

SPOTLIGHT

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नेपाल अधिराज्यका
महालेखा परीक्षकको
एकजालीसौं
वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन
२०६९

सार-सङ्क्षेप



महालेखा परीक्षकको
चवालीसौं
वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन
२०६४
(भाग-१)
(सरकारी कार्यालय)



महालेखा परीक्षकको कार्यालय
बचरमहल, काठमाडौं
नेपाल

नेपाल अधिराज्यका
महालेखा परीक्षकको
उनचालीसौं
वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन
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सार-सङ्क्षेप



Good Governance Gone Sour

INSIDE
POLITICS: No End In Sight
SAARC: Colombo Calling

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SPOTLIGHT

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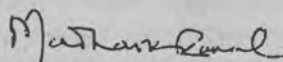
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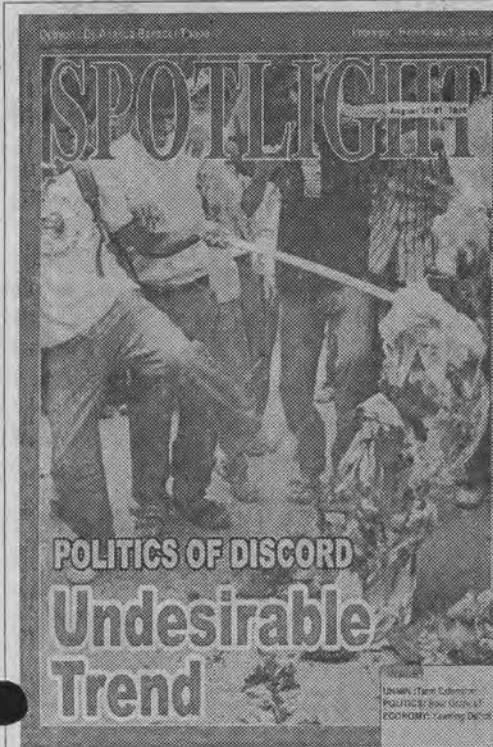
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More than three months have already been passed since the election of constituent assembly but the new government is yet to be formed. Even a week after the invitation to the Maoist by president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav to form the new consensus government, the situation is still uncertain. Amid uncertainty, President Dr. Yadav extended the deadline for three days upon the request of Maoist supremo Prachanda. The wrangle between the political parties that does not seem to come to an end is clear pointer for seeing eyes that they are dancing to some hidden tunes. The absence of a strong effective government has made life not only miserable but almost unbearable for the people. The capital city has become a big garbage dump. Pedestrians choke while breathing. And politicians in power and opposition don't tire playing dirty politics with the health of the millions. Isn't it a great pity that the country has not been able to produce even one leader who has the charisma, integrity and capability to control the worsening situation? Do the millions of poor need any more concrete proof that the country desperately needs new leaders? If the CPN (Maoists), the largest party in the constituent assembly, who has a legitimate claim to form a coalition government, still refuse to see the big villainous hands pervading the political scene of Nepal, they would have failed even before being tested. With the abolition of monarchy, their utility to their one-time-benefactor has ended.

The revolution that has pushed this small poor country into the cauldron of unending destabilization and turmoil might be forced to witness another counter revolution if the leading political party in the present situation – the CPN (Maoists)- fails to rise up to the occasion of shouldering the responsibility thrust upon it. The political doctrine the Maoists have vowed to follow has turned out to be out of tune with present political trends of global interdependence for mutual economic growth and advancement and cannot fulfill the needs and aspirations of the poor people of modern times. No one need harbor any doubts or misgivings that the Maoists are sure to lead the new government in Nepal. But whether the Maoists would be able to provide a new leadership to Nepal restoring her pride and status of a sovereign, independent state is a million dollar question if the recent behavior of the Maoist is any indication, there seems to be little room for ballooned hopes they have been trying to feed the people with. The Maoists must have learnt a good lesson from the protests and demonstrations and the derogating slogans against their supreme on various issues. They must have realized that the Nepali people have come of age and cannot be taken for a ride by any body, howsoever strong. Since they have still not been tried yet, we are prepared to give them the benefit of doubt. We hope against hopes that they won't disappoint us like their predecessors.


Madhav K. Rimal
Chief Editor & Publisher



Seeds Of Discord

After the elections of the two candidates of Madhesi origin as country's first president and vice president, the politics of division had gotten a major jolt in terai. However, the recent politics of student unions of country's major political parties which supported president and vice president candidates have damaged the process of reconciliation in Madhes among two communities. In the name of anti-Hindi agitation, the student unions have launched anti-Nepali agitation. These kinds of agitation neither protects Nepal's interest nor will it contribute to national unity. If that is so, whose interest the students' unions were promoting?

*Ashish Lama
Via-email*

Be Cautious

Your cover story Politics of Discord: Undesirable Trend (August 01-07) is very timely and objective. Your argument regarding the vice president Permandanda Jha's decision to take oath in Hindi language as well as the reactions shown by some student unions both represented undesirable trends. In the name of expressing resentment against vice president Jha, the student organizations committed nasty mistakes. Although the students representing eight political parties carried national flag to oppose the VP Jha but it was counterproductive. There is nothing wrong with Hindi language which is sister language of Devanagari Nepali. I hope in future all concerned persons will take cautious approach.

*Manas Aryal
Via e-mail*

Calculated Move

The agitation against vice president Permandanda Jha was well planned and well calculated to humiliate Madhesis.

All of us know that Hindi is a lingua franca of Madhes as all of us understand Hindi and Nepali is never so easy for us to understand. When vice president Parmandanda Jha has shown courage to take oath in Hindi, the so called pseudo nationalists of Pahadi parties launched anti-Hindi tirade. There is limitation of tolerance in Madhes and we cannot watch helplessly like in the past when Pahadis imposed everything on us. There is no doubt that there are several languages in Madhes like Maithali, Awadhi and Bhojpuri but all of us understand Hindi and we use this language among us to communicate. Even Pahadis use Hindi to communicate with Madhesis. If all of us speak Hindi, what is wrong to take oath in Hindi? I think it hurts only those who want monolithic state.

*Sarbendra Jha
Via-email*

Loyalty In Question

Taking oath in Hindi, vice president Permandanda Jha showed where his loyalty is. Had he taken oath in his

mother language Maithali, every body would have appreciated him. I don't understand why the personality like Jha committed such mistake by provoking others. As the issue is now in the court, I don't want to comment on it but what I can say is that it was politically incorrect. I hope vice president Jha will change his behaviour in future.

*Bikas Gurung
Via email*

Good To Hear

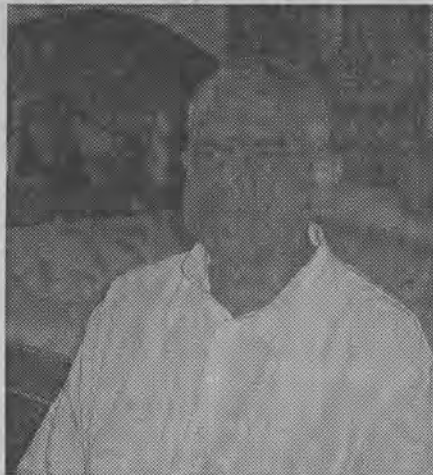
In your interview, president Rambaran Yadav proved his mettle by showing that he wants to identify himself as a Nepali. At a time when almost all politicians from terai region have been demanding the separate identity, president Dr. Rambaran Yadav rightly pointed out whether one lives in Himal, Madhes or Pahad, we all are Nepalis (July 25-31). President Dr. Rambaran Yadav stood against divisive politics. His commitment towards national integration is very positive.

*Subarna Shrestha
Jawalakhel*

Right Person

President Dr. Rambaran Yadav proved that he is a right person to lead the country. Although some of his remarks were unpopular in his community, what he has been defending in the last three years is absolutely correct. Although he stood against one Madhes and one Pradesh, Dr. Yadav was elected from his constituency. Similarly, this time he was elected as a president without changing his political stand. Whether one likes it or not, Dr. Yadav has calibre and commitments towards national integration. I hope he will keep up his spirit.

*Om Limbu
London, Via email*



President's Travel To China For Beijing Olympics Cancelled

Due to delay in the formation of new government and evolving political situation in the country, the first foreign visit of President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav has been cancelled, according to Nepal Samacharpatra daily. The president was scheduled to visit China from August 6 to 10 to take part in the inaugural function of the Beijing Olympics at the invitation of the government of China. He was also scheduled to hold a brief meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. However, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala is reported to have advised president Dr. Yadav not to visit China because of the efforts to form the government in the country. The president had called on the Maoists last Tuesday to form the government within a week. Sources at the Foreign Ministry said that all arrangements had been made for the first foreign visit of president Dr. Yadav to China. "Earlier, all of the head of the governments used to pay their first foreign visit to India. This time that tradition would also have been broken and a new history created had president Dr. Yadav traveled to China," the source said. After the Foreign Ministry informed Chinese government about the president's inability to attend the inaugural ceremony of Beijing Olympics, the latter has extended invitation for him to attend the closing ceremony on Aug 24, instead. *Compiled from reports*

Hetauda Cement Factory Halts Production

The lingering fuel crisis in the country is all set to affect the

construction sector also as the Hetauda Cement Factory has completely shut down production since early this week, as petroleum could not be supplied. Ramesh Kumar Aryal, General Manager of the cement industry, was quoted as saying by the government-owned news agency RSS that the industry has closed production because dozers, loaders, graders and dumpers could not be operated, as diesel was not available. He said the industry needs 1,000 litres of petroleum products daily just to conduct operations. He didn't say when the factory would resume production. With the Hetauda Cement Factory closing production, cement is expected to become further scant in the market. Couple of months ago, India had stopped exporting cement including raw materials like tinkers that are used to make cement to Nepal, spiraling its demands including prices also. The increased demands of cement had caused its prices to rise by 70 to 90 percent, causing a big drain in the finances of middle class Nepalis building their own homes. *Compiled from reports*

CPN-Masal Expels Sherchan From Jana Morcha

The Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Masal) has expelled Amik Sherchan as the chief of Jana Morcha – its political organ. The party has also sacked Sherchan from the leader of the parliamentary party of Jana Morcha. The politburo meeting of CPN-Masal made the decision to sack Sherchan from Jana Morcha job for three months and Masal politburo membership for six months, say reports. The decision was taken after Sherchan reportedly flouted the party's position by backing Dr. Ram Baran Yadav in the presidential election. Dr. Yadav was a common candidate of Nepali Congress (NC), Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) and Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) while CPN-Masal had sided with Maoist-nominee Ram Raja Prasad Singh. Sherchan is also said to have differences with CPN-Masal general secretary Prakash over the issue of unification with Maoists. Sherchan is said to be against the idea of unification.

