japanese Embassy organized an exhibition of the Japanese dolls and traditional toys, the first of its kind, to make visitors aware of them.

"In Japan, dolls have been a part of everyday life since ancient times. Japanese dolls reflect the customs of Japan and the aspirations of its people, possess distinctive regional attributes, and over the centuries have developed in many diverse forms. Originally dolls were basically used in purification rituals. Even today, shrines in Japan conduct divine purification ceremonies using paper dolls to wash away all evil and bad luck and to assist prayers for good luck," said Japanese ambassador to Nepal Kunio Takahashi.

With enrichment of culture, dolls were used as toys by children of noble families. They became more and more beautiful and developed into sublime of art. Dolls are also combined with Japanese technology. The exhibition introduces Mr. Hisashige Tanaka, 1799, who invented amazing mechanical dolls called "Karakuri Dolls" which moved without electricity - only with strings and springs. Visitors can see his excellent craftsmanship and ideas on DVD. It will not be an exaggeration to mention here that Karakuri dolls are the origins of robots, the foundation of a modern technology. Tanaka is one of the founders of TOSHIBA, the world-class Japanese electronics company. ■



## Bill Made to Establish the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Development Fund, Act 2066

### 1. Introduction

Safe drinking water and cleanliness are fundamental necessities of human life. The development of a safe drinking water and sanitation will have a positive impact on the health of the consumers creating a healthy human resource and aiding in other productive sectors of the country. The proper use of safe drinking water prevents the spread of waterborne diseases and reduces the need for investments in health services. By saving the time taken to fetch water it will make more time available for other more productive works, adding to income generation, and reducing healthcare costs thus lending a major helping hand to the country's aim of alleviating poverty.

### 2. Current scenario of access/import of drinking water in rural areas

Keeping in mind that the proper development of drinking water and sanitation, a fundamental necessity of human life, can aid in the social and economic progress of the country and positively affect public health, it is the fundamental duty and responsibility of the state to ensure that all Nepali people get easy access to safe and adequate drinking water.

A large portion of Nepal's population still does not have easy access to adequate safe drinking water. People living in the hills and mountains still use water from springs, wells, ponds, canals, rivers and streams, which are mostly unsafe for drinking. Because water has to be fetched from long distances after walking many uphill's and downhill's the use of water itself is limited to the bare minimum needed to sustain life. In the flatlands of the Tarai although there are underground water resources but in most cases the water from these underground sources are also not safe.

At the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan the state of beneficiaries of drinking water supply service in the rural areas was as follows:

Eastern region: 291761  
Mid region: 425165  
Western region: 321679  
Mid-western region: 228480  
Far western region: 171985  
Total: 1438771

Various sources have showed that at an average 10,500 children die of water

borne diseases such as dysentery in Nepal every year due to lack of safe drinking water and proper sanitation. A large portion of the adult population is also losing many productive working days due to water borne diseases. Although 80 % of the population have access to drinking water and 43 % have access to sanitation services there has been no interest in supplying safe quality drinking water as per the basic standards set by drinking water projects. Whatever else is shown in statistics the truth remains that only a small portion of Nepal's rural population has access to safe drinking water.

### National Policy on Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2060

The Nepal Government seems committed to provide basic level drinking water supply to the entire population, keeping in mind that safe drinking water and sanitation contribute to the socio - economic development of the country and safe guard the health of the public. As mentioned in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, the aim is to be able to provide safe drinking water and sanitation services to the entire population within the time frame of the 12<sup>th</sup> plan. It has therefore become necessary to form general and specific work policies to direct future projects for the development of safe drinking water and sanitation services, recognizing those projects that follow principles of participatory processes that are sustainable and reliable.

### Strategic Work Plans for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2060

Regional strategy and work plans have been prepared to make financial aid available for rural drinking water supply and sanitation services as per the current overall scenario and the goals of the 10<sup>th</sup> plan, on the basis of estimated required investments to fulfill the demand for rural drinking water supply and sanitation.

This regional strategic workplan proposes an optimal organizational mechanism, learning from past regional experiences and keeping the service provider mechanisms in mind, which clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of primary stakeholders, effective import of rural drinking water and sanitation services, and emphasis on correction in personal hygiene. This has

also included strategies to recognize the special role and involvement of women, backward castes and ethnic communities and alleviate poverty.

