

# SPOTLIGHT

May 09-15, 2008

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## Rising Costs; Falling Exports Twin Trouble

### INSIDE

UNMIN: Mission Incomplete  
 Yechury's Visit : Remarks on  
 Controversy  
 Pakistani Music Show

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All for one, Tuborg for all!



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GOLD

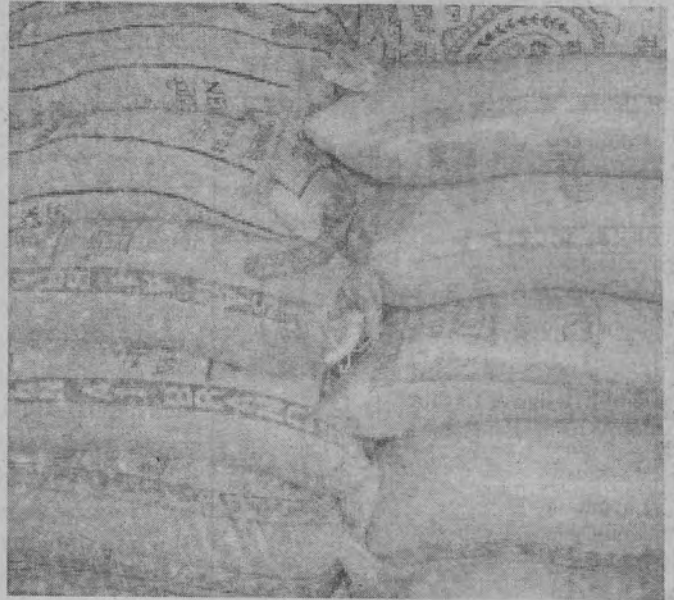
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**SPOTLIGHT**

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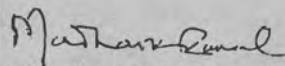
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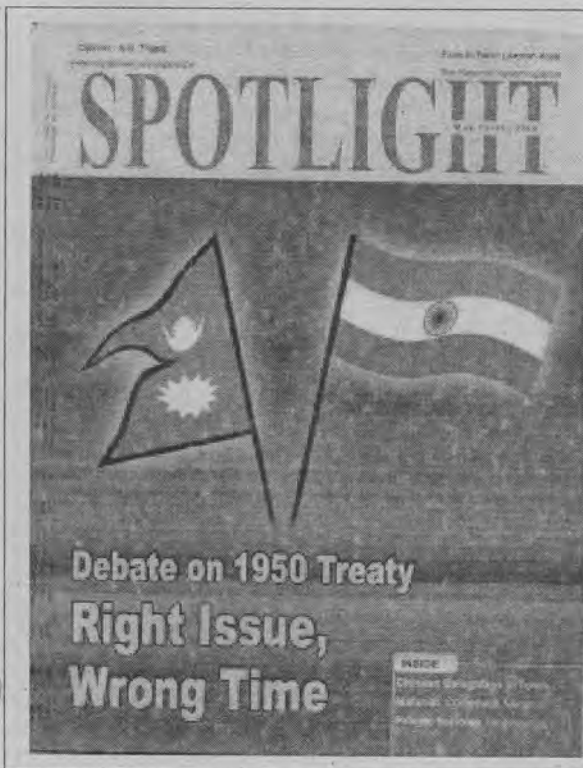
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**T**he contentious tug of war going on between the CPN (Maoist) and the anti Maoist forces in the process of forming the government that will guide the constituent assembly in drafting the peoples' constitution does not augur well for speedy finalizing of the historic enactment. That this assembly's one and only mandate is to give the country a unique constitution, must be well realized by all concerned. Any variation from this pious duty would not be acceptable to the people and they will not take it lying down. That times have changed and the pliant politicians can no more take the people for a ride has been amply proved by the recently concluded elections. If the older political parties have been badly exposed the new one is on trial. As the largest party in the assembly, the Maoists must be given the privilege of leading the coalition government. But then the Maoists must understand that, up till now, Nepali politics has been dominated by alien forces. Since the Nepali politicians have, most of the time, totally neglected our nation's interests and blindly followed the directives of their alien masters to stay glued to the official chair, it has almost become a tradition and no patriotic Nepali has emerged to break that tradition. Since the Maoist leaders too have to pay back their debt for ten years of hospitality, most Nepalis are apprehensive that they too might stick to the dotted line. Since they have not been tried yet, there is still some hope that they might prove more honest and patriotic and give a new twist to our traditional politics. If they too are carried away by their unanticipated performance in the recent polls and start to thrust Prachanda or Baburam doctrine on the people, they will be only inviting troubles. Let the constitution speak what kind of doctrine the people want for their country. It is not for one party or one man to decide the fate of the country or thrust any kind of doctrine on it. Besides, in the changed political context, the validity of Seven Party Alliance has totally expired and to keep on harping on their utility would be nothing but sheer selfishness and political naiveté. And again, the constituent assembly too is not fully representative of the people as the greater number of members are nominated by political parties. And since constitution must reflect the thinking of the whole people and meet their aspirations all the twenty six million Nepalis must participate in its drafting. Hence the draft must be placed before the people for a referendum. As such, it would be nothing but presumptuous to talk about the form of government, the doctrine it would follow or the policies it would adopt at the stage. Let the draft of the constitution come before the people as early as possible. And let the Maoists lead the government but not before they mend their manners, eschew violence and follow a peaceful way of life and start respecting the rule of law.

  
**Madhav K. Rimal**  
Chief Editor & Publisher



## Serving Indian Interest

By harping anti-India statements demanding scrapping the 1950 treaty, Prachanda, who used India as a safe sanctuary during Maoist insurgency, is serving Indian interest. Otherwise, Prachanda would not have raised such sensitive issue although the treaty has signed about 58 years ago. The treaty has not made any harm to Nepal.

*Sushma Mathema  
Via email*

different provisions but one must have political consensus when there is political crisis. Had seven political parties waited for constitutional provisions, they would not have scrapped the authority of king through parliamentary proclamation. Our leaders have already shown political consensus is more important than constitutional provisions. As the largest party, Maoists have mandate to form the government. It is against the mandate of the people to form the government under the leadership of any other party.

*Lila Subba  
London Via email*

## Fresh Choice

After looking at various forms of governments turn by turn, Nepalese seem to have realized that they need alternative government now under the new political party. Maoists deserve to lead the government. Any effort to stop Maoists from leading the government will send a wrong message and it will create dangerous situation. As Maoists have won the election, the leaders of various political parties must respect the verdict of people by allowing the Maoists to go to power. Nobody wants to listen to any ifs and buts. The demand of present time is the government under the leadership of Prachanda.

*Rana Bahadur Thapa  
Melbourne Australia via email*

## Commendable Viewpoint

I want to salute CPN-Maoist leader Dr. Baburam Bhattarai for his remarks that he will support right to self determination of Kashmiri people. For the last five decades, people in Kashmir have been waging war with a demand of right to self determination. After securing such a large number of seats, CPN-Maoist leaders have already shown that people are supreme. Dr. Bhattarai has shown courage to speak in favor of people of Kashmir. We hope you will continue to support us.

*Javed Akhtar  
Via-email*

## Pertinent Points

Your cover story Debate on 1950 Nepal India Treaty: Right Issue, Wrong Time (Spotlight cover May 2-8) is well written. You have raised a very valid question that it is very wrong time to raise such issues. At a time when CPN-Maoists do not have even a simple majority in the parliament, they are talking about the need to amend the 1950 treaty. According to our constitution, such treaty requires two-third of majority. Of course, Maoist leader Prachanda might have raised the issue with good intention but his position is so weak that he cannot bargain with a big power like India. This may be the reason why Prachanda has not found any backer in Nepal. Interestingly, his backers are Indian officials and Indian political leaders who want to take as much concessions as possible. This is very wrong time.

*Shanta Gurung  
Pokhara, via-email*

## Disproportionate Projection

Although the Maoists have secured just over 30 percent of votes in 601-member CA establishing itself as a single

largest party, Maoists leaders are projecting themselves as if they have won two third majority to form the government. After reading your cover story (Fractured Mandate April 25-May 1), it is clear that Maoists cannot form the government. The constitution clearly stipulates that political consensus or two third majority is required to form the government. I don't understand the reason behind Maoists' self proclamation to form the government. The present interim constitution was drafted by them and all those clauses were placed by them. Since they were part of constitution making, they cannot blame others for this.

*Kamal Bista  
Via email*

## Respect Mandate

Since the Maoists have already emerged as the single largest party, they should be allowed to form the next government. People voted Maoists and they want to see the new government under the leadership of Maoist leader Prachanda. Of course, constitution has



### Parties Submit Final PR List

Political parties have submitted their selected list of candidates under the Proportional Representation (PR) category to the Election Commission Friday (May 2). The big parties rushed to the commission at the eleventh hour while many smaller parties had submitted their lists to the EC earlier. The lists of the big political parties include 50 percent women representatives as per the provision in constitution. The NC list includes party president Girija Prasad Koirala, Purna Bahadur Khadka and student leader Gagan Thapa. The Maoist list includes Mohan Baidya, Dinanath Sharma, and Khim Lal Devkota, among others. The list also includes figures such as Indrajeet Rai, a conflict expert, and Surya Bahadur Sen Oli, a former bureaucrat and said to be close to monarchy in the past. The Maoists had won 100 seats under PR. Their selected candidates include 50 women. Madhesi Janadhikar Forum's list included former Rastra Bank governor Dr Tilak Rawal. Other smaller parties also submitted their lists within the deadline allocated by the commission. The commission said it will scan the lists to ensure proportionate representation of all sections of the people. The Maoists have bagged 100 seats under PR while NC, UML and MJF have won 73, 70 and 22 seats, respectively. Meanwhile, some prominent leaders have failed to make it to the list of Constituent Assembly (CA) members selected by the parties under the Proportional Representation (PR) category, which were submitted to the Election Commission (EC), on Friday. In the Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) list, the names of acting general secretary Amrit Bohara and standing committee members Sahana Pradhan, Mukunda Neupane and Modnath Pashrit are

missing. The party sources have said that they decided not to send the standing committee members in order to revamp the party organization following election defeat. The Nepali Congress (NC) list misses out central working committee members such as Sunil Bhandari and other leaders like Manmohan Bhattarai, Radheshyam Adhikari, and Harihar Birahi. The Maoist list does not include its student wing chief Lekhnath Neupane and a few central leaders like Netra Bikram Chand. The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) list misses out Bishwobandhu Thapa, Jogmeher Shrestha, among others. The Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) has dropped singer Nalina Chitrakar from the list. The Election Commission has said that it will make the final PR list public within a week after thorough investigation of names in the list to ensure that they fulfill specified quotas.