Meanwhile, Sherchan has trashed reports of action against him by the party. He said he has called the meeting of Jana Morcha on August 4. *Compiled from reports*

NEPSE Floats Above 1000 Points

Propelled by the commercial banks, hotels, development banks and finance company groups, Nepse on Tuesday crossed 1000 points to record 1001.99, a growth by 18.92 points or 1.12 per cent from yesterday's closing of 983.07 points. The sensitive index also posted a growth of 5.23 points or 2.01 per cent to 265.22 points from Monday's closing. The sole secondary market, Nepal Stock Exchange Ltd (Nepse), also witnessed trading of a total of 1,55,178 shares in 898 transactions. The market capitalization on Tuesday has been recorded at Rs 3,87,039.49 million and the total turnover at Rs 1,52,127,918. *Leading dailies report*

High FDI Commitments

In the fiscal year that just ended, Nepal received highest volume of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) commitments in the last five years. In the fiscal year 2064/65 (2007/08), Nepal received FDI commitments totaling Rs 9.81 billion, according to the Department of Industry. This is double the amount compared with previous fiscal year. The commitments have come in areas such as hydropower, cement, housing company etc. In the previous year, the investors had not pledged much even though they had positively taken the entry of Maoists into peaceful politics. "This shows that investments come after favorable condition in politics and law and order," said Tilak Ram Sharma, director general of DoI. The FDI commitment is highest in the energy sector with pledges for Rs 2.86 billion including Korean companies seeking permission to invest Rs 1.98 billion. Mining sector has drawn FDI commitment of Rs 2.23 billion including Rs 1.6 billion in cement by two Indian companies. The third largest draw has been construction, which has attracted FDI pledge worth Rs 1.8 billion. Of the total FDI commitments, Indian investors top the league with promises of Rs 4.5 billion followed by South Koreans at Rs

2.92 billion and China at Rs 440 million.

Kantipur daily reports END

Victims Of Maoist Atrocities Gather In Capital For 'Decisive Movement'

Victims of Maoist atrocities from 32 districts have gathered in the capital for what they call "decisive movement" to fulfill their demands. Living a life of a displaced in district headquarters, in other cities and towns of the country and some even in India after being forced out of their homes, these people have now gathered in the capital, Kantipur Daily reported. "Our movement would be decisive now. We won't waste our time in rallies and demonstrations," said Bhoj Raj Timal, central coordinator of Maoist Victims Struggle Committee. Majority of these victims are those whose properties have been seized or who have been driven away from their villages after being accused of acting as an informer or not helping the party. Profession wise they are farmers, teachers, students, daily wage laborers and VDC level political activists. The Maoist victims have demanded that their 15-point demand be met and which include arranging for a respectful return of the displaced to their homes, making public the condition of those forcibly disappeared by the Maoists, return of seized properties, compensation for the family of those killed by the Maoists, among others. The victims, who came from various districts on chartered buses along with their family, said that they could start their movement in a day or two. The coordinator of the struggle committee said that the movement they are waging this time would be different from the past ones. "Our movement would bring the government to its knees this time. We won't budge an inch until all our problems are solved," the committee's Rolpa coordinator Iman Singh Giri told the paper. *Compiled from reports*

Khanal Warns Maoists To Form Govt Soon

The general secretary of the Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) Jhalnath Khanal has said that his party is keenly watching



the Maoist efforts to form the government. Speaking at a program organized by Tulsilal Smriti Pratisthan, Friday (Aug 1), Khanal said that being the largest party, the Maoists ought to finalize composition of government within a week as urged by the president. He also warned that in case the Maoist fail to forge consensus government, his party will join hands with Nepali Congress (NC) to form a majority government. The NC, UML and Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) had earlier forged an alliance to elect their candidates as president, CA chairman and vice president, respectively. His remarks have come on the same day when the Maoists' central committee has decided to form the government under its leadership. *Compiled from reports*

NRN And FII Investment In Secondary Market

Arrangements will be made to allow Non Resident Nepalis (NRNs) and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) to invest in the secondary securities market, as promised in last year's budget. However, the finance ministry has not yet forwarded any regulation or modality on how to allow NRNs and organized foreign investors to invest in the sole secondary market. "The draft Act for FIIs is ready but it has reached nowhere due to political instability," said a senior official at the finance ministry, adding that the ministry had also done homework on modalities of how to allow NRNs to invest in the secondary market, Nepal Stock Exchange Ltd (Nepse). "It is not only an economic but a political issue also. Political instability has pushed it

back as it has to be passed by the parliament," he added. Experts opine that investment by FIIs and NRNs will fuel the capital market as they will bring more capital to the market that has more than Rs 3 trillion market capitalization. "It will create institutional investors as well, something that our capital market lacks," they also pointed out. Chairman of Securities Board of Nepal (Sebon) Dr Chiranjivi Nepal said Sebon had prepared a preliminary draft and submitted it to the finance ministry. "Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) needs to change some of its regulations," he said adding that the basic infrastructure for NRNs and FIIs to allow invest in the secondary market is paperless trading, i.e. installation of central depository system (CDS). "The private sector is interested in helping Nepse install CDS. Most probably, the installation of CDS will be mentioned as a priority item in the present budget," the Sebon chief said. "We have suggested to the government to allow NRNs and FIIs to allow invest in the secondary market," Nepse general manager Rewat Bahadur Karki said adding that physical infrastructure like automation and wide area network (WAN) have been developed for the purpose. "We need to develop Internet trading for them to invest," he said adding that Nepse was working on client support software and modalities of central depository system (CDS). "After that, we can invite FIIs and NRNs to invest in the secondary market," he said. Nepse has also prepared some preliminary modalities of how NRNs and FIIs can invest. These modalities are still under discussion. "According to that, NRNs have to open accounts in commercial banks before investing in the secondary market," he said. Also, how NRNs and FIIs can take back earnings with them is yet another burning issue that needs tackling. Meanwhile, there is still yet another Act waiting in the wings because it also needs parliament's approval. The Draft Regulation of Mutual Funds is in the pipeline. According to the draft, Mutual Funds can also invest 50 percent of their capital in foreign countries. "It is delayed due to the absence of a Trustee Act that in its own turn needs the parliament's approval," said the ministry source. *The Himalayan Times daily reports* ■



President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, in his capacity as the supreme commander of the army, inspects Nepali Army's peacekeeping force in Panchkhal

THE REMOTE AREAS OF central and far western Nepal is reeling under a serious food shortage owing to hindrance in supplies due to bad connectivity with district headquarters, natural calamities and almost negligible agricultural production. The villagers here regularly go to the market to scrounge for rice and other food provisions, only to return empty handed, it stated. The Ministry of Agriculture has said that nine districts - Accham, Bajura, Dailekh, Dolpa, Humla, Jajarkot, Kalikot, Mugu and Rukkum - are reeling under immense food shortage. The agriculture production in these districts has also seen a massive decrease of up to 70 percent.

THE TOURIST ARRIVAL BY AIR HAS increased by 3 percent till July this year compared to the same period last year. However, the arrival figures of July, 2008 compared to the same month last year has decreased by 19 percent to 21,203. The arrival figures released by Immigration Office, Tribhuvan International Airport shows 198,366 visitors have landed in Nepal until July. Asian countries Singapore and Malaysia maintained the positive trend with 13 percent growth in the each market. The other countries with positive growth are Pakistan (53 percent) and Sri Lanka (18 percent). India, which is the largest tourist generating market, registered a decline of 24 percent last month. Similarly other major markets such as USA, Japan, and UK also witnessed decrease by 15 percent, 12 percent and 2 percent respectively. Furthermore, China, South Korea, and Thailand also recorded negative growth. European arrivals also suffered a significant decline in the visitor arrivals from major generating markets such as Italy (44 percent), France (32 percent), Germany (39 percent) and Spain (25 percent). Only Austria (35 percent) and Norway (66 percent) maintained the incremental trend in the arrival figures.

THE HOME MINISTRY DISPATCHED two teams comprising of policemen to the mountainous north Indian state of Uttarakhanda Friday (Aug 1) to make necessary arrangements

to bring back the bodies of the 36 Nepali pilgrims killed when their bus plunged into the swollen Alak Nanda river in Chamauli area. Four people were also hurt in the incident that occurred Thursday afternoon. Reports said they are currently undergoing treatment at a local hospital. Their condition is said to be very critical. Home ministry officials said the teams would go to the accident site, an eight hours' drive from Mahendrarangar, and prepare to bring the bodies back by land. The bus belonging to Araniko Yatayat of Nepal had spun out of control and fell 100 feet into the swollen river in Uttarakhanda state whose pilgrimage sites are very popular among Nepali Hindus. There were 40 pas-

sengers in the bus. Earlier, reports said that rescue team comprising of Indian army recovered 24 bodies from the wreckage of the bus, which, according to AFP was stuck among boulders in the fast-flowing river. The remaining bodies are believed to have been swept away by the river. 21 of the dead have been identified till now. The pilgrims were from Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Hetauda with majority from Panauti of Kavrepalanchowk. They had been touring Hindu pilgrimage sites for the past week. They were returning from Badrinath Dham, a popular shrine on the foothills of the Himalayas when the accident occurred.

IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT spending reached Rs 143 billion. According to Finance Ministry, biggest chunk of the spending (totaling Rs 86.86 billion) was made on current expenditure. The capital expenditure totaled Rs 40.83 billion while spending on payment of principal/interest reached Rs 15.99 billion. The revenue growth reached 23 percent totaling Rs 107 billion.

VICE PRESIDENT PARMANANDA JHA has clarified that his taking oath in Hindi language was not to pinch at sentiments of any Nepali citizen. In a statement issued Tuesday (July 29), Jha said he chose Hindi language bearing in mind that it is understandable to all residents in Terai districts, who speak different languages. He also has expressed his commitment to respect all languages spoken in Nepal equally. Stating that he has signed the oath paper written in Nepali, Jha feared communal violence if the protests continue. Demonstrations continue across the country, including in Terai district, against Jha's taking oath in Hindi language, ignoring the national language Nepali and his mother tongue Maithili. Various political parties, organizations and intellectuals have criticized the act of Jha. The Supreme Court has asked him to submit a written explanation why he did so. ■

THE LEGEND OF BHAKTI THAPA'S CHILDHOOD

▪ Mrs. Laxmi Thapa

In studies devoted to Anglo-Nepal War historians have written that the Nepalese officers were without exception semi-literate men. They never got any form of training in military science. They were brave and they acquired knowledge through experience. These characteristics are fully applicable to Bhakti Thapa also. It is most unlikely that Bhakti Thapa ever got a chance to receive formal education when he was young. But within a very short period of just few years after joining the unification campaign in 1789 Bhakti

itself. He demonstrated his exceptionally brilliant skill in launching a very successful operation under the most adverse condition that was sure to astonish anyone. He changed the strategy of the predecessors and led an attack on Jumla from the difficult north route. The result was a swift victory and the life of many people was also saved. A letter sent by the king highly commends Bhakti Thapa for the skill displayed in successful accomplishment of the Jumla operation. Military operation across very high mountains require big

Thapa emerged as the ablest person among all other renowned figures from Nepal's history of that period to become the supreme leader of the unification campaign in 1794. It is clear that Bhakti Thapa possessed exceptionally marvelous natural leadership quality. One biggest attribute of any of the most successful military leader is the possession of the Sixth Sense. It is said that the Third Reich Field Marshal of the German army Erwin Rommel called it Fingerspitzenfuhl. Bhakti Thapa indeed had that Sixth Sense.

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Bhakti Thapa had proved his exceptional natural leadership quality and possession of the Sixth Sense in his first major military operation

courage as well as great skill. A similar military operation but at bigger scale was performed about ten years later in 1799 in Europe for some what different purpose. A.V. Suvorov, commander of the Russo-Austrian army fighting against the French in northern Italy became a legendary figure after he succeeded in leading the army under him across the Alps to strategically important locations in the north

Bhakti Thapa's great success in unification of Jumla made him a legendary figure. As a result, just two years after the unification of Jumla he was made the supreme commander of the whole Nepalese army stationed to the west of the capital in a vast region that stretched

almost up to the Sutlez river (now India), and also administrator of this vast region. The way Bhakti Thapa laid down his life at the Deothal battle has become a legend in the history. There is also another legend. It is the legend of his childhood.

Childhood Legend

According to recent historians Bhakti Thapa was born in 1741. The name of his father was Amar Singh Thapa. Bhakti Thapa's family lived in a remote village in Lamjung. Very little is known about the childhood life of Bhakti Thapa. There was, however, an unbelievable incident in the early

the young Bhakti Thapa against the scorching heat of the midday sun. The serpent slowly uncoiled without waking up the boy and descended from the boulder. It disappeared from the sight after slipping into the bushes nearby.

The parents of the Bhakti Thapa were terribly distressed when they learnt about the whole incident. They thanked the God for saving the life of their beloved son. The old neighbour woman who saw the whole incident had a completely different opinion. She was convinced that Bhakti Thapa was no ordinary man. He possessed some sort of divine

The big boulder near the native home of Bhakti Thapa in Lamjung is linked up twice with the events in his later life. After some years a grand ritual was performed to solemnize brotherhood relationship (in Nepali METAIRI) between Bhakti Thapa and that big boulder. The third event that linked Bhakti Thapa with that big boulder near his native home was the last in his life. It is said that at that very moment during the Anglo-Nepal War when Bhakti Thapa fell in the Deothal Battle field on April 16, 1815, the big boulder near his native home also cracked with loud explosion. The cracked boulder is still lying there.

life of Bhakti Thapa. That incident is virtually like a description from the children's story book. The full details of that incident had been passed down over the generations. Still many old people in Lamjung are seen telling that incident to their youngsters. That incident is described below.

Bhakti Thapa was still a very young boy. One day he was sleeping on a big boulder not far away from his house in a remote village of Lamjung while his flocks of goats grazed the buckwheat field of the neighbour. The old neighbour woman stormed out of her house into the place where Bhakti Thapa was fast asleep in a rage cursing him for his misdeeds. What she saw at that time chilled her blood. Bhakti Thapa was sleeping on a big serpent coiled up on the boulder raising its wide hood high above casting shed that protected

power. She was quick to realize that one day Bhakti Thapa would become a very famous person. The news of this incident quickly spread across the Lamjung and beyond.

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Maoist Leader Prachanda : For consensus government

CONSENSUS GOVT

Ever Elusive

As consensus remains a national rhetoric search for an 'internatioanl' alternative gets underway

By SUSHIL SHARMA

That the four big parties were set to seek extension of the deadline to form a national consensus government had become clear by Monday.

But it took another 24 hours for them to formalize what they had in mind.

They got what they wanted from President Ram Baran Yadav within minutes of a formal request conveyed through the chief of the largest party, Prachanda.

In between came the headlines: "The Big Four Agree On A National Consensus Government." To be led by the Maoists.

The headlines had been attributed to top leaders.

It was nothing newsy as such. In the first place, there had never been disagreement on a Maoist-led national consensus government. In public pronouncements.

Now the wait is for the ever-elusive Maoist-led national consensus. Will it come before the extended Friday deadline?

This remains a million dollar question. No definite answer is on the cards yet.

If the time the big four took in writing down what they had already decided is any indication, they will certainly be needing more time to find a consensus, if at all.

The delay will prolong the life of the caretaker government whose head is just fresh from crucial meetings abroad. At a time when key external power centres are having second thoughts, say reliable sources, over a Maoist-led "consensus" government in their neighborhood.

The caretaker prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala met his Indian counterpart, Man Mohan Singh, in Colombó. And the influential chairperson of the ruling UPA coalition,

Soniya Gandhi, in Delhi. He also met Richard Boucher, the US assistant secretary of state in charge of south and central affairs.

The meetings made headlines. So did the discussion on "political situation" in Nepal. And the suggestion to go for a national consensus government.

There was no public hint about who should head it. "They did not give any hint even in private meetings," according to sources close to Koirala. "But they gave an unmistakable message that a Maoist-led government would not be comforting news."

Significantly, in Delhi, Koirala reportedly ignored Marxist Sitaram Yechury whose party recently made an abortive bid to bring down the UPA coalition.

Koirala instead made it a point to receive socialist leader Mulayam Singh Yadav who came forward to save the coalition.

Yechury played a key role in bringing the former Nepalese Maoist rebels to where the latter today are. Having fallen out with the UPA, his party has apparently lost the leverage to lobby for the Nepalese comrades.

Said a high level source present in Koirala's Delhi meetings, "national consensus is rhetoric, a non-Maoist coalition will in all likelihood be the action." ■



Baburam Calling?

After failing to make it to the nation's top office, the Maoist chief Prachanda kept his eyes set on the top executive office.

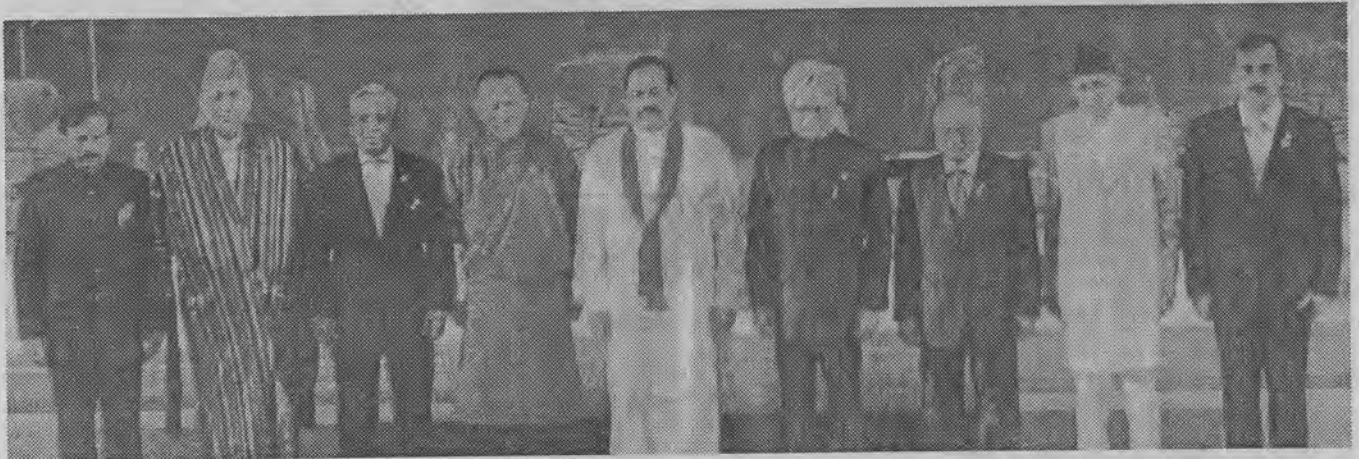
He may have to bite the dust — one more time. By his own admission.