### Introduction of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Fund Development Committee

The Nepal Government established the Development Committee Act, 2013 on 14 March 1996 with the purpose of creating policy level assistance to allow for the basic transformation of the traditional import system, making it demand driven and based on economic participatory concepts, to allow proper income generating productive utilization of the time saved by women when not having to fetch drinking water through which the rural communities can be socially and economically empowered. This has been called "Fund board" in short. This is a well-known established institution that has been active in taking services to the people of the rural areas of Nepal. Its effectiveness did not decrease even during the days of the armed insurgency and conflict. Its working process that involves participation of consumers from the community level to project selection and implementation is very praiseworthy. State agencies have spoken proudly of this institutions work amongst all the progresses made since the first Peoples Movement. In todays changed context if legal provisions can be made to enable it to be organized and autonomous it will definitely make important contributions in enabling the rural population to get access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

### Recommendations and Suggestions for the proposed bill

The following recommendations and suggestions have been made related to the "Bill made to manage the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Solution Fund" presented before the Legislative Parliament, to establish the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Fund Development Committee, which has been enabling rural communities all over Nepal since 2052 BS, to consistently get access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in a reliable, sustainable, safe and economic manner, as continually accountable autonomous organized institution.



### Preamble

As non-government agencies play an important role in drinking water and sanitation projects that are implemented by the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Fund Development Committee from the initial development to implementation phase, the preamble of the proposed bill should mention that the assisting agency can also be an NGO, i.e. like local consumers and agencies.

### Definition

In place of the word "plan" mentioned in ( e ) of this title, it might be more appropriate to use the phrase "different types of plans".

Likewise in ( F ) under the sub heading "assisting organization" in place of "organized institutions established as per prevalent laws" it might be more practical to mention "organized non-government organizations and other organizations".

### Establishment of the Fund

Instead of emphasizing on the effective implementation of existing structures, the trend is to create newer structures and misuse the available financial resources for personal benefit. Therefore instead of the proposed provision where it says "the fund may open its branch offices in any place in Nepal as per its necessity" mentioned in 2 of the same heading, it might be more appropriate to say "only permissible to open if it is necessary, significant, useful, and financially viable."

### Committee Formation

If the proposed Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Development Fund as are to be effective development fund, regarding the formation of the committee, keeping the current proposed provision of Nepal Government appointing three members to the board, the following must also be included in the committee to make it more effective:

Secretary, Physical Planning and Works Ministry- member

Secretary, Local Development Ministry - member

Secretary, Health Ministry - member

Chair, District Development Committee Federation - member

Chair, Village Development Committee National Federation - member

As it has been many years since

there have been any local election leaving posts in the local agencies vacant and as many changes have also occurred in the political scenario of the country, an alternative may be thought of, in place of the VDC National Federation and DDC Federation representatives.

Likewise as many of the municipalities are no better off than VDCs requiring drinking water and sanitation programmes even in the municipalities, it might be appropriate to have provisions allowing representatives from municipality bodies in the committee.

Under sub section 5, and 6 of the same heading, instead of the nominated members and chair having a term of two and three years respectively it will be better to have both serve equal terms of three years each.

### Executive Director

In place of the provision allowing the government to appoint a senior level employee of the Fund as the Executive Director for a maximum of 6 months, until one is appointed as per Article 16 sub section 4, it might be practically and ideologically appropriate to have a provision to allow the committee itself to appoint an Executive Director for a maximum of 6 months, from within the committee itself.

After presenting its recommendation and suggestions regarding the proposed bill in detail, emphasizing the importance of the proposed bill, the organization requests that the Legislature Parliament keep the following points in mind when passing the proposed bill.

At a time when there is a need for an organized autonomous agency to provide safe drinking water and sanitation in an effective manner to 84 % of the population who live in the rural areas of Nepal, it is of outmost importance that this bill be made into a law.

If the goal of making safe drinking water and sanitation, a basic right, to all Nepalis within 2017 is to be achieved the bill *must* be passed.

In the context of the regional strategic work plan proposing an optimal organizational mechanism, taking into account past experiences and keeping the service delivery mechanisms in mind, as per the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Regional Work Plan, 2060, to present the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Fund Development

Committee" an organized and autonomous institution, this bill must be passed to fulfill the long term objectives.

No bill or law is complete on its own. The specialty about law is that it allows space for necessary corrections in the future with learnings from past experiences, through amendments. In this context, as the bill, even if it is passed in its present form can prepare important organizational structures for rural drinking water and sanitation services; it must be passed as soon as possible. There are no significant weaknesses in the proposed bill either. It will be beneficial to the country and people to pass the bill as soon as possible, allowing for amendments in the future based on experiential learning and the necessity.