*Compiled from reports*

### US Ambassador Powell Meets With Prachanda

In what is seen as the first official contact between the United States official and the leadership of the Maoist party, the US ambassador Nancy Powell met with Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda, on Thursday (May 1). "US ambassador met, yesterday, with CPN-M Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal to discuss the outcome of the April 10 elections. CPN-M plans for the Constituent Assembly, and the future of US-Nepal relations. This was their first meeting," states a press release issued by the US embassy in Kathmandu on Friday morning. The US government has labeled the Maoists as a foreign terrorist organization. The meeting occurred in advance of Powell's return to the United States for consultations on US-Nepal relations. She left Nepal on Friday. "Powell provided an overview of current US government assistance to Nepal designed to help create a more prosperous, democratic, and stable Nepal. She sought assurances that the new government would respect current donor agreements and ensure the safety of those implementing them," the press release adds. "She encouraged Dahal to ensure that all Maoist organizations illustrate their commitment to the political process through their words and actions." Powell's meeting with Prachanda came amid Maoists'

statements that they will lead the next government. The Maoists had emerged as the single largest party through the April 10 Constituent Assembly election.

*Compiled from reports*

### CEC Pokharel Acknowledges

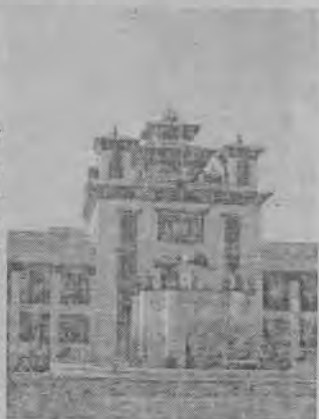
#### Flaws

#### In April

#### 10 Ca

#### Polls

Chief Election Commission Bhoj Raj Pokharel Wednesday (Apr 30) acknowledged that the April 10 Constituent



Assembly (CA) elections could not take place in a completely flawless environment. There were slip-ups in the elections due to various complexities and obligations despite serious efforts to hold the historical elections in an absolutely flawless environment, he added. The Chief Election Commissioner said that the Election Commission will move ahead in the coming days by rectifying such mistakes. During a discussion with national and international observers, Pokharel said that Nepal has set an example in front of the world, however, by conducting the CA polls in a successful manner. The observers expressed satisfaction for the successful elections despite lack of voters' education and enough security. So far, nine national and four international organizations including Cater Center, European Union and ANFRELL have tabled their CA polls report. In their reports, the organizations have suggested that the elections officials need to make the voters' education effective and give attention to recognize the voters. *Compiled from reports*

### American Climber Deported For Free-Tibet Activism

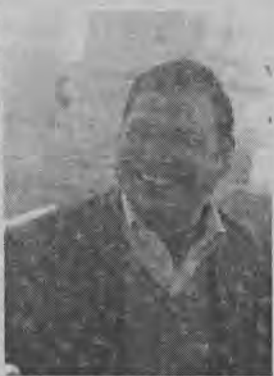
The government, on Monday (Apr 28), deported American climber William Brant Holland who violated strict regulations banning pro-Tibet protests on Mount Everest and imposed a two-year ban, prohibiting him from climbing any mountain in Nepal. Spokesperson for the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation Prem Kumar Rai said the

ministry decided to ban Holland from climbing the mountains for two years. Holland was caught with a banner painted with 'free Tibet' slogan in his bag at the Everest base camp on April 21. The ministry had interrogated him when he arrived in Kathmandu on Thursday. Rai said Holland returned to the US this afternoon. He refused to divulge the details about the development. However, AFP quoted Rai as saying that the tourism police had escorted Holland to the airport for deportation. Meanwhile, the government has sought clarification from the Himalayan Guides Treks and Expeditions, which acquired the permission for Holland to climb.

*Compiled from reports*

### **Maoists Can Form Govt On Their Own If Others Do Not Agree To Join It: Mahara**

A senior Maoist leader has said that his party will form a government on its own if other parties do not agree to form a coalition and decide to opt out of the government led by it. Addressing a May Day rally of workers in the capital, Thursday (May 1), Maoist spokesperson and Minister for Information and Communication Krishna Bahadur Mahara said, "Our first option is to form a government under our leadership in alliance with other parties. If they refuse to be part of such government, we are prepared to form government on our own. If they obstruct us in this also, then we will come before you and do whatever you say." He said, "We can mobilize 20 million people for the construction and we can really make changes in the country's infrastructure within next two or three years." Mahara added, "We are equally prepared to make use of spade, sickle and shovel with the same courage as we fired bullets and guns." He said there were conspiracies being hatched by power centers from within and outside the country to prevent them from coming to power. "Whether such centers are inside the country or outside, we want to tell them that while



they tried to teach us about peace and democracy, they need to learn it themselves," he said, referring to the democratic practice of allowing the single largest party to form a government. Mahara also ruled out demands for disbanding his party's youth wing Young Communist League (YCL). "The people have already endorsed our YCL through the mandate they gave us in the election," he said. Mahara said 'nationalism and republic' will be the new mantra for the Maoists. Earlier, addressing the same program, YCL president Ganesh Pun had said that it was because the YCL 'kept their cool as per the directive of party chairman,' that the election passed peacefully. "The YCL will immerse itself in the building of new Nepal," he said. Addressing the program, president of All Nepal Trade Union Federation (ANTUF) Shalikram Jammakattel, said that rights and interests of workers will be ensured in the new constitution to be drafted through Constituent Assembly (CA). *Compiled from reports*

### **NEA Reduces Load Shedding Hours By More Than Half**

People tired of daily power cuts will get some respite with Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) slashing the load-shedding hours by more than half from Tuesday onwards. Sher Singh Bhatt, chief of NEA's Load Dispatching Center, said that NEA would from now on impose only 21 hours of power cuts four days a week. Bhatt said that the load shedding hours were reduced as the water level in reservoirs increased owing to melting of snow with the advent of the summer season. He said this has led to increased production of electricity in the power plants. Earlier, consumers were forced to bear more than 46 hours of load shedding every week, adversely affecting their daily lives. According to the new load shedding schedule, NEA would impose two and half hours of load shedding three days a week and then eight and six hours of load shedding one day each in separate time schedules for different parts of Kathmandu. Similarly, consumers would not have to face any power outages two days a week as against the current one. *Compiled from reports*

### **Mahato Conferred Russia's 'Manager Of The Year'**

President of Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) and Russia-Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Dr. Upendra Mahato, has been awarded with the title 'Manager of the Year-2007' in Russia. According to Jugal Bhurtel, spokesperson of the NRNA, the Russian competition 'Manager of the Year' was organized by Free Economic Society of Russia and International Academy of Management under the support of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation since 1997. Dr. Mahato is the first foreign national to receive the prestigious award. As the winner of the title, he received a statuette of Catherine the Great, the Big Medal and a diploma amidst a gala ceremony held at Moscow President Hotel on April 22. 'Manager of the Year' is the most prestigious and popular among numerous events of the same nature and more than 2,000 business entrepreneurs from majority of Russian regions participate in the annual competition. The jury of the competition includes representatives of Russian state authorities, leaders of top business organizations, eminent scientists and civil society representatives. *Compiled from reports*

### **Govt Cuts Down Climbing Royalty**

In order to expand the mountain climbing activities across the country and throughout the year, the government has decided to cut down climbing royalty by half for autumn season. The cabinet decided to keep the royalty for spring season as it is but decided to cut it down by 50 to 75 percent for autumn and winter season. Likewise, the government has decided to waive the climbing royalty on mountains of mid western and far western regions in order to expand climbing activities away from Sagarmatha, Annapurna and few other limited regions. President of Nepal Mountaineering Association Ang Chhiring Sherpa welcomed the government decision. "It should have been taken a long time ago," he said. Of the 14 highest peaks in the world, 8 are in Nepal. That apart, there are over 2000 mountain peaks in Nepal of which only 326 are open for climbing. Among the tourists visiting Nepal, 20 percent are mountaineers and trekkers. *Kantipur daily reports* ■



FNJ's new team after their victory in the elections

**WITH JUST 100 DAYS LEFT FOR THE BEIJING OLYMPICS** 2008 to begin, the National Sports Council organized a special program at the historical Basantapur Durbar square in the capital Wednesday (Apr 30). Addressing a gathering of top sports officials and players, speaker of the interim parliament Subash Chandra Nemwang wished a grand success for the upcoming games and also reiterated Nepal's "one-China" policy. Nemwang said Nepal wishes to see a stable, prosperous and peaceful China and expressed confidence that the "centuries old" relationship enjoyed by both the countries would become more strong and cordial in the coming days too. The organizers said that from today onwards a count-down to the 2008 Beijing Olympics will also be displayed at the Basantapur area which is visited by almost every foreign tourists coming on a visit of the country. This is the first time that such a program is being held in the nation's capital and is believed to be symbolic given the drubbing the international image of China received due to protest by Tibetan exiles in Kathmandu and across many parts of the world just before it is about to host the showcase event that is supposed to catapult it into the leading league of nations. Wishing success to the summer games that is set to begin in the Chinese capital Beijing from August 8 onwards, a rally was also taken out from Dashrathrangashala, the national stadium, Wednesday. Officials of Nepal Olympic Committee, NSC and leading sports personalities had participated in the rally.

**IN THE FACE OF GROWING GLOBAL FOOD** shortages and spiraling prices of food stuffs, the government has decided to restrict the export of rice, paddy and wheat. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, on Wednesday (Apr 30), decided to ban the export of the food items, according to Secretary of the Ministry Purushottam Ojha. "We have taken this decision in view of increasing food prices in the world market and their shortages so that we can avert any situation affecting food security in the country," said Ojha. From the eastern border point of Kakarbhitta, seven to ten thousand tons of wheat were being exported daily to Bangladesh. Traders have said that in the last one month LCs have been opened to export 50,000 tons of wheat to Bangladesh. While India has banned export of rice and wheat, the continuous outflow of food items from Nepal had affected the local market. The price of rice, wheat, flour had increased by

25 to 30 percent. The government's decision has come amid calls by the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) to restrict export of food stuffs.

**AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES**, Nancy Powell, has expressed official US concern about the treatment of Tibetans by Nepali authorities. During her meeting with the Prime Minister, Thursday (May 1) morning, she urged the PM to ensure that the right to peaceful protest was maintained and that the human rights of Tibetans in Nepal are respected. She welcomed the respect accorded to Tibetans during their April 28 protest at Swayambunath. Powell had called on Prime Minister Koirala in preparation for her return to the United States on consultations. They discussed the current political-economic situation in the wake of the final election results. Ambassador Powell welcomed the Prime Minister's statements calling for

consultations and consensus on the formation of a new government.