After a meeting with an influential envoy on Tuesday, he called some of the close aides and some senior UML leaders to share what had transpired.

One of them quoted Prachanda as saying, "the envoy's suggestion was to let Baburam Bhattarai lead the new government."

True, Prachanda?

Bhattarai has denied media reports on linking him with foreign power center. In a statement on Wednesday he accused his critics of trying to assassinate "revolutionary" character.



South Asian leaders: Common Destiny

SAARC SUMMIT

Colombo Calling

The 15th Summit of the SAARC emphasizes on regional cooperation to deal with the menace of food shortage and price rise

By SANJAYADHAKAL

The leaders of the eight member states of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) adopted a 41-point declaration at the recently concluded 15th Summit held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The leaders of the member states - Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Afghanistan and Bhutan - pledged to continue efforts to boost economic growth, social progress and cultural development which would promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and improve their quality of life, thereby contributing to peace, stability, amity and progress in the region.

At a time when the whole world is suffering from the menace of food shortage and the spiraling price of food prices, the South Asian leaders have vowed to work together to guarantee food security.

The South Asian leaders issued a special Colombo statement on food security.

They also directed that the SAARC Food Bank be urgently operationalised. "We further direct that SAARC region should forge greater cooperation with

the international community to ensure food availability and nutrition security in South Asia," the statement said.

Four major agreements - the SAARC development fund, the establishment of a SAARC standard organization, the SAARC convention on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, and the protocol on Afghanistan's admission to the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) - were adopted at the Colombo summit.

During the concluding session of the summit, SAARC foreign ministers signed agreements on charter of the US \$ 307 million SAARC Development Fund, the South Asian Regional Standards Organization, Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters (including terrorism), and taking Afghanistan into SAFTA.

The SAARC declaration covers areas of regional cooperation, partnership for growth, connectivity, energy, environment, water resources, poverty alleviation, SAARC development fund, transport, information and communications technology development, SAFTA and trade facilitation, terrorism, and other social

and cultural issues. For the first time in its history, the declaration specifically mentions terrorism. The declaration condemned all forms of terrorist violence and expressed deep concern about the serious threat posed by terrorism to peace, stability and security of the region. The SAARC Development Fund secretariat will be based in Thimpu, Bhutan.

The 15th summit of SAARC had kicked off in Sri Lankan capital Colombo on Saturday (August 3). At the inaugural session, heads of the states and governments of the SAARC nations highlighted the need for common efforts to combat terrorism, human trafficking, poverty alleviation and establish better cultural and trade relations. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who led the Nepali delegation to the summit, stressed that the SAARC nations needed to exploit and share the natural resources available in region for development and poverty alleviation.

He described poverty and unemployment as serious problems of the South Asian region that required immediate attention. Stating that governments in this region must make collective efforts to control the rising prices of food and fuel, PM Koirala also emphasized the need to protect the environment. "Rising price of fuel is creating create big gap between haves and have-nots. This gap should be narrowed down," he said.

Koirala on the occasion also thanked former King Gyanendra for his support by accepting the resolution of the constituent assembly to establish federal democratic republic.

Highlights of the Colombo Declaration

Connectivity

The Heads of State or Government recognized the importance of connectivity for realizing the objectives of SAARC. They accordingly directed the SAARC mechanisms to continue to embody in their programs and projects a strong focus on better connectivity not only within South Asia, but also between the region and the rest of the world. They further stressed the necessity of fast-tracking projects for improving intra-regional connectivity and facilitating economic, social and people-to-people contacts.

Environment

The Leaders expressed satisfaction at the adoption of SAARC Action Plan and Dhaka Declaration on Climate Change by the SAARC Environment Ministers at the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change held at Dhaka on 3 July 2008. In this context they stressed the need for close cooperation for capacity building, development of CDM projects and promotion of programs for advocacy and mass awareness raising on climate change. They also expressed satisfaction at the adoption of a SAARC Declaration on Climate Change for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by the Twenty-ninth Session of the Council of Ministers.

The Heads of State or Government expressed deep concern over global climate change and its impact on the lives and livelihoods in the region. They also noted the urgency of the immediate need for dealing with the onslaught of climate change including sea level rise, on meeting food, water and energy needs, and taking measures to ensure the livelihood security of the peoples in the SAARC region. They resolved to work together to prevent and address the threats to the livelihoods of the peoples and to provide access to remedies when these rights are violated and also to find an equitable distribution of responsibilities and rights among the Member States. They also emphasised the need for assessing and managing its risks and impacts. In this regard, they called for an in-depth study on "Climate Justice: The Human Dimension of Climate Change," to come up with a rights-based approach that would highlight the human impact when responding to the impacts of climate change.

The Heads of State or Government affirmed that every citizen of this planet must have an equal share of the planetary atmospheric space. In this context, they endorsed the convergence of per capita emissions of developing and developed

countries on an equitable basis for tackling climate change. They were of the view that any effort at addressing climate change should take into account historical responsibility, per capita emissions and respective country capabilities.

Water Resources

The Heads of State or Government expressing their deep concern at the looming global water crisis, recognized that South Asia must be at the forefront of bringing a new focus to the conservation of water resources. For this purpose they directed initiation of processes of capacity building and the encouragement of research, combining conservation practices such as rain water harvesting and river basin management, in order to ensure sustainability of water resources in South Asia.

Poverty Alleviation

The Heads of State or Government while acknowledging the significant steps taken to alleviate poverty in the region, resolved to continue to combat poverty through all available means, including especially through people's empowerment. They committed themselves to continuing to share each other's experiences and success stories of pro-poor poverty reduction strategies such as micro-credit systems, community-driven initiatives and the raising of the consciousness of the poor on their right to resources and development.

In this respect, they emphasized on undertaking sustained efforts, including developing and implementing regional and sub-regional projects towards the attainment of SAARC Development Goals (SDGs). They noted the decision by the Ministers on Poverty Alleviation to obtain an inter-governmental mid-term review of the attainment of the SDGs to be completed by 2009.

The Heads of State or Government expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Charter of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF), and finalization of its Bye-laws, and called for an early ratification of the SDF Charter. They also welcomed early operationalization of the Fund from the available funds. They expressed satisfaction at the launching and identification of the projects on women empowerment, maternal & child health and teachers' training under the social window of the SDF, as directed by the Finance Ministers. They reiterated their commitment to expedite their financial contributions to the Fund.

SAFTA and Trade Facilitation

The Heads of State or Government emphasized their commitment to implement

SAFTA in letter and in spirit, thereby enabling SAARC to contribute as well to the dynamic process of Asia's emergence as the power house of the world. Recognizing the need to continue to address the major barriers hindering effective trade liberalization in the region, which include sensitive lists of items and Non-Trade Barriers (NTBs), they directed that the decision to revise the sensitive lists by the SAFTA Ministerial Council (SMC) be implemented early. They also recommended that while revising the Sensitive Lists, special consideration be given to the LDCs. The Leaders directed that SAFTA Committee of Experts (SCoE) to expeditiously resolve the issue of Non Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Para Tariff Measures (PTMs) in order to facilitate and enhance the trade under SAFTA.

The Heads of State or Government underlined the need for taking concrete measures to improve trade facilitation in terms of the mutual recognition of standards, the adoption of common tariff nomenclatures, the harmonization of customs procedures. They directed the relevant SAARC bodies to expedite their work in these areas. They also recognized the importance of development of communication system and transport infrastructure and transit facilities specially for the landlocked countries to promote intra-SAARC trade.

The Heads of State or Government observed that the SAARC legal instruments on trade liberalization and the measures and initiatives for trade facilitation are increasingly affording significant openings for mutually beneficial trade, investments and economic co-operation within South Asia. These openings are complemented by the uniformly sound levels of national economic growth being attained by the Member States of SAARC. The Leaders accordingly noted the growing and urgent need for enhancing capacity within SAARC dedicated to encouraging national and regional strategies that would further maximize the positive trade, investments and economic cooperation climate in South Asia. In this regard they welcomed the offer of Sri Lanka to prepare a Concept Paper and a Working Paper on the subject and directed that the Paper be discussed at a Session of the Standing Committee specially convened for this purpose, to enable the adoption of appropriate follow-up measures.

The Heads of State or Government welcomed the signing of the text of the Agreement on the Establishment of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the signing of the Protocol on Afghanistan for Accession to SAFTA. ■

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Rhetoric

Vs

Reality

If the Auditor General's Annual Report 2007 is any indication, it reveals the rampant irregularities in the government annual spending and misuse of government resources. It also indicates that even donor countries have been spending money in unaccountable manner. A question raised regarding the expenditure by Commission of Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), an anti-corruption watchdog, has raised the eye brows. In the name of anti-corruption drive, many agencies including government and foreign donors have spent millions of rupees. So far as transparency of the expenditure is concerned, it is controversial. In its three consecutive annual reports, Auditor General has raised the question regarding the fairness and transparency of expenditure spent by CIAA and donor communities in good governance

By **KESHAB POUDEL**

From western donors to Nepal's intellectuals and politicians, the slogan for good governance - which includes clean administration, transparency in financial transactions as well as respect of rule of law in expenditure - remains a

popular jargon. In an effort to strengthen the institution for good governance, donor communities supported government agencies, local NGOs and civil society offering millions of rupees.

Along with non-governmental

organizations, which are main beneficiaries of donor's contribution, small chunk of funding was also given to various government organizations including CIAA and judiciary. This is the where Auditor General's Report smells something wrong.



CIAA: Under Scrutiny

Annually, Auditor General hands over its annual report on government expenditure to the parliament and parliament's Public Account Committee spends a lot of time and efforts discussing it. But what one can see in its report is continuation of violation of previous suggestions on expenditure.