Safe drinking water and sanitation are the fundamental basis for the development of human society. The main challenges here are to increase the service areas of drinking water and sanitation services as well as its quality and supply as per demand. The Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Fund Development Committee has been working effectively and efficiently for the last 15 years. If the goal of increasing the service area and quality and taking safe drinking water and sanitation services to all Nepalis within the year 2017 is to be met the Legislative Parliament must pass the Bill Made to Establish the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Development Fund, Act 2066, as soon as possible.

This investigation and recommendation was prepared by Professor Ganesh Dutta Bhatta for the Nepal Constitution Foundation with inputs from women, indigenous communities, Madhesi, youth and other pressure groups. The Foundation is grateful to Bharat Gautam, Dinesh Tripathi, Pradip Kumar Rajkbanshi, Indra Kumar Sodemba, Yam Kumar Yonjon, Rajendra B Pradhan, Bhupendra Aryal, Balman Singh Swar, Ritu Thebe, Hemraj Chatkuli, Phupra Tamang, Abhishek Adhikari, and Dr. Bipin Adhikari.

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# “Taking The Pulse”



By BUDDHA BASNYAT, MD

“Taking the pulse” (*narichamnu*) has been an important part of medicine over many centuries. It is amazing how many important and informative points about a particular illness are thought to be gathered by taking the pulse properly. Many of the methods of taking a pulse are foreign to Western medicine. For example, in certain traditional medicines, each pulse position reveals what is going on in different areas of the body. The first position, closest to the crease of the wrist, it is said gives information about the diseases in the chest and head. The second position, just behind this, gives information about the organs in the abdominal cavity (liver, gallbladder, stomach, spleen, pancreas). The third position gives information about the organs in the pelvic cavity (kidneys, bladder, reproductive organs, intestines). What about the importance of “taking the pulse” in Nepal? In this regard the role of the *ghata* (riverside) *vaidyas* (physicians) is fascinating.

Based on carefully taking the pulse, *ghatavaidyas* in Nepal determine the time when a seriously ill patient may die. With the advent of modern medicine there are fewer of these *vaidyas* now. But in years past, many relied on them to predict the hour of death for their loved ones so that religious rituals along the riverside could be auspiciously carried out. There are many stories of these riverside physicians making arbitrary, life and death calls on Aryaghat in Pashupatinath. After taking the pulse of a dying man, if the *ghatavaidyas* determine that death is imminent, the patient is put on a tilted slab of stone (*Bhramanal*) next to the water. Relatives then put a handful of the holy (albeit contaminated) Aryaghat water into the mouth of the dying to facilitate salvation. Unfortunately sometimes people not quite dead yet, choke and aspirate water into their lungs.

But taking the pulse and making an important diagnosis is very common not only in Ayurvedic but also in Greek,

*Tibetan, Chinese, and Islamic medicine.* In these traditional medicines, problems in the intestines, liver, gall bladder, kidneys, lungs and brain are determined by a careful assessment of the radial pulse. Even psychological health is determined by the pulse. Avicenna, the famous Islamic physician of the tenth century used the pulse as a lie detector to figure out that a sultan's sick wife was actually pining for her lover and that nothing else was wrong with her. This is akin to the scene in countless Hindi movies where the doctor after studiously taking the pulse of a beautiful, unmarried woman and performing no other examination announces gravely to the parents, “*Apkibeti ma bannewalihal*” (Your daughter is pregnant).

In modern medicine, to determine

*the seriousness of an illness the doctor uses the pulse as just one of the important means of assessing the patient. Light reflexes in the eyes, response to any kind of stimuli (especially pain), breathing, blood pressure are some of the other determinants besides the pulse which are included in the assessment. But figuring out the exact time of death is still scientifically very important. For example harvesting the organs for donation after death in people who have given consent needs to be done immediately after death to optimize the chances for that organ to work in another patient. Perhaps with some fine tuning the role of the *ghatavaidyas* could be expanded for organ harvesting when Nepal is ready for this. ■*

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On the auspicious occasion of **BADA DASAIN & SUBHA DIPAWALI – 2069**, I would like to express my heartfelt best wishes & greetings to all the students, parents, employees, teachers and well-wishers and pray for their peace and prosperity.

Dr. TILAK RAWAL  
CHAIRMAN

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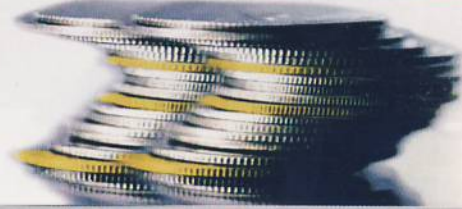


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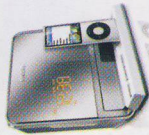
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