**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH** has asked the Nepal government to rescind orders authorizing security forces to use lethal force to suppress protests associated with the Olympic torch's relay up Mount Everest. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Wednesday (April 30), HRW urged Prime Minister Koirala to immediately rescind these orders and ensure that authorities uphold the rights to freedom of assembly, expression, and association. HRW also urged that forces refrain from using unnecessary or excessive force against protesters. The rights body said the Nepali security forces should abide by the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms, which call upon law enforcement officials to apply nonviolent means before resorting to the use of force and only in proportion to the seriousness of the offense. It allows lethal force only when it is 'strictly unavoidable in order to protect life'. "Nepal authorities should be using whatever means necessary to protect basic human rights, not violate them," said Sophie Richardson, Asia advocacy director at Human Rights Watch, adding, "With the world watching, this is the moment for Nepal's new government to prove that it aspires and adheres to international standards."

**EXPERTS HAVE SUGGESTED EXPORTING** hydropower to bridge the yawning trade deficit with India. "The Bihar state of India alone will need 10,000 MW of power in next few years," said Dr. Shankar Sharma, former vice president of National Planning Commission (NPC). He said Nepal could earn Rs 250 billion if it can export that much of power. Dr. Sharma, who had recently visited Patna, India to take part in a seminar on Indo-Nepal relations, said that India, too, has shown interest in reducing trade deficit with Nepal. "Commitments have also come in development cooperation of Nepal," he said. He, however, said that actual assistance Nepal has received from India has been less than its commitment in the past. He informed that although India committed to provide annual assistance of \$ 70 million per annum, it provided only 25 percent of that. Economist Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal said Nepal could not continue to survive by taking advantage of custom duty differentials. He said comprehensive economic partnership agreement with India would be beneficial for Nepal ■



# THREE GORGES WATER CONTROL PROJECT

## A DREAM OF CHINESE PEOPLE

•AB Thapa

China completed the construction of the world's largest dam on May 20, 2006, in Three Gorges area of the Central China's Hubei Province, signifying the accomplishment of the major structure of the mammoth Three Gorges water control project. The proposed Karnali Chisapani Project and the Kosi High Dam Project are also comparable to the China's Three Gorges Project (TGP). Nepal can greatly benefit from China's experience of implementing the TGP. We can learn that the implementation of a large water resources project has been a great challenge even for a superpower country like China. A small country, like Nepal, must exercise extreme patience as well as caution. We should not rush to compromise optimum development for the sake of a quick deal.

Since a long time the attention of the whole world is drawn to TGP because of the enormity of its size. According to Lu Youmei, President of China Yangtze TGP Development Corporation, the Three Gorges Project has remained as a dream for the China for more than 70 years. Implementation of the TGP was seen as the greatest challenge before the Chinese people and that country has spared nothing to fulfill the ambition of the Chinese people to harness the mighty Yangtze river even though it is taking such a long time.

### Planning Stage

The concept of building the Three Gorges Dam Project was initiated early in the last century. Preliminary investigation and planning were done in 1940s'. From the middle of 1950s to present, more than 40 years of extensive efforts have been made into investigation, planning, design and scientific research needed for the implementation of this project. The study covered a wide variety of fields such as the scientific and technical researches, socio-economy and environment protection studies etc.

It has been reported that thousands of engineers and technicians and a large number of experts and scholars from related universities, research institutes and equipment manufacturers from all over the country participated in the study of this project. The experts from all parts of the country were involved on several occasions in course of verification and review of the project. The review work lasted three years from 1986 to 1989 and 412 experts were involved. Since 1940s a large number of foreign experts from countries such as the former Soviet Union, United States, Canada, Sweden, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, France, Brazil, etc., have also participated in the research and consultation works.

The major components of the project consist of the dam, two power plants and navigation facilities'. For a long time,

experts were involved in the in-depth studies and researches on various alternatives to determine the type, configuration and layout of the structures. And it was only after successfully completing the full analysis based on scientific studies and testing in various fields, such as hydraulics, sedimentation, structure and material, etc., the final decision was made to approve the project.

### Completion of Engineering Studies

The feasibility study report was completed towards the end of 1989. An overall review of the feasibility study was done by the Three Gorges Project Examination Committee of the State Council. In April 1992, the Fifth Session of the 7th National People's Congress passed the resolution to implement the Three Gorges Project. In December of the same year, the preliminary design report of the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River was also completed, and it was formally approved in July 1993 by the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee (TGPC) of the State Council.

The technical design included major structures such as the dam, powerhouses, permanent shiplock, vertical shiplift, 2nd stage upstream cofferdam, mechanical and electrical equipments & facilities, project safety monitoring, harbour/piers and navigation channel regulation in the fluctuating backwater region (including effect of the degradation of the river bed downstream and the countermeasures thereto). In the final design the spillway is placed at the center of the river channel, i.e., on the original main river course, while the intake dam sections and non-overflow dam sections are arranged on its both sides. The powerhouses are placed on the back of the intake dam. The permanent navigation structures are located on the left bank side

### Premier LiPeng Declared the Formal Start

On April 3 of 1992, the fifth session of 7th National People's Congress passed the resolution on the construction of the Three Gorges Project, which marked the end of the 40-plus-year verification phase and the start of the performance phase. With the first batch of construction teams entering into the site in the early 1993, the implementation of preparatory works and the stage I diversion works started. On Dec' 14, 1994, Premier LiPeng declared the formal start of TGP's construction at the dam site.

### The Dam

After repeated study and analysis of 15 dam site alternatives, the site for TGP was finally selected at Sandouping where the dam foundation would be resting on crystalline rock. The total water catchment area hereof is about one million km<sup>2</sup> with 451 billion m<sup>3</sup> of average annual runoff



and 526 million tons of annual sediment discharge.

The dam is of a concrete gravity type. The total length of the dam axis is 2,309 m, with the crest elevation at 185 m and a maximum height of 175 m.

The spillway dam, which is located in the middle of the river channel, is 483 m long, where there are 23 bottom outlets. Surface sluice gates with a net width of 8 m have been provided. There are flip buckets in the downstream part for energy dissipation. With a maximum discharge capacity of 116,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, the project is able to cope with any possible maximum flood.

#### Power Stations

Being provided with a total installation of 18,200 MW generating capacity the TGP will supply a large proportion of its electricity to East China, Central China, and a small proportion to the east

Sichuan province and Chongqing Municipality.

This means a replacement of 40 to 50 million tons of raw coal combustion each year. And this reliable, cheap and renewable energy

will play a very important role in the development of economy and prevention of environmental pollution.

According to the plan, two powerhouses would be placed at the toe of the dam, one on each side. In the left powerhouse, about 643.6 m long, 14 sets of turbine generator units would be installed, while in the right one, 584.2 m in total length, there would be 12 turbine generator units. Thus, there would be 26 sets of turbine generator units in total (the turbine will be of Francis type), 700 MW each, totaling 18,200 MW in total installed capacity. There would be 15 transmission lines. Central China and east Sichuan Province would be connected with the Three Gorges Project by 500 KV AC lines, and East China. By 1500 kV DC lines.

On the right bank, enough room has been preserved for future underground powerhouse to be equipped with 6 turbine generator units with a total 4,200 MW installed capacity. The intakes of these units will be constructed now simultaneously with the rest of the project.

#### Navigation Facilities

The 660km long waterway from Yichang City to Chongqing Municipality would be greatly improved after the completion of the TGP reservoir, making it possible for 10,000 tons barge fleet to sail upstream directly to the harbour of Chongqing. It is expected that an increase of annual one-way navigation capacity from present 10 million tons to 50 million tons, and a decrease of the navigation cost from 35% to 37% would be reached. With the regulation of the Yangtze runoff, the minimum flow downstream Yichang in the dry season would be increased from the present 3,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s to over 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, which would improve the navigation in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River.

The permanent navigation structures consist of a permanent ship-lock and a ship-lift. The ship-lock is a double-

way five-step flight lock, and each lock chamber is 280m x 34m x 5 m in size which is adequate to pass 10,000 tons of barge fleet.

The ship-lift is designed as a one step vertical hoisting type with a container 120m x 18 m x 3.5 m in size adequate in capacity for carrying one 3,000 ton passenger or cargo boat each time.

#### Scheduling

The master schedule of TGP is arranged as hereinafter: (1) Preparation and 1st stage construction - 5 years from 1993 to 1997 (2) 2nd stage construction - 6 years from 1998 to 2003 (3) 3rd stage construction - 6 years from 2004 to 2009.

The total duration of construction will be 17 years taking into account the time for preparation. The main course of the river was to be closed in 1997, and the initial two turbine-generating units was to be put into operation in 2003 (the 11th year). The whole project will be completed in the year of 2009.

#### Sediment Study

Sediment control is one of the major technical problems to be tackled. Since 1950's, many research institutes and

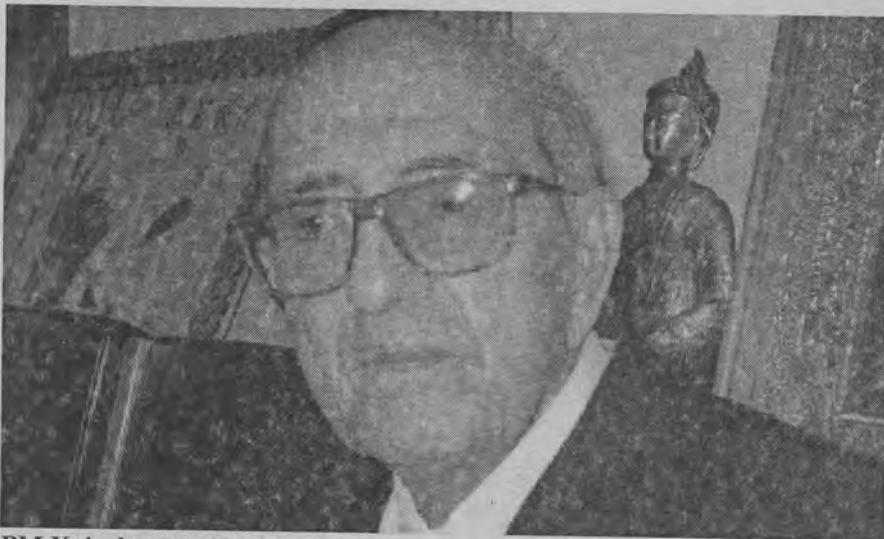
experts have conducted extensive studies on this issue in China. Their findings have been published in many international journals. The successful experience gained from the Gezhouba Project on sediment management has provided solid foundation for the sediment study of the Three Gorges Project.

Comprehensive research methods, such as prototype observation, mathematical model computation, physical model tests, and analogue analysis on existing projects have been adopted for the TGP's sediment study. The results show that the sediment problem of the TGP is resolvable based on the studies conducted in the past by sediment experts in China and abroad.