The report pointed out that the funding under technical assistance is not included in the annual budget allocations, there is a lack of transparency in spending of these resources. Although Auditor General has been questioning transaction of these kinds of fund by various government agencies terming them as irregular, nobody has responded to the objections on where and how this fund was spent.

When the Auditor General raised the question on CIAA, which has already filed a number of cases against various government officials on the charges of irregularities, of its transactions received from the donor communities to fight against corruption, it showed that the situation was further worrisome.

Although three consecutive annual report of Auditor General's Annual has been raising this issue, the CIAA and concerned donor agencies are yet to respond to it.

According to Auditor General's Annual Report 2062, under agreements between the government of Nepal and Nepal-based embassies of friendly countries, resources are provided for institutional strengthening of the CIAA.

"These kinds of transactions of money coming under technical assistance are not limited to the CIAA only. You can see this practice is rampant. One of our major concerns is the need to have audited report of such expenditure," said Bacchuram Dahal, acting Auditor General. "The amount of estimation of expenditure was included in white book published by Ministry of Finance but there is no actual auditing of the money."

With the total amount Rs 6,57,33,000 including 2,89,8,780 Danish Kroner or equivalent of Rs. 3,28,43,000 and Sterling Pound 207483 equivalent to Rs. 3,28,9000. The amount was not included in a separate book prepared by the government as a part of annual expenditure neither was it audited.

The grant money Rs 3,28,43,000 given for consultants and consultancy service and 3,28,90,000 for furniture, machinery and travel allowances. According to an agreement, the Commission was supposed to receive Rs.3,81,25,000 but the commission received Rs 40,14,000 only in the first year.

Under the clause 6 of the agreement DANIDA had to audit the amount from registered auditor but there is nothing to disclose regarding the auditing of British assistance. (Auditor's General Report Part 1 2062 under the heading of CIAA).

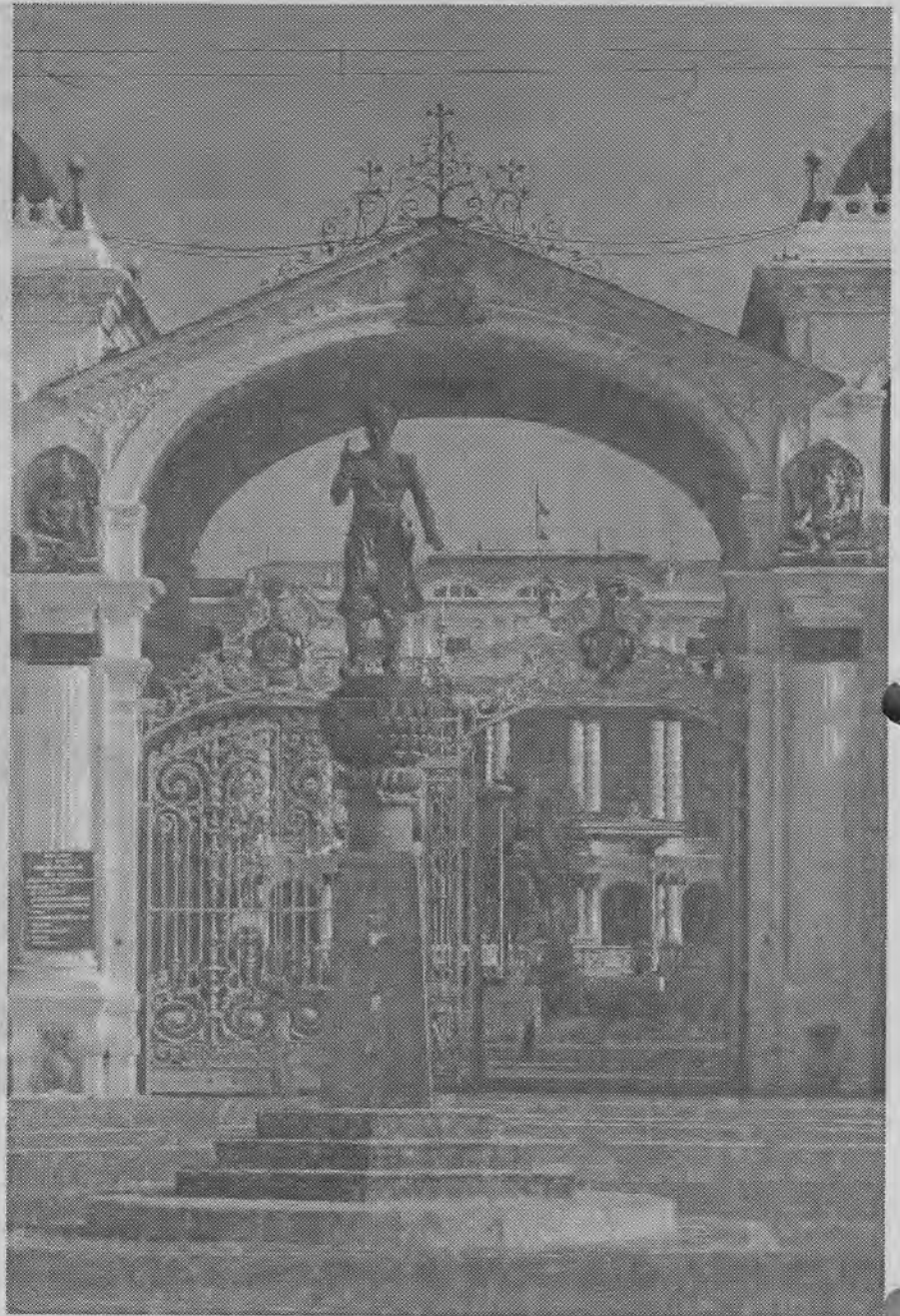
Auditor General's Report 2064 revealed that out of total commitment, the CIAA received Rs 1,46,68,000 till 2062 and Rs 24,49,000 in the year 2063. Although the money is included in the economic program, it was not audited by Auditor General, the report pointed out.

"The fund was reportedly spent in providing salary to consultants, their allowances and to furnish the office. What we want to know is how the money was distributed and other allowances allocated," said Dahal. "Our aim is clear we want all the expenditure must be spent under parliamentary scrutiny."

Under this funding, CIAA recruited some lawyers, consultants and spent money for media campaign. This is the period when almost all CIAA actions came under legal controversy. Some populist media and NGOs, too, backed the CIAA's so-called campaigns for good governance but what it ruined was self governance.

Despite the vigorous campaign against corruption, Transparency International and UNDP's recent reports indicate that Nepal's overall position is yet to improve in terms of tackling corruption. Of course, Nepal's anti-corruption drive has already rocked the bureaucratic and political system to the extent of running the self and accountable government, there is no sign of receding the irregularities and corruption.

By showing thousands of cases of



Singh Durbar: Central Secretariat

irregularities in government expenditure and tendencies of violating well accepted norms of financial transaction even by donors and CIAA, the Auditor General's Report 2007 indicate the reality of Nepal.

"After my transfer as a secretary to the CIAA, I have cleared all the dues pointed out in the Auditor General's report. So far as the program under the technical assistance is concerned, there are no such programs now," said

Bhagwati Prasad Kafle, Secretary at the CIAA.

CIAA's Move

In the last six years, CIAA took drastic campaign against the corruption. CIAA filed a number of cases against corruption between 2060 and 2063 hiring lawyers and consultants from outside including a strong media campaign. However, CIAA lost almost all the cases filed in the court thanks to the lack of evidences.

"We have been pursuing the

government to bring all technical assistance in its budget and put it in purview of parliamentary sanctions," said Som Bahadur Thapa, former Secretary at the Public Account Committee of Legislature Parliament.

In many cases, CIAA actions were directed against particular persons related to security agencies including police and home ministry and particular party like Nepali Congress.

According to a noted economist and academician Dr. Diwakar Chand, the action being taken by CIAA is a big joke where till date none of the big culprits have been penalized. Some sections of the political parties have started labelling charges against the CIAA for intentionally targeting those close to Girija (Girija Prasad Koirala, the current PM) panel till he was in the opposition.

Whatever kinds of actions CIAA has taken, it did not make any difference in the area of transparency. Transparency International (TI)'s recent report on most corrupt countries in the world ranked Nepal in 121st position (Rank 1 refers to least corrupt).

International Concern

All the international donor agencies expressed their concern over the need to strengthen the institution and make all transactions transparent. The Asia Pacific Human Development Report on Corruption too suggests similar actions.

Many argue that the lack of



CA: Need To Uphold Transparency

coordination between different organizations working in anti-corruption, lack of follow-up and support from the

State, lack of strong leadership, lack of transparent mechanisms, a weak judiciary, a culture of promoting impunity, the absence of the rule of law and the lack of implementation of existing laws are key problems for rising corruption in Nepal.

"If the suggestion given by us is followed, more than half of the present cases of irregularities will be cleared," said Dahal. "But nobody is following this including the donors and government agencies in case of technical assistance."

As long as there lacks a system where all are made accountable, the question of good governance will just remain a rhetoric and not become a reality. ■



Auditor General's Report: Startling Revelations

“Govt Of National Consensus Is The Best Option”

- K P Oli

Maoists have been talking as if they are a majority party and have been forwarding conditions after conditions to us.

Following the invitation by president Dr. Rambaran Yadav to CPN-Maoist leaders to form the consensus government, negotiations among the country's major political parties have accelerated. Senior CPN-UML leader **K.P. Sharma Oli** spoke to **SPOTLIGHT** on various issues regarding the formation of new government and the role of CPN-UML. Excerpts:

What are the possibilities of formation of consensus government under the leadership of the largest party CPN-Maoist?

CPN-UML has clear stand on this. We want national consensus government led by Maoists. This is the stand of our party. Maoists have to take the initiative.