#### Discharging the Turbid and Impounding the Clean

The Yangtze River is abundant in runoff. The Three Gorges Dam is to be equipped with 23 bottom discharge outlets at low elevation (90 m). Meanwhile, the reservoir level in the flood season will be maintained at a fairly low elevation (145 m). These two characteristics allow the application of a strategy of reservoir operation summed up in China as "discharging the turbid and impounding the clean". During the flood season from June to September, when the river carries 84% of the annual sediment load and 61% of the annual runoff, the reservoir draws down to a 145m level that creates a condition in favour of sediment sluicing, allowing a large discharge of sediment out of the reservoir from the bottom outlets. At the end of the flood season (October) when there is less sediment content in water, the reservoir will be impounded to 175 m level for enhancement of power generation and navigation. Chinese experts are hoping that in this operation manner, most of the sediment will be discharged, the large part of sediment deposited will remain in the dead storage of the reservoir, and most part of the effective storage can be preserved permanently. ■

*Three Gorges Project, which marked the end of the 40-plus-year verification phase and the start of the performance phase.*



PM Koirala : Food for thought

DIPLOMACY

# Food For Thought

*An informal gathering of diplomats fuels speculations about formal developments*

By SUSHIL SHARMA

**I**t was a customary lunch-on Nepali Congress leader Narayan Khadka hosts every year for the Kathmandu-based diplomats. Few used to take notice of the event in the past.

This year, the event made headlines. Not over the gathering of the heads and the acting heads of the six western missions, as such. But over the presence of the officiating head of state and the prime minister of Nepal, Girija Prasad Koirala.

The apparently outgoing prime minister spent half an hour with the diplomats. They included the acting head of the US mission who is officiating in the absence of his boss currently in Washington for consultations on how to deal with the prospects of a communist-led government in a country that borders Tibet.

Politics was the last thing Koirala said he wanted to discuss. "I am here just to share a few relaxing moments," Koirala told the host and his guests as he stepped inside the Vedbas at Hepali, just outside the Maharajgunj ringroad.

As it turned out, it was politics that, understandably, dominated the chat over lunch.

The host, Khadka, refused to divulge the details. All he had to say was, "nothing substantive was discussed."

No reason to doubt him. But the fact remains that most of the western democratic governments are still struggling to come to terms with the "shocking and surprising" poll performance of the red brigade in Nepal. Ditto with the influential neighbor, India

Public postures and diplomatic niceties notwithstanding, the international community is definitely not sure of the days ahead under a prospective Maoist-led government. Especially after the international election observers' hasty clean chit to the Maoists win came under a heavy scanner.

As head of a Kathmandu-based prominent western organization asked, "how do you explain the fact that not a single Maoist winner figures in the list of 12 who had been challenged in the constituency assembly court over their victory in the CA election."

"Sheer fear" he himself gives the answer. It is clear that the Maoist intimidation factor is very much in the minds of the western community. That is the reason they are not sure of the days ahead.

Combine this with Koirala's infamous intoxication with power. All kinds of speculations would automatically follow. ■

POLITICS

# Mission Unaccomplished?

By A CORRESPONDENT

They may have tumbled at the polls. But their prospects of making it are not over yet.

According to sources, some key figures are nursing the hopes of making their way to the constituent assembly. Under the provision of the nomination of 26 members of the CA.

"The reason", explained one, "our role has not been completed yet."

Role? "Yes," said he, "until the new constitution is made and elections for



Sitaula : New role

parliament held, the peace process will not be complete, nor our role."

Sources said that a section of the influential Delhi establishment is keen to have home minister Krishna Sitaula, Nepali Congress leader Shekhar Koirala and the former UML general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal on board the 601-member constitution making body.

The list could even include one Amaresh Kumar Singh who shot into the front for behind-the-scene role in bringing the Maoists and the mainstream parties together for the 12-point agreement, in Delhi.

Will the unthinkable happen? It is anybody's guess. ■

## TIBETAN'S PROTEST

## Chinese Concern

*Chinese embassy expresses concern over the growing anti-Chinese activities in Nepal*

By A CORRESPONDENT

**A**lthough Chinese Embassy has issued a strong statement denouncing pro-Tibetan activists in Nepal for launching anti-China demonstrations, it has not made any change in the determined mood of Tibetan refugees, coming from Dalai Lama's exiled home in Indian city of Dharmashala.

"I will continue to come to protest for Tibetans. China must end its rule in Tibet and let Tibetans live peacefully," said Tibetan Activist Nima Dolkar, (The Himalayan Times, a newspaper with Indian investment.) (May 7, 2008)

Refugee like Dolkar is not alone. It is almost regular to see a handful of Tibetans demonstrating in front of Chinese Embassy and United Nation premises for the last one and a half month. Despite adequate laws to punish such kinds of activities, the police are just taking preventive measures since the government has not given clear direction regarding Tibetan demonstrators who even don't have valid refugee documents issued to them in Nepal.

According to Nepal Police sources, most of these Tibetan demonstrators don't have valid refugee status. Their interrogation shows that most of these refugees have come from Dalai Lama's exiled home in Dharmasala in India. "Although some of them are in Lama's dress, they behave like well trained commandos when police intervene them," said an official source.

"Tibetan exiles living in India can easily cross the border since there is absolutely no restriction for Indians coming to Nepal because of open international border. If stronger actions are not taken at the border, there is every possibility of many more infiltrations of Tibetan refugees from India which will adversely affect Nepal's internal



Anti-China demonstration: Growing concern

security," said a police source.

In recent years, hundreds of monasteries have already been built in and around the capital, Kathmandu, with the funding from unknown sources. Police officials see these monasteries as safe sanctuaries for such Tibetans.

"Like Indians who are concerned about the growing mosques and madarasas in Nepal's southern terai as potential threat to their security, Chinese too seem to be quite concerned about the possibility of misusing the privileges such monasteries offer," said a senior official of Ministry of Home on condition of anonymity. The Chinese have already informed the government about the alleged Tibetan refugees link with terrorist organizations like the Indian's suspects about the mosques and madarasas. "

Although prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala has repeatedly assured the Chinese envoy that his government will not allow anti-Chinese activities in

Nepal, the government is unable to control such activities.

"Any foreigners whether refugees or others, they have to abide by the law of the land. If they don't, they will be subjected to legal actions. This is what happens every where in the world. Some Tibetan separatists who are campaigning for "so called Free Tibet" from Nepalese soil are also subject to deportation. Since these "so called Tibetan refugees" have not only violated Nepal's declared foreign policy and the law of the land by backing some anti-Chinese foreign forces but are also trying to turn Nepal as a frontline state to create trouble for the Chinese," said Madan Regmi, Chairman China Study Center. "China Study Center seriously feels that government of Nepal has not been able to perceive the ramification of these on going anti-China activities. Thus, it urges the government to sincerely come forth to protect its own rule of law and stave up anti-China activities which has been going on in Kathmandu to damage the Beijing Olympic."

Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu issued a press statement accusing few human rights organizations for interfering in Nepal's internal affairs and attempting to damage Sino-Nepal relations.

"They say those protests by the Tibetans in Nepal were peaceful demonstrations. In fact, a few Tibetan independence organizations and their ringleaders, by organizing and instigating the Tibetans who do not know the truth, attempted to storm Chinese Embassy many times, damaged the embassy's buildings twice and repeatedly attacked patriotic Tibetans, destroyed their houses and shops and threatened their safety," said press release issued by the Chinese Embassy.

At a time when Indians are for the first time claiming to have upper hand in Nepal vis-à-vis China, the growing anti-China activities in Nepal seem to be a direct sequel to such thinking. "India is for the first time, perhaps, actually well placed vis-à-vis China in the landlocked Himalayan nation's polity," writes Hindustan Times, May 2, 2008.

When democratic India feels more happy to see radical communist force in power in Nepal, how China will respond to this new power equation at the time of growing anti-China activities in Nepal remains to be seen. ■

# 1950 TREATY

## Twists and Turns

*A visiting Indian leader says reviewing 1950 Treaty will be an agenda for government elected after new constitution is drafted*

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

**T**he issue of reviewing Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950 has flashed periodically in the last many decades.

The issue has come into prominence, particularly during the political transitional phases in Nepal.

This time, too, the issue has hugged the limelight. And it was the demand by Maoist chairman Prachanda – who is expected to lead the next government – for its abrogation that catapulted the issue into prominence.

However, a senior Indian communist leader who is seen to have worked closely with Nepalese politicians including Maoist leadership in the last three years since November, 2005 signing of 12-point agreement in New Delhi, has said that the issue of the treaty review will become an agenda only after a new government is elected under the new constitution that will be written by Constituent Assembly (CA).

Sitaram Yechury, senior leader of Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPI-M), has said that the issue is better left for the elected government that will be formed after the new election is held under the new constitution written by the CA.

“Our party CPI-M has called for review in the treaty since way back in 1990. But I think this issue will become an agenda for the elected governments,” he said.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, voices of ‘sympathy’ have been expressed towards the demand posed by Prachanda

regarding the treaty.

Last week, Indian foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon said that India is willing to review the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Nepal and India.

“They have spoken about replacing it or changing it in order to bring the relationship to a new and higher level. We will be happy to work with Nepal to that aim,” Menon told reporters.

The CPI-M, a key supporter of the ruling coalition in New Delhi, last week backed the demand for renegotiation of the 1950 Treaty and said there should be no treaty which is unequal.

If there were any areas in the Indo-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty which needed to be re-negotiated it should be done, CPI (M) General Secretary Prakash Karat said, according to Press Trust of India. “Yes, I think that demand has to be considered. Earlier also when the Indo-Nepal treaty was reviewed we had a detailed position,” he told a press conference after the party’s politburo meeting. “We have always said that big countries or small countries, it does not mean we should have treaty which will be unequal,” he said.

Significantly, noting that re-negotiating the Indo-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty should not be difficult, former National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra – who held that position during the rule of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – has said the new agreement would also be based on reciprocity, with both sides gaining from it.

“I don’t think it should be difficult at



**Yechury:** Twists and Turns

all. We have never said that Nepal is not a sovereign, independent country. It has its own requirements. We have our own requirements. Obviously, the new treaty will also be based on reciprocity,” Mishra said in an interview with Karan Thapar on the CNBC 18 program ‘India Tonight’.

Observing that both countries would gain from it, he said, “I don’t consider the abrogation or renegotiation of the treaty as a disaster for India. It’s not,” Mishra said.

“We should take advantage of a re-negotiation to improve the conditions of our people and Nepal about which we have had lots of problems in the past,” he said.

To a question on whether the victory of the Maoists posted a threat to India, he said he did not think it was a cause of threat or concern, but added that the new situation would require a great deal of reappraisal between the relations of the two countries. He, however, added: “Fundamentally, the relationship between the two countries is not going to alter. There may be some reservations on the part of the new government about certain aspects of the relationship. But it is not going to turn inimical,” Mishra said. ■

# RISING COST; FALLING EXPORTS

# Twin

# Tremor

As politicians continue wrangling over the formation of new government after the election and as new constitutional complications have emerged indicating prolonged instability, the economic sector is facing tough problems. Currently, the economy of the country is facing a twin problem – the increasingly accelerating inflation rate and the fast dwindling exports. The inflation rate has surged beyond seven percent while the trade deficit has neared Rs 100 billion. This sorry situation has emerged at a time when Nepal, along with the entire world, is facing the heat generated by the food shortage and shooting costs of essential food stuffs. The rising oil and food prices are set to further affect the economy at this crucial political transitional phase

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

Soon after election results started pouring out indicating victory for his party, Maoist chairman Prachanda held a series of meeting with business community.