If that is the case, why has the formation of the government been delayed for such a long time?

Go and ask this question to Maoist leaders who are responsible to create this situation. Since they emerged as the single largest party, Maoists have been talking as if they are a majority party and have been forwarding conditions after conditions to us.

Don't you think some conditions of Maoists are necessary to provide stable government?

All the conditions put forward by Maoists are politically unnecessary. I have not heard anywhere in the world where a party - which needs support to form coalition government - puts forward such conditions to others. Actually, we have certain conditions before we extend support to the Maoist government. If Maoists are sincere to form the national consensus government, they should abide by our conditions.

Do you mean your party will not support Maoists in case they do not accept your conditions?

There is no question of extending unconditional support to any party including the Maoists.

What is the harm in the Maoist conditions?

Is it not ridiculous for Maoists to expect guarantee for stability of their government for two years? How can we support Maoists if they start to destroy present Loktantric system? How can we tolerate them if they impose authoritarian government? Maoists need not worry about the stability of the government as long as they abide by the universal values of democracy.

If your support is conditional, how long will the Maoist government survive?

If the government functions well, it will complete its two year full term. If the government does not deliver, it will be thrown away in dustbin.

You mean your party will pull out the support in case they fail to deliver?

Yes. There is no question of supporting a government, which aims to impose autocratic system or if it goes against universally accepted democratic norms. The moment Maoists take such moves, we will withdraw our support.

What would be the best option for the country at this juncture?

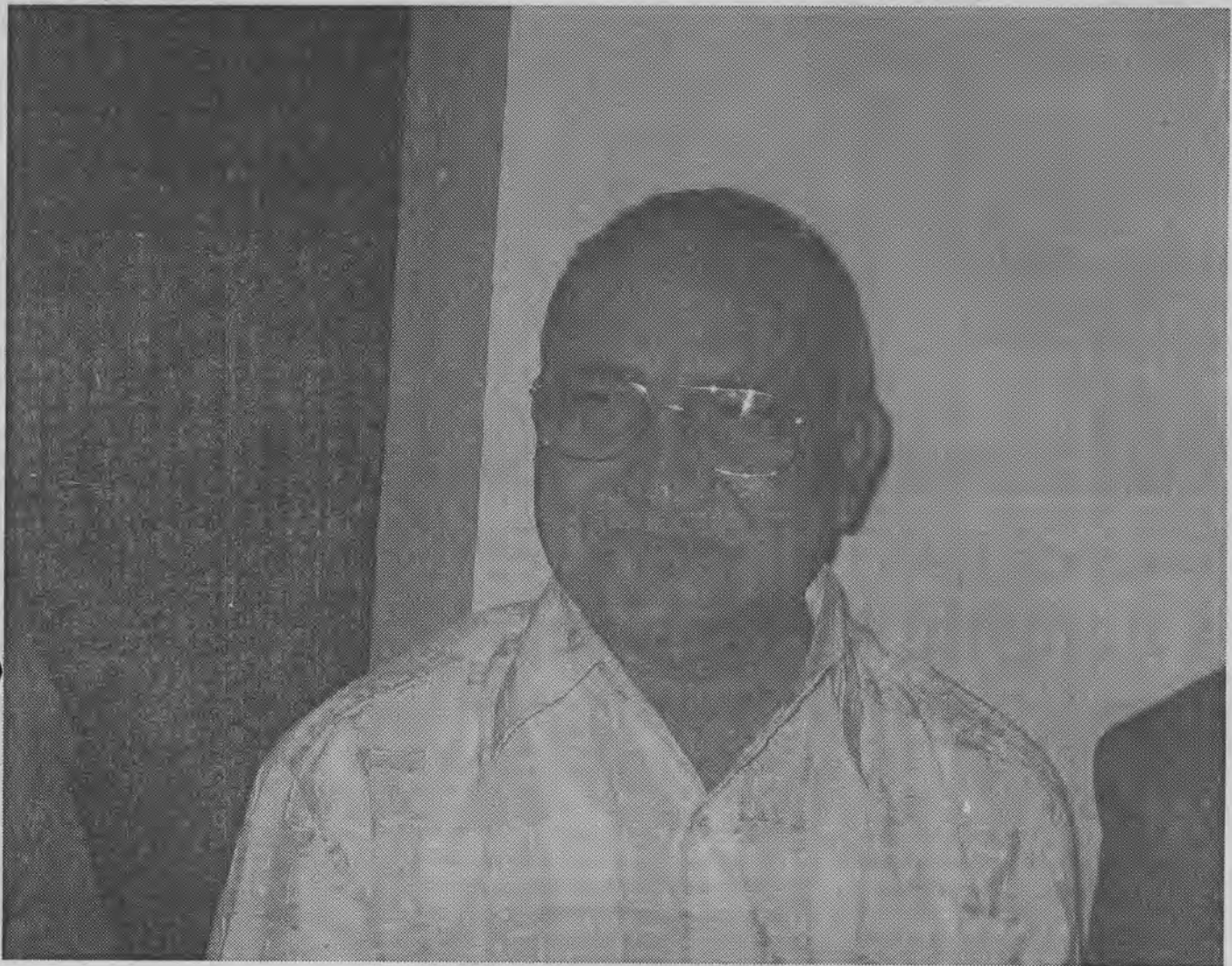
The best option would be to form the national consensus government under the CPN-UML. It will also be good to form the government under the leadership of Maoists.

How do you see the possibility of forming government based on alliance between Maoists and UML?

I don't think there is any possibility to form the coalition government between CPN-Maoist and CPN-UML. As I have already told you that CPN-UML will back and join only the national consensus government.

Don't you think the Maoists have the mandate by the people to form the government?

People have not given absolute mandate to any political party. How can the Maoists claim that they have the mandate to form the government when they secured just a little over 30 percent of popular vote in proportional



representative system - just a little over few more percentage of votes than our party. The message of the people is clear, they want to see national consensus government. Since no party has majority in the constituent assembly, there is no option other than to form the government of national consensus.

Does your party have any condition to join national government under the Maoist leadership?

We do have our conditions. For instances we want an equal sharing of power. If Maoists have the prime minister, our party will take the portfolio of home and finance. There is no way we should give all major portfolios to Maoists including the prime minister. The power sharing agreement must be signed to share the major portfolio.

But, last time your party did not pose such conditions when you joined coalition

government with Nepali Congress?

The situation was different at that time. Now, circumstances have changed and all political parties have emerged in equal footing with no political party enjoying absolute majority.

Maoist leaders have been accusing Nepali Congress and CPN-UML for encircling Maoists. What do you say?

I don't know about Nepali Congress but CPN-UML has not made any effort to encircle CPN-Maoist. We want national unity among all the political forces.

When Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and Madhesi Janadhikar Forum formed a broader political alliance, was that not directed against Maoist?

Our three party alliance is not directed against any political party. If Maoists want to join our alliance, they are welcome. Unlike Maoists, we are not playing in the internal affairs of other political parties. ■

if Maoists have the prime minister, our party will take the portfolio of home and finance.



Political Leaders : Changing alignment

POLITICS

Changing Alignment

As the discussions on power sharing begins among four major parties, one sees a politics of changing alignment

By KESHAB POUDEL

As it is said, there is no permanent enemy and no permanent friend in politics, the present day Nepali politics also has witnessed changing alliances among political parties with heterogeneous interests for the sake of power sharing.

Although it is still uncertain what kind of new political alliance will emerge, the decision of four major political parties (Tuesday August 5) to request the president to extend deadline (to form the new government) is a step towards negotiating on power sharing.

After the request of Maoist leader Prachanda, President Dr. Rambaran Yadav has extended the deadline for three days (August 8). With the agreement among CPN-Maoist, Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) to form a task force with a mandate to finalise the common minimum program, four parties have started the process of new political alignment.

Although they hold different views on political jargons like state restructuring, inclusive democracy and gender equality, the sharing of state power is one thing that has brought them closer.

"From today's dialogue, the chances of forging a consensus among major parties have increased. The issues of portfolio allocation and leadership of the new government would be discussed later," said CPN-UML general secretary Jhalnth Khanal (August 5).

MJF leaders want the question of power sharing hand in hand with the finalization of common minimum program. "Four parties had agreed to form a consensus government. Allocation of ministries would go hand in hand with the drafting of CMP," said Bijaya Kumar Gachhedar, leader of MJF.

Although all four big parties speak the political jargons like federalism, inclusiveness, ethnicity and gender, the uniting factor is the power. "All four parties have agreed to form the government on the basis of common program and power sharing," said CPN-UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal. "We want equal share in any future national government on the basis of our strength."

Till a year ago, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) was a number one enemy of CPN-Maoist and Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and CPN-Maoist and other four parties were the leaders of the

constitutionally recognized Seven Party Alliance.

MJF leaders too used to view three parties as parties of hill-dominated leaders and had projected themselves as the messiah of Madhes.

From revolutionary land reform to carving of state on the basis of language and ethnicity, the Maoists tried to prove themselves as the messiah of all. Maoists had termed MJF as a stooge of India's Hindu fundamentalists. However, when it comes to make alliance for power, Maoists have ditched such 'politically inconvenient' viewpoints.

"All of us have agreed to form a consensus government and develop a common minimum program to govern the country," said CPN-Maoist leader Prachanda. "We are ready to share the portfolios with other alliance parties."

Following the Fifth Amendment in the interim constitution, the overall political situation has changed as the constitutional privilege given to seven party alliance was terminated. New parties like MJF and others emerged as new power centers. Thanks to their strength, yesterday's enemy have become today's friends.

"Of course, we had certain differences in the past with other parties but it is over now as our main concern is to give a stable government," said Prachanda. "The new government will be consensus national government."

In the recent election of president, vice president and chairman of Constituent Assembly, the new alliance among Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and MJF had roundly defeated the candidate of CPN-Maoist.