It showed that the comrade knew what would be the number one challenge

his government – widely expected to be formed – would face immediately after taking the charge over Singhdurbar.

The implementation of republic, removal of monarchy, sitting down to write constitution and bringing forces that are diagonally opposite together

would, indeed, be tough challenges. But the King (no pun, intended) of all challenges his government would face would definitely be the 'economy.'

For years, the economy of the country have been brushed aside as political discourses and disputes have



**Rice products:** Going up and up

grabbed the center-stage. But, not anymore. Prachanda himself admitted as much saying that his focus would now be to bring about 'economic miracle.'

But miracles do not happen automatically, they have to be manufactured through the application of methodical measures. And for a Maoist party immersed in dogmatic communist doctrine, bringing about economic miracle - through what they themselves have called as initial phase of transforming the relations of forces of production from feudal to capitalist - would be a tall order.

For millions of poor people who have demanded change in their daily life through their votes, such communist jargons would do no good until and unless they start feeling the actual change.

And the problems could not have been worse for the comrades. The economy is in shambles - although the macroeconomic stability is still intact, the underlying fundamentals are crumbling due to absence of conducive socio-politico as well as global atmosphere.

Just as they prepare to take over the

reins of affairs of the state, the country's economy is hit by inflation - triggered by international rise in prices of fuel and food. Furthermore, the balance of trade is fast turning on against the economic stability.

### Twin Concerns

The acting governor of the central bank - the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) - Krishna Bahadur Manandhar is haunted by two concerns these days. The rising inflation and the dwindling exports have hit the economy where it hurts.

"The fall of exports definitely has us concerned. It would be affecting the total Balance of Payment. Likewise, another area of concern is the rising inflation. In the past four-five years, the inflation rate was around three, four percent. Now, it indicates it is rising beyond seven percent," Manandhar said.

Although the Balance of Payment is still positive at Rs 13 billion, the rate of its decline has worried the NRB officials.

"Both these problems are serious. Although the things have not yet gone out of hand, we must be very alert about these issues," Manandhar said.

Coming from the head of the central bank, these words mean a lot.

### Falling Exports

According to the latest financial report by the central bank, the state of trade is not at all satisfactory.

In the first eight months of the current fiscal year 2007/08, the total exports have declined by 3 percent compared to the same period previous year to reach Rs 39 billion.

Worse, the trade with India has further suffered. Exports to India - with whom Nepal conducts two-third of its entire foreign trade - have dropped by seven percent to reach Rs 26 billion.

On the other hand, the total imports have increased by 12.5 percent during this period to reach almost Rs 150 billion.

Such a heavily tilted Balance of Trade

has hit manifold sectors of economy including the Balance of Payment, the reserve of Indian currency, current account situation and so on.

"In the face of huge trade deficit, current account deficit and balance of payment deficit with India, the continuously sliding exports have increased our problem of management of Indian currency reserves," said Nara Bahadur Thapa, chief of the Research Department of the NRB.

He said that in the first eight months of the current fiscal year, the NRB had to sell hard currency of US\$ 1.1 billion to purchase Indian currency. In the entire year of previous fiscal year, the NRB had sold off US\$ 930 million to purchase Indian currency.

### **Rising Inflation**

The rate of inflation has been creeping up since last many months. But in recent days, this rate has accelerated.

As the price of fuel have surged in the international market – reaching near US\$ 120 per barrel of crude oil last week – and as the price of food stuffs have grown by almost 30 percent in recent months, the inflation, it seems, is a global problem.

In the immediate neighborhood, inflation has emerged as the single most damaging problem for both India and China. The sword of inflation is set to cut down the astounding rate of growth attained by these global economic powerhouses.

Nepal is also facing the heat of inflation. "Inflation has become a problem. Few years ago, it used to be around three to four percent but now it is threatening to surge beyond seven percent," Manandhar said.

For a stable economy, the rate of inflation racing past four to five percent is always a big worry.

The inflation eats up economic growth, depletes the wealth and drags people down into poverty. It is one of the most injurious element for any capitalist economy.



**Froot: Scarcity**

### **Saving Grace**

The only saving grace for Nepali economy in these turbulent times have been the constant increase in the remittance income – the earnings sent home by hundreds of thousands of Nepali workers toiling in foreign land.

"In the first eight months of the current fiscal year alone, the remittance income sent by our workers have crossed Rs 82 billion, which is 28 percent more than what they sent previous year," said Thapa.

He added that the remittance income

has helped the economy tide over such problems as balance of payment, foreign exchange reserve and so on.

"But remittances are not good for the economic health of the country in the long run. When our workers are compelled to go overseas for work, that does not increase our GDP, it increases the GDP of the countries where they work," said Thapa.

### **Food Shortage**

In last two months the situation of food shortage and their spiraling prices have hit all over the world, particularly



in the developing countries.

The United Nations has said that the global food stock have been depleted in what it says as lowest level since 1970.

This has triggered the governments of developing countries to announce ban of exports in essential food items like rice and wheat. This, in turn, has further fueled price rise.

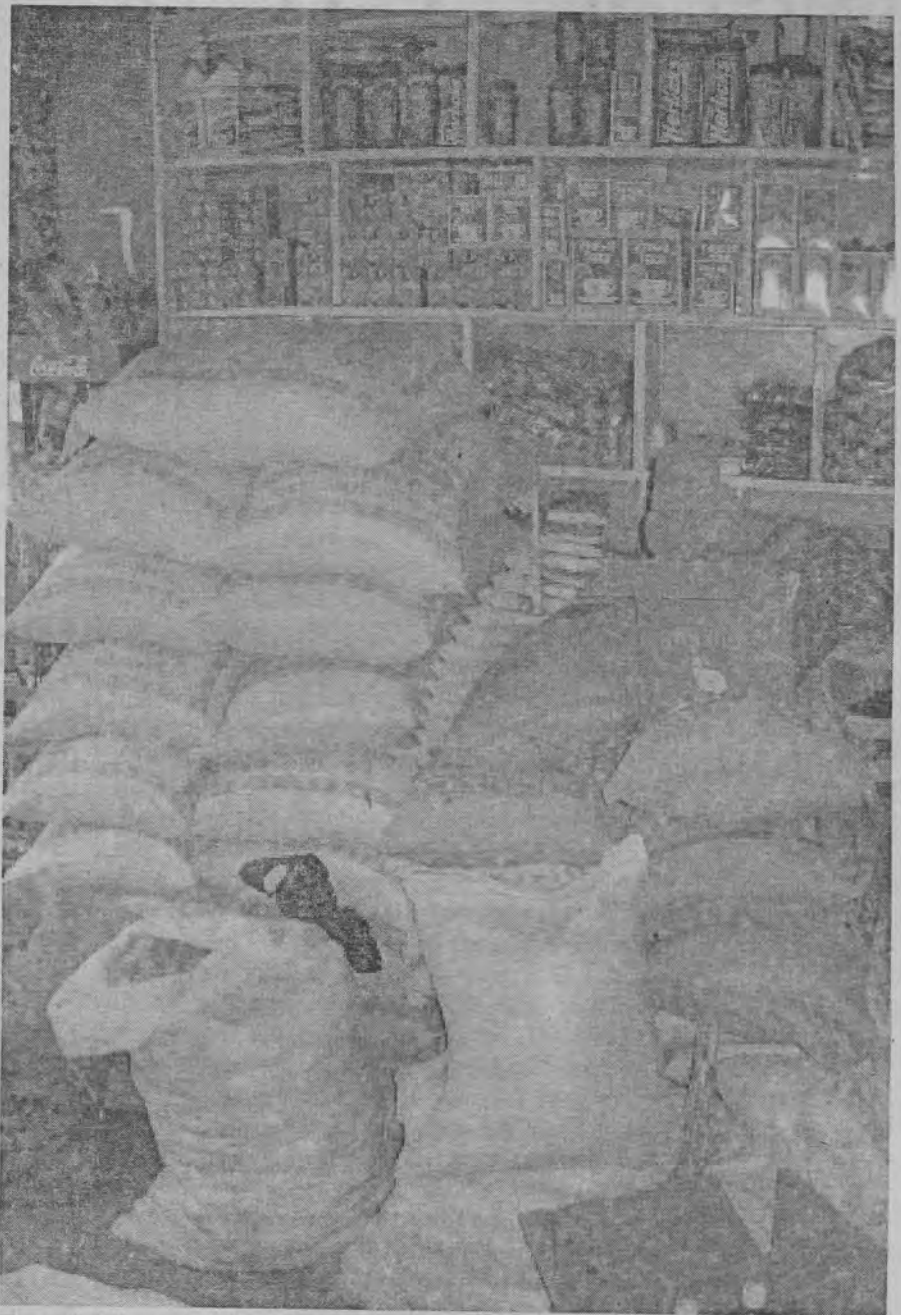
According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), by March-end, prices of wheat and rice doubled compared to a year ago, while those of maize were more than one-third higher. The international price of rice has risen by about 68 percent since the beginning of this year while the prices of soybeans, corn and wheat currently near their all-time high.

The UN has described the situation as a silent tsunami. The UN Secretary General has called for international cooperation to combat this problem, which he fears would derail UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially on reduction of poverty and hunger.

"The implication is such that, according to World Bank, if the cost of food increases by 20 percent, 100 million people could be forced back into poverty. A one percent rise in food prices results in a 0.5 percent drop in energy intake among the poor," said Navin Dahal, executive director of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE).

The situation in Nepal, too, is heading for worse. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) had said in March that 3.8 million people in Nepal face food insecurity in the months ahead due to rising prices and Terai strikes. It has said that food stocks in 38 districts (mainly in the west) have fallen by 50 percent over last year due to rising food prices although paddy production was up by 17 percent this year. The WFP estimates that prices will go up by 10 percent every month till the next harvest if India continues its ban on the export of rice and wheat to Nepal.

In a paper he presented recently at an interaction, Dahal has written that



#### Essential Commodities: High price

Nepal is a net importer of food grains – rice imports from India (Rs 2.3 billion in 2005/06 and Rs 1.5 billion in 2006/07) and wheat imports from India (Rs 50 million in 2005/06 and Rs 100 million in 2006/07). He has stated that Nepal's rice imports from India account for 2 percent of India's total rice exports while Nepal's wheat imports from India account for 0.6 percent of India's total wheat exports.