After its defeat, CPN-Maoist - which had emerged as the single largest party in the Constituent Assembly is now searching for new the alliance to go to power. "First of all we want to prepare the basis of collaboration, and then we will dwell on the leadership issue," said Nepali Congress leader Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat.

After about two-years-long politics of consensus of seven parties, the Nepali politics has now turns into a different course where the divide will be between the ruling and opposition parties and the basis of such division will be on the basis of power sharing. Whoever may form the government, power sharing will define the new alliance. ■

China-Nepal relations

- By Upendra Gautam



Sino-Nepali diplomatic ties duly re-established 53 years ago on 1 August, 1955 are poised for new challenges and opportunities. The time these ties were re-established was no less challenging either.

Challenges at that time basically pertained to conducting international affairs independently and in the sovereign manner. But the prevailing Cold War sought to expand aggressive designs and spheres of influence in the name of transferring ideology and establishing security bloc.

Relatively weak and small nations who were asserting independence to a fuller extent were more vulnerable to the Cold War machinations.

China's rise as a "People's Republic" and its immediate weak and small neighbors including Nepal and other countries with different social systems provided a major incentive to the Cold War powers and their allies to reach out to China's these neighbors in whatever expedient ways. In that context it was not easy for Nepal to move ahead in a planned way in re-establishing ties with China.

Reflecting over those times, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai said in his speech on September 30, 1950, "China shall never tolerate any foreign invasion nor shall watch it taking place in any neighboring country with folded arms."

Withstanding the challenges emanating from foreign aggressive designs and interference, China and Nepal were able to base the bilateral ties on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, including the principles of peaceful co-existence and non-interference in each other's internal matters.

Any matter which was prejudicial to China's territorial integrity such as status of Tibet or for that matter its "independence" were never raised during the re-establishment of bilateral ties as Nepal throughout in history - recent or past - never recognized Tibet as an independent state.

All treaties and agreements pertaining to Nepal's ties with Tibet were signed between the competent authorities of China and Nepal. Ample evidences to this historical fact are Sino-Nepali Treaty of 1792, Sino-Nepali Treaty of Thapathali of 1856 and the 1956 Agreement between China and Nepal on the maintenance of friendship and trade and transport between Tibet region of China and Nepal. The 1956 Agreement replaced the 1856 Treaty.

State leaders who contributed to developing stable Sino-Nepali ties were Nepali kings Mahendra (1955-1972) and Birendra (1972-2001), and prime ministers Tanka Prasad Acharya (1956-1957) and B.P. Koirala

(1959-1960). G.P. Koirala, who occupied the seat of premiership for the most part of the Nepali multi-party politics from 1990 to 2008, happened to be more intricately circumscribed by political expediency.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that in the said period and in the backdrop of China's West China Development Strategy, it was he who was courageous enough to sign six cooperation agreements, including the second road link between the two countries in 2001 with visiting Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji. From the Chinese side, Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, Vice-premier Deng Xiaoping, Vice-premier Huang Hua and President Jiang Zemin not only nurtured China's Nepal ties with a personal touch but often evaluated it highly as a model of state-to-state relations.

The bilateral ties suffered a deep shock in June, 2001 when the entire family of King Birendra was annihilated in a Royal Palace massacre in Kathmandu.

In hindsight, the condemnable massacre brought to the fore a new Cold War already in the making in the region.

It is a "Cold War" because covert, tacit and subversive games are still its basic operational character. The old Cold War camp which could not deter the successful restoration of bilateral ties between Nepal and China in 1950s seems to have been at work to regroup itself in the new form with the comparative differences in abilities listed above.

This camp deliberately plays down independence, national interest and security of the weak and small nations not belonging to the camp in the name of the new Cold War consideration. This camp seemed to be shaken by unconfirmed reports that King Birendra was negotiating hand in glove with the anti-government force or the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M). The CPN-M had since 1996 been waging a "people's war" for "equitable" changes and reforms in Nepal's domestic and international policies.

Whereas the CPN-M got started primarily as a home-grown outfit, the West projected it as a China - supported group. And to do so was in their new Cold War interest. China from the beginning denied any link and support to CPN-M. Mistaken scholarship in the West buttressed coloration of the CPN-M in the new Cold War interest.

The CPN-M, a mistaken identity in certain circles aside, continued ascending in state political power through a multi-party republican program agreed in New Delhi in November, 2005. This agreement is note-

worthy but no less noteworthy is the fact that along with the CPN-M's ascendancy, forces of aggression and interference have also started making their marks in Nepali politics in an accelerated speed.

Consequent to the agreement, the CPN-M continuously scored political gains.

Wrong reading of history and misrepresentation for divisive political interest however seem to have unwittingly inspired the groups of indigenous people in Nepal and its southern neighborhood to assert their cultural roots, political identity and economic rights.

Groups of various indigenous people in Nepal who have always been a foundation of the Nepali nation and economy suffered long in the hands of powerful landed aristocracy of predominantly external origins.

Conscious people in the Nepal understand well that imposition of a divisible political superstructure in the name of state restructuring primarily serves foreign motives.

The story does not end here. A separatist group in the name of the "Tibetan refugees" in Nepal in close collaboration with the "Tibetan government-in-exile" in India started violating and undermining Nepal's sovereignty and territorial integrity with daily demonstrations.

Though this group's planned anti-China demonstration at this time clearly speaks of its immediate intention of giving a bad name to China vis-à-vis the Beijing Olympic Games, a closer look at the same time informs that these demonstrations in the longer term inherently target Nepal's sovereignty and territorial integrity in Kathmandu, the seat of Nepal's central authority.

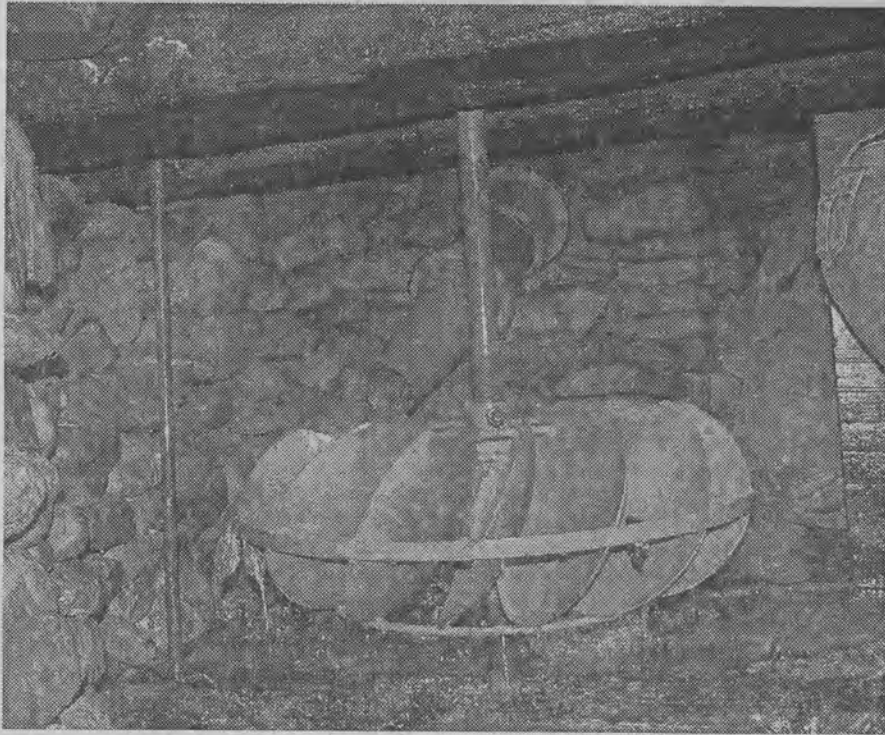
History is witness to the fact that whenever China and Nepal narrowly defined their national interest, each suffered by the machinations of the aggressive and interfering forces. So it happened, for example, in 1814-16 when Nepal alone had to fight the invading Britain, and, Tibet did not receive help from Nepal when British India engineered armed expedition to Tibet in 1904.

Now climbing down the Mount Qomolangma and, proactively addressing foreign aggression and interference against national integrity and harmonious development, China and Nepal need to promote a comprehensive framework of cultural diplomacy.

Contents of this diplomacy should be entrepreneurially strategic, and the guiding principles should be mutual trust and co-existence characterized by courage and devoid of any appeasement. Chinese people have a saying, "Ivory can not grow on a jackal's mouth."

The author is secretary-general of the China Study Center in Nepal

Courtesy : China Daily



Water Mills

An Energy Source At Rural Areas

Water Mills became regular source of energy in rural areas.

BY BIKASH THAPA, in Manma, Kalikot

Gone are the days when Dankala Shahi, a resident of Mugraha VDC-8, Kalikot, had to spend the whole day grinding cereals at a local traditional watermill.

She had to walk down steep steps for an hour to reach a watermill near the Baligad river, and sometimes even had to wait in line throughout the night for her turn.

Now, times have changed and life has improved for hundreds of villagers like Dankala after the installation of an Improved Watermill in their area. The villagers can utilize the time they used to spend at the watermill in farming and looking after their children.

Thanks largely to the newly installed Improved Watermill which not only changed everyday life in the village which lies 11 miles away from Kalikot district's headquarters Manma in far western Nepal, the residents have also

found another reason to be happy with the electricity produced by the enhanced watermill lighting up the village at night.

Anipal Mahatara, resident of Samala of Mugraha VDC-8 feels like he is living in heaven ever since he started using electricity at night. He is cheerful as he does not have to light kerosene lamps and sometimes smoky pinewood- which had to be brought all the way from Surkhet district- if there was no kerosene.

However, this is not the end of Mahatara's wishes. "Now I want to watch television with the electricity," Anipal quips.

The locals say their village has received a massive face-lift after the generation of electricity with the improvised traditional watermill.