Due to worsening situation and fear of rapid outflow of food stuffs, the

government has already banned export of rice, and wheat.

The rise of food prices is especially hurtful to people of developing countries like Nepal where people spend 50 percent of their expenditure on food. This is also, therefore, directly related with the poverty.

As such, the situation in the socio-economic sector will be posing greater challenges in the coming days – a litmus test for the coming government. ■

# 'NC Is Punished For Its Wrong Stand'

- SUNIL KUIMAR BHANDARI

Having spent four decades long as an activist of Nepali Congress, **SUNIL KUMAR BHANDARI**, 60, was recently in news when he challenged the central committee decision writing note of dissent. Bhandari, who is also a central committee member of Nepali Congress, spoke to **KESHAB POUDEL** on various issues including NC debacles in recent polls. Excerpts:

**Why did you write the note of dissent in recently concluded Central Committee meeting regarding the nomination of the members for Constituent Assembly?**

My conviction said it is enough now and I have to oppose. There is a limit for compromise and sacrifice. How long shall I give up my conscience to support proposals and resolutions picked up from the pocket of party president. I wrote a note of dissent when party president proposed the least of candidates to central committee meeting nominated for the CA without any consultations and discussions as if we are just a rubber stamp.

**Some of your party colleagues claimed that you wrote a note of dissent as a reaction against the withdrawal of your name from CA nominee? What do you say?**

I have spent more than 40 years in the party just for the cause of nationalism and liberal democracy as propounded by our leader B.P. Koirala. Had I aspired post and position, I would not have followed B.P. Koirala whose view is highly objectionable in our party now. All the prices I have to pay because my political and ideological stand.

**Was it first time when your party president and prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala presented the proposal in the party's central committee for endorsement?**

In the last two years, party president has imposed all his decisions on us and we fulfilled our duty as a rubber stamp. Whether on the issue of party unification or changing the party's statue as to republican, prime minister Koirala took all the decision on his own. In all the time, Koirala secure our consent. All the decisions were taken in convenience of leader rather than party's ideology.

**If that was so, why you did not oppose such steps in the past?**

I always firmly stood behind Girija Prasad Koirala, brother of legendary leader B.P. Koirala, hoping that he would not betray the cause of nationalism and democracy and his own brother.

I hold the view that Giriababu is a leader who can pursue national reconciliation. I proved wrong when he makes alliance with extremist party like Maoist to destroy democratic values and culture. People have already punished us for our wrong ideological stand. It is unfortunate to say that our leaders have betrayed to national reconciliation.

**Do you think your recent reaction will bring any changes in the party's decision making?**

I cannot expect a big change. I have taken a personal risk just to show that there are persons who are not blindly support all the moves. My conscience encourages me to challenge leadership.

**Don't you think you may be punished for your actions?**

I don't care about punishment. They can deny me my role in central committee but they cannot force me to abide a decision against my conscience. In democracy, every one has right to dissent.

**Do you mean recent decisions of your party harm nationalism and democracy?**

The results speak volumes. After recent elections, the status of Nepali Congress has changed from majority party to second largest party. Never before in the history of Nepal external interventions are so naked even a leader from neighboring country came to dictate us what to do and what not to do. This is a shameful. We are failed to identify national forces and make compromise and unity with them to curb the influence of external force. We have decided to remove the monarchy paving an easy way for external influence in national politics.

**But, large number of your party colleagues blamed that persons like you who want to maintain the status quo are more responsible for the recent debacle. They argue that your party needs to change past ideological stand to reemerge as a major party. How do you look at it?**

This is completely wrong. If that is so why Sushil Koirala, Mahesh Acharya, Dr. Shekhar Koirala, Home minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula, Arjun Narshing K.C, Madhu Acharya and so many others who are champion of Loktantra new version of democracy have lost the elections? People would have voted all of them.

**Then, why NC has lost the elections?**

Nepali Congress has lost the elections because we sacrifice our stand propounded by B.P. Koirala. In his last book Raja, Rastriyata and Rajniti, B.P.

*There is a limit for compromise and sacrifice. How long shall I give up my conscience to support proposals and resolutions picked up from the pocket of party president.*

Koirala has explicitly said that Nepali Congress will loose its utility if it gives up its stand on national reconciliation. His prediction comes true. Of course, we lead the change along with radical communist but we have lost our glory, prestige and identity. We sacrifice our relations with traditional force to promote radical extremism.

**Your party leaders prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala has repeatedly said that he has been sincerely following B.P. Koirala's national reconciliation with certain modification in the change context?**

This is again a betrayal to our leader B.P. Koirala. Who we are to modify the idea propounded by B.P? We don't have right to interpret him in accordance with our convenience. This is a great injustice to B.P. Koirala who has firmly written his stand without any ifs and buts. If we see B.P.'s idea is objectionable in the present context, NC leaders can declare he is irrelevant. For me, B.P.'s idea is more valuable than his statue picture.

**As other Congress leaders say, don't you think B.P's idea is too old?**

B.P.'s idea about nationalism, democracy and politics is crystal clear and it is relevant for all the time. B.P. Koirala has given his views in several articles and books. Only those who never read B.P. can make such comments In his recent book Raja, Rastriyata and Rajniti, he made it clear that Nepali Congress will loose its utility if it gives up the policy of national reconciliation. We all are paying the price for ignoring national unity.

**Who do you blame for present state of the party?**

Along with prime minister Koirala, we are also responsible for the present situation. Our greatest mistake was that we were unable to speak truth for petty interest. When our nation is in a great crisis, we are failed to sacrifice personal interest and take risk to preserve our nation by upholding B.P. Koirala's call for national unity and reconciliation. We quietly listen and gave nod to Girijababu.

**Don't you think you too are also responsible for present situation?**

I don't have any hesitation to say that I am also responsible for present circumstances. We have never shown guts to say spade is spade. Even when Girijababu disclosed that he was misguided and misled by some of our colleagues, we did not dare to speak the true picture of the country and party.

**What step Nepali Congress need to take?**

There is still chance for Nepali Congress to improve its image and gain prestige. As Nepal has been passing through a major constitutional and national crisis, Nepali Congress can again need to show its guts calling for unity among all the political forces. We have lost everything running



in false promises and now the time has come for party leader to speak reality. There are no other alternatives for this.

**But, a strong section in NC has been urging Girijababu to be the first president of Nepal. Will he sacrifice this opportunity?**

At the cost of country, B.P. Koirala has shown guts coming to Nepal to face death penalty. As he is in his last leg of political carrier, G.P. Koirala too has to show his guts to break the circle of vested interest and speak the truth.

**Don't you think to be a first president is more important and significant than other matter?**

It is irrelevant who is who is going to be a president or prime minister. One of the most pertinent issues now is whether our country will remain sovereign, independent, and democratic.

**It means don't you believe that the reason behind the recent debacle is because of your party's stand as a status quo?**

In pluralistic democracy, you need clear cut ideological stand to contest the elections. It is not a question whether there are large numbers of youth members or women candidates or old candidates. People vote political party on the basis of its ideology and political stand. Communists have ideology of Marx, Lenin and Mao but our party does not have shown its own identity. The recent elections have shown that Nepali Congress has its ideology as propounded by B.P. Koirala.

**How many leaders are there like you in your party?**

There are many other leaders but they remain silent because no body wants to take risk of political carrier. ■

*As he is in his last leg of political carrier, G.P. Koirala too has to show his guts to break the circle of vested interest and speak the truth.*



UNMIN: Verification Incomplete

UNMIN

# Mission Incomplete

*Although the peace process is yet to complete, some political leaders have already started talking about ending the presence of UNMIN*

By KESHAB POUDEL

**T**he tenure of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) will not be further extended," said Maoist leader and chief of international department CP Gajurel addressing a press conference on April 18. "We thank the UNMIN for its support to Nepal's peace process, which has already taken solid shape. We will integrate the Nepal Army and the People's Liberation Army to form a national army after making a new constitution. We don't see any role of the UNMIN in our future process," he said addressing an interaction program at the Reporters' Club."

Two weeks after C.P. Gajurel's statement, Indian communist leader Sitaram Yechury, who was one of the supporters of international mediation in Nepal's conflict; backed Gajurel's point

of view. "The presence of UN body will not be required beyond July 23 as the new government will be able to settle the issue of management of arms and armies," said Yechury.

The tenure of UNMIN is going to end on July 23, 2008. Maoist leaders under whose insistence seven parties had agreed to invite the UN mission in Nepal are now leading the debate to end UNMIN presence. The role for UN in the peace process was envisaged in 12 points agreement- which was reportedly mediated by Indian officials - signed in New Delhi in November, 2005.

Gajurel and Yechury were first to press for international observers but now they have joined hands to campaign against UNMIN. At a time when other major political parties are yet to speak about the issue, nobody

knows what prompted Gajurel to raise such vital issue. After two weeks, Nepal's revolutionary communist leaders have found an Indian communist leader as a buyer of their idea

"The decision will be taken only after the consultations with all the constituents of seven parties," said CPN-UML leader minister of foreign affairs Sahana Pradhan.

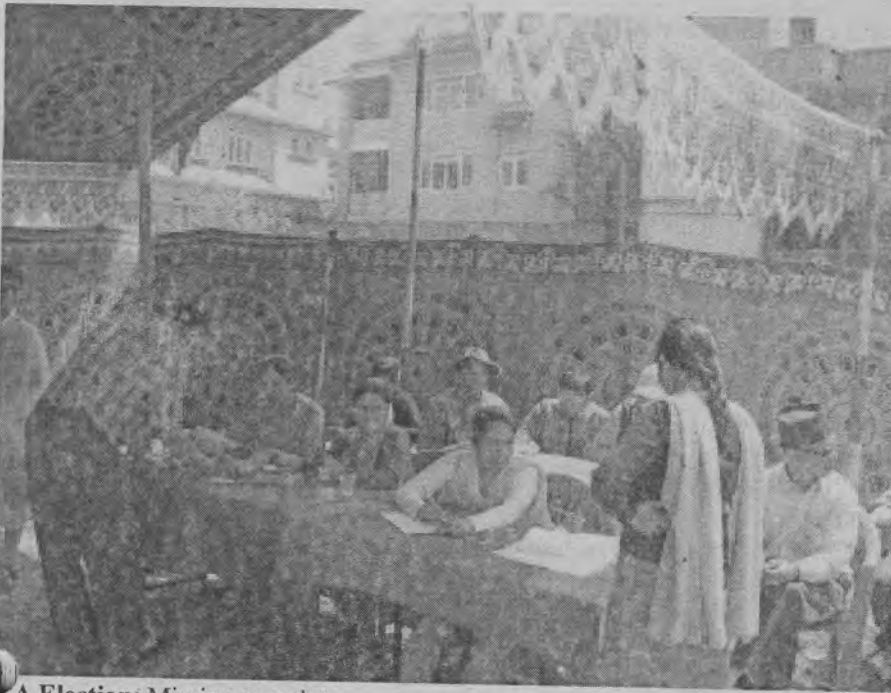
The question now is, which will prevail or the meeting of seven party leaders or the interim constitution or the likes of Gajurel and Yechury? The article 166(3) of Interim Constitution, the Comprehensive Peace Accord concluded between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) on Mangsir 5, 2063 (November 21, 2006), and an agreement relating to "Agreement on the Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies" reached on Mangsir 22, 2063 (December 8, 2006) are part of schedule 4 of the constitution. (See box)

As per the constitutional provisions, the UN monitoring role relates to five areas: the management of arms and armed personnel, the ceasefire arrangements, the elections, human rights and compliance with the Basic Operating Guidelines for the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance.

The question is not whether the UNMIN should go or not go but whether the peace process has been completed or not, for which UNMIN was invited in Nepal under a seven party consensus.

To give legitimate status to the UNMIN, seven political parties have even inserted its position in the interim constitution with a long lasting role.

"The Mission is a special political mission established by the United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1740, to support the peace process in Nepal. The process is still on. It has its importance and usefulness. It is not advisable to shut it down before the



**CA Election:** Mission complete

process is completed.” said Dr Bipin Adhikari, a lawyer and constitution analyst, who also worked with several United Nations agencies in the past.

According to Adhikari, when the Mission kicked off on 23 January 2007, its mandate included monitoring of the management of arms and armed personnel of the Nepal Army and the Maoist army and assisting the parties through a Joint Monitoring Coordinating Committee in implementing the agreement on the management of arms and armed personnel of both the Nepal Army and the Maoist army. It was also mandated to provide technical assistance to the Election Commission in the planning, preparation and conduct of the election of the Constituent Assembly in a free and fair atmosphere. While the third mandate has been accomplished, the first two need revised framework to work on. The works in these areas are still lagging behind. The Mission could still be useful to deal with the question of settlement of all Maoist combatants.

Leaders of seven political parties and Maoists reached into an understanding and formally invited

UNMIN to play a role in Nepal’s peace keeping task, which is yet to be completed.

“Before demilitarizing all Maoist combatants living in cantonments, why there have been so much hectic reactions not only from the one of the constituents of seven party alliance but from an external watchman Yechury, an unofficial facilitator for Nepal’s peace keeping? It shows India, too, is partly against the stay of UNMIN in Nepal,” said an analyst. “The same persons who insisted Nepal to involve UN in its peace keeping task- are now asking UNMIN to pack its bag and leave without completing the tasks. One has to get a convincing answer for such vacillating stand even from a player like Yechury from the neighborhood.”

When UNMIN came to Nepal, there

were so many backers. Now when it is under an attack, nobody is defending it.

“People - who are in the frontline of politics of this country- welcome the hegemonic player but don’t have guts to speak for a peace keeping mission like UN,” said the analyst. “Where are those loud speaking persons from so called civil society who demanded involvement of United Nations when United Nations was not much needed? Now when United Nations has started its work and its role is much important, a section of motivated persons are asking it to go back leaving the task unfulfilled and those loud-speaking persons have gone silent.”

For politicians and so called members of civil society, Yechury is more acceptable than anything else. “Nobody in Nepal questions the role of Yechury whose purpose and timing of visit to Nepal is an open secret to all. The country had got rid of the “active leadership” of monarch of Panchayat system. But, now the other “active leadership” has been imposed upon Nepal which no Nepali politician dares to question,” said the political analyst.

As annexure is also inseparable part of constitution, the government needs to amend the constitution in case it wants to contain the role of UN. “It is not difficult to understand why at



**Ian Martin:** More role to play

once there are so many voices against the UNMIN and why some newspapers are suggesting that it should pack up and go. As far as I know I have not seen ordinary people of Nepal asking the Mission to dismantle. Obviously, there are outsiders who think they can pass on without hiccup if the UNMIN vacates its premises from here. The challenge before the Mission is to maintain its independence and avoid being a tool in the hand of any country overtly interested in Nepal. The UN must meet this challenge, or it will find its potential and actual influence ebbing away in other countries. Certainly, this is not in the interest of Nepal," said Adhikari.

According to Adhikari, the complexity of international life, combined with the reluctance of leading states to act where their national interests are not at risk, will create many occasions when the UN provides the only arena within which an acceptable pattern of response can be fashioned.

"I always advocate advisory roles for the Security Council. In fact, my idea from the very beginning was to have some political advisors from the Security Council to advise the Government on all these issues, rather than deploying a full-fledged political mission doing so many works that Nepalese people otherwise had enough experience of working on. Nepal needed these advisors at Singh Durbar to help it with independent decision making at that time. Such advisors would have given the government, or any peace authority it would have created, necessary Security Council back up to deal with the Maoists. But people who had little ideas on how political missions work prevailed in the decision making, then."

"But now since the Mission is already here, and it has already done part of its assigned works, it should be allowed to achieve what it has been mandated with. It is the time to reassess what still needs to be revamped. The peace process is also the arrangement of the interim constitution. The process

will come to an end only after the new constitution is adopted by the Constituent Assembly and promulgated in the name of the people," said Adhikari.

The UN Mission came to Nepal on the request of the government. Can UNMIN leave its main task unfinished that may lead to resumption of armed conflict? ■



Prachnda: No More UNMIN

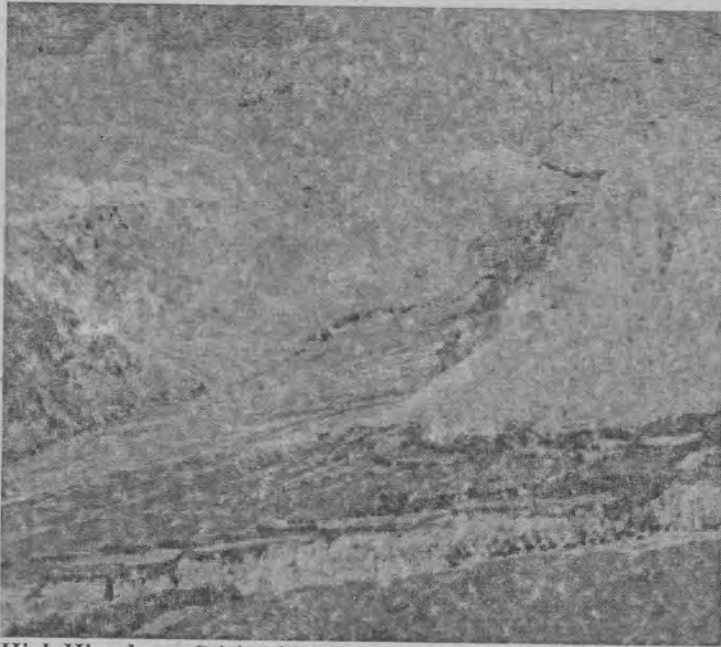
## Role Of UNMIN In Interim Constitution

- Schedule 4 (Relating to Clause (3) of Article 166)
- Comprehensive Peace Accord Concluded Between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
- The preamble of Comprehensive Peace Accord concluded between the government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), says, "reaffirming full commitment towards the 12 points understanding, the 8 points agreement reached between the Seven Parties and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) ..... and correspondence of similar view sent to the United Nations Organization....."
- Under the clause 4 of management of armies and arms, the accord says in order to hold the elections of the Constituent Assembly in a peaceful, impartial environment, free of fear, and for the democratization and restructuring of the army, to carry out the following tasks in accordance with the 12 points understanding,
- Under the clause 9, both the sides agree to the following agreement for the implementation and the monitoring of the agreement refereed to in this Accord:
  - 9.2 both sides agree to monitor the management of armies and the arms by the United Nations Mission in Nepal as referred to in the five point letter sent to the United Nations earlier and in this Accord and express their commitment to assist therein.
  - 9.3 Both sides agree to cause the elections of the Constituent Assembly to be supervised by the United Nations. (Both sides agree to cause the election of the Constituent Assembly to be observed by the United Nations.)
- **Agreement On Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies**

The parties agree to seek UN assistance in monitoring the management of the arms and armies of both the sides by the deployment of qualified UN civilian personnel to monitor, according to international norms, the confinement of Maoist army combatants and their weapons within designated cantonment areas and monitor the Nepal Army (NA) to ensure that it remains in its barracks and its weapons are not used against any side.
- 6. The United Nations Mission
 

Monitoring of compliance with this agreement will be carried out –

  - (1) by UN monitors; or
  - (2) by joint monitoring teams, if so decided by the JMCC and in keeping with other provisions of this agreement



High Himalaya: Crisis of food

## FOOD SUPPLY

# Blocking Delivery

*WFP appeals to locals to stop blocking delivery of food in Humla*

By A CORRESPONDENT

**A**t a time when large number of people living in remote parts of Nepal have been facing the crisis of food, a section of Nepalese has created the hurdles in delivering the food to food deficit areas.

According to UNWFP press released the United Nations World Food Program has been forced to suspend emergency food assistance for drought victims in Humla because of demands by the local population to expand food aid to less food insecure people in the district. Simikot locals are preventing the movement of WFP aid, staff and implementing partners supporting the relief effort in Humla, and demanding food assistance themselves.

"These groups are blocking the delivery of international humanitarian assistance and their actions are causing thousands of people in Humla to go hungry," stated WFP Country Representative Richard Ragan.

"We have made multiple attempts to resolve this issue at the local level. Should air operators and our implementing partners continue to face such challenges, we will be forced to suspend all WFP operations that provide food assistance to needy families in Humla, including food for work activities," warned Ragan.

WFP is providing emergency food relief to thousands of families in Humla that do not have enough food to eat because of severe winter crop failures. In addition to these activities, WFP is also supporting the rehabilitation of 25,000 conflict-affected people through food for work projects in Humla.

"Once again, I urge all parties and individuals to provide unhindered access for WFP contracted air operators and our implementing partners so that critical humanitarian assistance can be delivered to affected populations in a timely and safe manner," continued Ragan. ■

## THREE JOURNOS KILLED IN LAST ONE YEAR

Three journalists were killed while media persons failed to see the sign of relief from the continued attacks and intimidation from various political groups, armed outfits and state agencies last year.

The murdered journalists are Shanker Panthi, correspondent of Naya Satta daily published from Butwal, Birendra Kumar Sah, correspondent of Avenues Television, Kathmandu and Pushkar Bahadur Shrestha, Editor of two local newspapers-New Highway and New Season - based in Birgunj. Kanchanpur-based journalist Prakash Singh Thakuri has gone missing from Mahendranagar since July, 2007.

According to statistics published by Freedom Forum, Friday, 42 incidents of attack on journalists were recorded in the period of one year from 14 April 2007 to 12 April 2008. 76 incidents of threat on journalists were recorded, 82 journalists were manhandled and 31 had to come across misbehavior from armed groups, security personnel and political party.

During the period, 18 publications (Dailies and Weeklies) and radio stations were forced to remain shut down, in different periods, including Nepal Samacharpatra, The Himalayan Times, Annapurna Post and HBC FM in Kathmandu.

Likewise, 50 journalists working in various media institutions were dismissed from their job owing to the partisan interference and interest and 52 others were arrested by security personnel from various protests and demonstrations staged to exert pressure on the government and agitating groups. ■

## BOOK

# Giant Steps

*Robyn Meredith explores how the rise of India and China will impact the world in coming days*

By KESHAB POUDEL

At a time when the rise of world's two populous nations of Asia is generating a lot of interests, queries and discussions, Robyn Meredith, a foreign correspondent for Forbes Magazine has attempted to explore the issue.

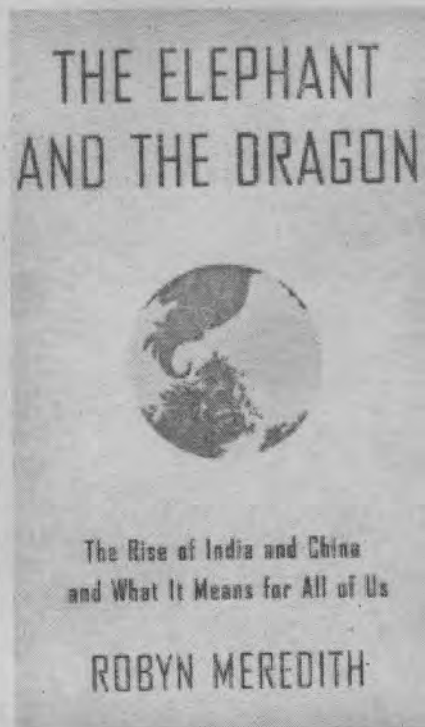
Sandwiched between Asia's two major powers India and China, their economic development and prosperity is quite important for Nepal's future.

The high economic growth of these two countries can bring prosperity to Nepal. Based on the observation on the development and expansion of worlds' two economy, the writer has tried to explain their implications.

The thoughtful analysis of the writer gives account of the challenges as well as the opportunities involved in the economic miracle taking place in the Asia's largest countries. Based on actual data, her observation is purely objective and balanced.

Although the book discusses much about economic development and opportunities, the author also minutely describes implications to Nepalese economy.

As Nepal has been passing through a very critical phase of its history, its political instability and chaotic situation will make a difference in India and China. Bordering with both these neighbors, they cannot ignore Nepal's development as both of them have



**The Elephant and  
the Dragon  
The Rise of India and  
China and What it  
means for all of us**

**By:**

**Robyn Meredith**

**Published by:**

**Vinod Vasishtha for  
Viva Book Pvt. Ltd,  
New Delhi**

**Price: IC Rs.395.00**

**Pages: 252**

high security stakes here.

"Trouble in Nepal could provoke tensions between India and China. Nepal's politics are unstable. Yet, India feels it cannot let Nepal become a failed state, because the nation, albeit famed for its peaceful temples and soaring mountains, also serves as a base for violent groups that could attack India. Military experts say China would likely react if India interfered in Nepal. Neither China nor India wants to be pushed into conflict, but they could end up butting heads," writes the author.

Meredith explains challenges of globalization and opportunity. She observes how remarkable is the rise of China and India. She also observes dramatic shifts in global commerce that are impacting all business and consumers.

Like all other parts of the world, one can see the shift of power in the Nepalese context also. Thanks to the mass production, Chinese and Indian goods are gradually available all over the country.

Nepal's economists are talking about the need to make Nepal as a linking state between the two countries.

Meredith explains how vast changes are sweeping the region and how they can thrive in the age of the elephant and the dragon.

The book contains very interesting data regarding economic development. Although Nepal is between these two big countries, only a few know what is going on there.

After the transformation of the pattern of the relationship from strategic rivals to business partners between China and India, a country like Nepal will have a different future. This is what one can see in the book.

The book is well written highlighting all the development activities of two of the great economic stories of this century. ■



**“Y**ou go ahead. Till I am there, you will receive total support.”

**Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala**, urging journalists to keep playing their watchdog role, addressing the inaugural ceremony of general convention of Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ).

**“T**he constitution-making process will pose a positive challenge. There has to be greater unity among all of us to defeat obstructions by any quarter.”

**Prachanda**, Maoist chairman, speaking at a program.

**“T**he biggest party takes the government’s leadership. This is a worldwide practice.”

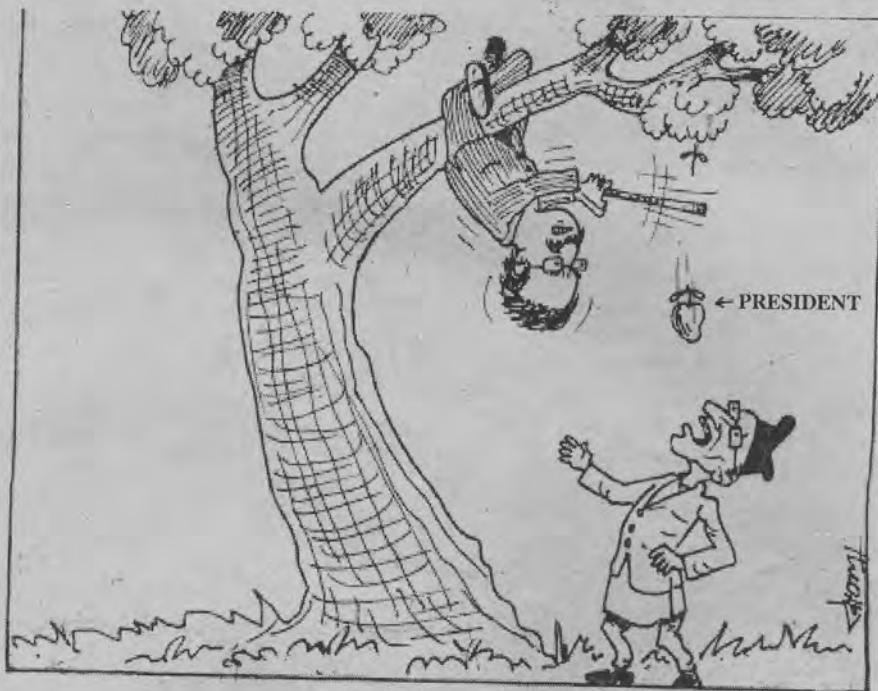
**Dr. Baburam Bhattarai**, senior Maoist leader, staking claim for the leadership of the government.

**“O**ur first option is to form a government under our leadership in alliance with other parties. If they refuse to be part of such government, we are prepared to form government on our own. If they obstruct us in this also, then we will come before you and do whatever you say.”

**Krishna Bahadur Mahara**, senior Maoist leader and Information Minister, addressing a May Day rally in the capital.

**“T**he first meeting of the Constituent Assembly could stretch for many days if need be.”

**Chandra Prakash Gajurel**, senior Maoist leader, when asked how the first meeting of CA could take many



*procedural decisions along with implementing the declaration of republic.*

**“T**he issue (of forming government) is up to the political leaders of Nepal. We only hope that people’s mandate will be respected.”

**Sitaram Yechury**, senior leader of Communist Party of India (Marxist), speaking at Reporters’ Club.

**“I**ndia is bent on first Bhutanizing then disintegrating Nepal to lay the ground for Sikkimization in the end. The United States wants to make use of the Maoists in whatever way it can to play game against China from Nepalese soil.”

**Chandra Prakash Mainali**, general secretary of Communist Party of

*Nepal (Marxist Leninist) – an ally of the ruling seven party coalition – addressing a function of Nepal Jaycees, in Gorkhapatra.*

**“I**wish the people in other countries will be inspired to copy from our new constitution. It should be universal and timeless.”

**Ramraja Prasad Singh**, senior politician, at a function held in Lalitpur.

**“I**t was because the YCL kept their cool as per the directive of party chairman and turned into Buddha and Gandhi that the election passed peacefully.”

**Ganesh Pun**, president of Maoist-affiliated Young Communist League (YCL), speaking at a May Day rally in the capital.

## TRANSITION



**PRESENTED:** Rakesh Sood, the newly appointed ambassador of India, his credentials to Prime Minister Girija

Prasad Koirala, who is also the officiating head of state.

**SUBMITTED:** List of candidates selected under the Proportional Representation (PR) category, by 25 political parties, to the Election Commission (EC).

**SELECTED:** Gagan Thapa, popular youth leader, as a Constituent Assembly member by Nepali Congress under Proportional Representation category.

**MET:** US ambassador Nancy Powell with Maoist chairman Prachanda and leader

Dr. Baburam Bhattarai.

**HELD:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> general convention of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ).

**BANNED:** The export of rice, wheat and flour, by the government to control spiraling food prices.

**LEFT:** Nancy Powell, the ambassador of the United States, for Washington DC, to hold consultations with State Department officials over the changed political situation post election in Nepal.



## PAKISTANI SINGER

# Culture Binds

*Pakistani singer Shafqat Amanat Ali's performance attract a large number of music lovers*

By A CORRESPONDENT

As soon as Shafqat Amanat Ali started to sing before the packed crowd at the Birendra International Convention Center (BCCI), audience felt a great mental relief. The melody of music held them spellbound.

With his each song, the crowd got more excited. They supported him with clapping alongside. Ali captivated the crowd through his beautiful songs.

Although it has gradually disappeared in Nepal, Ghazals used to be quite popular in Nepal. Many Nepali artists still perform ghazals in

hotels and marriage ceremonies.

But ghazals still rule in Pakistan. And Ali, a younger generation singer has taken it to a new level through the introduction of some fusion of modern beats.

Born in 1965, Shafqat Amanat Ali is the son of Ustad Amanat Ali Khan, the famous Pakistani Ghazal singer who dominated South Asian classical music for decades.

The junior Ali has been a student of classical music since age four, his grandmother being his first teacher. His main influences in music come

from his father and his uncle Ustad Fateh Ali Khan Ashan, to name a few.

"It is pleasure to be in Nepal and I am very happy to say that there are so many music lovers who like to hear Ghazal," said Ali. "I would like to thank Embassy of Pakistan for giving me an opportunity to present my Ghazal in Nepal."

For more than two hours, the jam-packed crowd found pleasure enjoying the thrilling and very powerful voice of Ali.

Shafaqat Ali's Gharana (family) is famous for its work on intricate taan-patterns and Tabla. With his family, he has been part of the Pakistani classical musical tradition for eight generation now.

Ghazal is one of the important part of Pakistani culture and society. Pakistani Ghazals have earned name and fame all over the world. For centuries, Ghazals have maintained its popularity not only in Pakistan but also in all parts of South Asia.

Organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Ali's Ghazal show lured a large number of Nepalese audience. ■



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