3 kilowatts of electricity generated from the improved watermill has been distributed to 76 houses in the VDC. The villagers now don't have to walk for two

hours to grind two kilos of wheat and cereals.

This project was run by the Alternate Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment with financial support from SNV and technical assistance from Centre for Rural Technology (CRT).

The government provided Rs 270,000 in aid, Rural Community Infrastructure Development Programme donated Rs 246,000 and Renewable Energy Technology Program (RETP) gave Rs 150,000 for the construction of the project built at a total cost of Rs 600,200.

Besides, the locals contributed their labour worth Rs 85,000. This programme was supported by the HURENDEC based at Manma.

According to Deepraja Mahatara secretary at the Samal VDC Electricity Programme Management Committee (SVEPMC), the construction of the project which began in September last year was completed in February this year.

The project distributed two bulbs (9watt) each to all 76 houses in the VDC.

Mahatara said that more electricity remains in stock even after distributing it to all the houses.

Every user must pay a monthly Rs 27 as salary to the person who looks after the irrigation drain for the operation of the watermill and Rs 10 as a monthly service charge.

The accumulated cash goes into a trust that looks after the powerhouse operation.

Apart from lighting the village with electricity, the improved watermill is also used in grinding cereals such as maize and wheat.

The mill refines about 4 quintals of cereals in a day and the money from the grinding is also deposited in the fund, Mahato asserts.

Traditional methods were used to irrigate the source of the Andherigad river at the border of Sukatiya and Kalika VDCs and the water falls from a height of 18 metres to produce the electricity.

"This technology is not a big deal for the Kathmandu residents, but it has

become a part of our lives," says SVEPMC Chairman Aja Bahadur Sejuwal, "We are now able to finish off any work remaining from the day at night."

The beneficiaries of the locally built electricity are not only the women but also the school going kids who can now read and write under the glow of electric light bulbs.

Prakesh Sijuwal, a seventh grader at the local Panchakanya Secondary School, now says problems like smarting eyes, smoke inhalation through the nostrils and tiredness caused by kerosene lamps and pine-resin are a thing of the past.

After the government started the improved watermill project, villagers have shown a deep interest in the programme, RETP programme coordinator Raju Shrestha says.

According to Shrestha, requests to improvise another 460 traditional watermills have flooded in.

There are an altogether 1,985 watermills in the Far-Western district of Kalikot. Among them, 1,204 operate throughout the year, 41 run for 9 months a year and 302 run for six months a year, Shrestha adds.

One long shaft and around 59 short shaft have been improved so far since the beginning of the programme in 2007 in Kalikot.

The long shaft can be used to produce electricity, cut wood and run oil mills, while the short shafts can be used to rotate the mill at a fast rate thereby grinding the cereals in a short time. The improved watermill has been used in three places to produce electricity.

SNV advisor at Kalikot Lok Bikram Shah asserts that income generation and employment opportunities have increased and the villagers no longer have to rely on Indian cities for employment after the implementation of the improved watermill programme.

"The economic activities have shot up at the local level, and people have also started to send their children to



schools with the income from their daily business, apart from making ends meet," Shah shares his views.

"The improvised watermill has not only supported a business to make ends meet but the children are also going to school," Shah adds.

Chairman of HURENDEC Judge Raj Shah informed that altogether 60 watermills have been improved since 2007. Initially, it was a matter of concern whether the villagers would accept the new technology. But after they became aware about the benefits of the technology, they are queuing up to improvise another 60 watermills, Shah said.

Another satisfied owner of a watermill at Sukatiya VDC-7 Janak Bahadur Shahi said that he has been able to save Rs 15,000-25,000 per annum even after family expenditures and school bills after the mill was improvised.

And Shahi's is the only improvised mill in the far-flung Sukatiya VDC which is a day's walk away from the district headquarters Manma.

"The mill's income is twice as much as farming," Shahi says, "I used to refine around 15-20 Pathi in a day, but now it's possible to refine three times as much.

Improved Water mill is a good source

of energy at the places where electricity and petroleum products are not easily available.

Improved water mills that consist of steel turbine were introduced in 16 districts of Nepal since 2003, by Alternative Energy Promotion Centre and Center for Rural Technology with financial support of the Netherlands Government.

Rice mills run by diesel are not under operation because of shortage of petroleum products. But water mill is not obstructed for its operation as water is available at any time. Budhi Das Shrestha, a water mill owner, in Chauthe, Nuwakot, 40 km north west of Kathmandu, says, 'I am able to support my family members by running this water mill.' and added, 'my income has tripled by replacing the wooden turbine.'

According to Min Kumar K.C. United Development Society, Nuwakot rural people there depend upon the water mill, and this has saved their time to walk for hours and hours just to crush cereals.

Similarly, Bhagwati Adhikary, a water mill operator says that the government provided 19 thousand rupees as a subsidy. She has a loan of two lakhs for construction of the mill. The Centre for Rural Technology provided technical support. ■

BOOK

Nepal's Evolution

The book written by Ludwig F. Stiller, S.J. is very relevant to read in today's Nepal

By KESHAB POUDEL

There are only a few historians in Nepal who have made efforts to analyze the historical facts of Nepal as a growth of a nation. The description of Nepal's growth as an independent nation remains painful and traumatic.

Sandwiched between Asia's two economic and military giants, Nepal has faced a series of crisis of different nature to survive as a nation. The evolution of Nepal as a nation is full of subversion and conflicts between two neighbors India and China.

When king Prithvi Narayan Shah launched the unification process, British Empire in south was flexing its muscle. Similarly, Chinese too had strong presence in Tibet, Nepal's north.

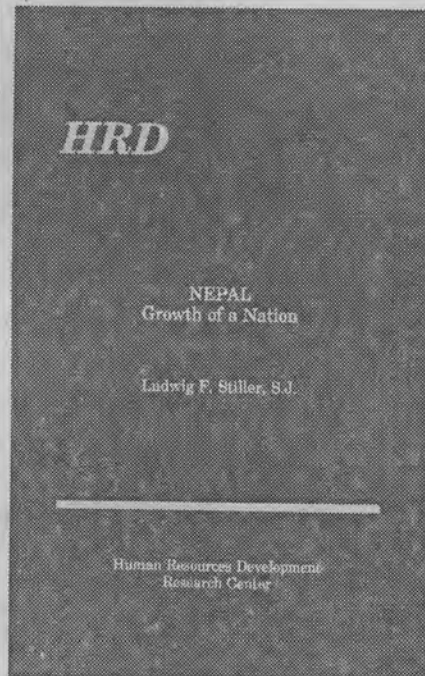
First Nepal fought a war with Tibet and China which ended after signing treaty with Chinese empire in 1774 conceding some of Nepal's interest.

Similarly, Nepal fought a second major battle with British India in 1814 signing the treaty with certain terms conceding the land its forces occupied.

Although Ludwig F. Stiller, S.J. born in United States had come to Nepal as a school teacher at St. Xavier's School, now he is a Nepal's citizen who has made immense contribution writing about various historically important phases of his adopted motherland.

Father Stiller is currently going through serious health condition at the last leg of his life. He has proved himself as a true patriot of Nepal by exploring long and very painful history of Nepal and its growth as a nation.

"I have no illusion that Nepal: Growth of a Nation will clarify to everyone's satisfaction and the roots of our development problems, nor do I expect a reading of these pages to counteract the frustration many experience in trying to cope with a system that is unique in its geographical and political setting. At best, I hope that my readers will learn to



**Nepal: Growth
of a Nation**
By Ludwig F. Stiller, S.J.
Published by Human
Resources Development
Research Center first
printed in 1993 and
second in 1999
Price: Rs. 150.00
Pages: 214

question Nepal's history more wisely," writes father Stiller. "These pages will provide no precise formulae for the future. At best they will indicate that through a turbulent political history the people of Nepal have not remained as passive as many would have us believe. In his wisdom, Prithivi Narayan Shah recognized the strength

of Nepal's villagers and saw his own welfare in theirs. Is this the time, in the push and pull of source and force, the struggle for social mobility, and the steady erosion of our economic independence to consider the wisdom of Prithvi Narayan Shah left us in his Ditya Upadesh?"

His books Letters from Kathmandu: The Kot Massacre, The Silent Cry: The people of Nepal 1816-39, The Rise of the House of Gurkha: A Study of the Unification of Nepal: 1768-1816 and Ditya Upadesh describe various crucial phases of history of Nepal.

On writing all these books on history of Nepal, Stiller shows his patriotism towards Nepal. The events described in the book are based on sound documents. Divided in various chapters, the book discusses the land and people, the founder, the spoils of war, growth in pain, the Anglo-Nepal War, Postwar stagnation, the pat to power, the mutiny Jung's last years, Ranodip And Bir Sumsher, Chandra Sumsher, and the Awakening.

It is unfortunate to say that except Nepal as a growth of Nepal, all other publications- which are very valuable are out of print. As the man is in the last leg of his life, someone has to take initiative to publish the great contributions made by Stiller. The historical documents collected by him in his books are valuable.

For Nepali and foreigners alike, Stiller's book Nepal: Growth of a Nation is very important. One must read this book to know the crisis and challenges Nepal had to face to grow as an independent nation.

"Although I have written Nepal: Growth of a Nation for foreigners working in Nepal, I hope my Nepalese friends will find justification in these pages for our long hours of discussion and argument. My great thanks are due to the villagers of Nepal. They inspired me continually with their steadfast approach to life, their wit, their kindness, and the religious roots they have sunk so deep. They have been companions on my journey of questioning the past and comrades on trails in the Hills and in the terai," writes Stiller.

From kingdom, Nepal has become a young republic in the world. But all the time it has been facing is turmoil and chaos to grow as an independent nation. ■

“Rising price of fuel is creating create big gap between haves and have-nots. This gap should be narrowed down.”

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, addressing the 15th SAARC Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

“Anybody else would have gone mad.”

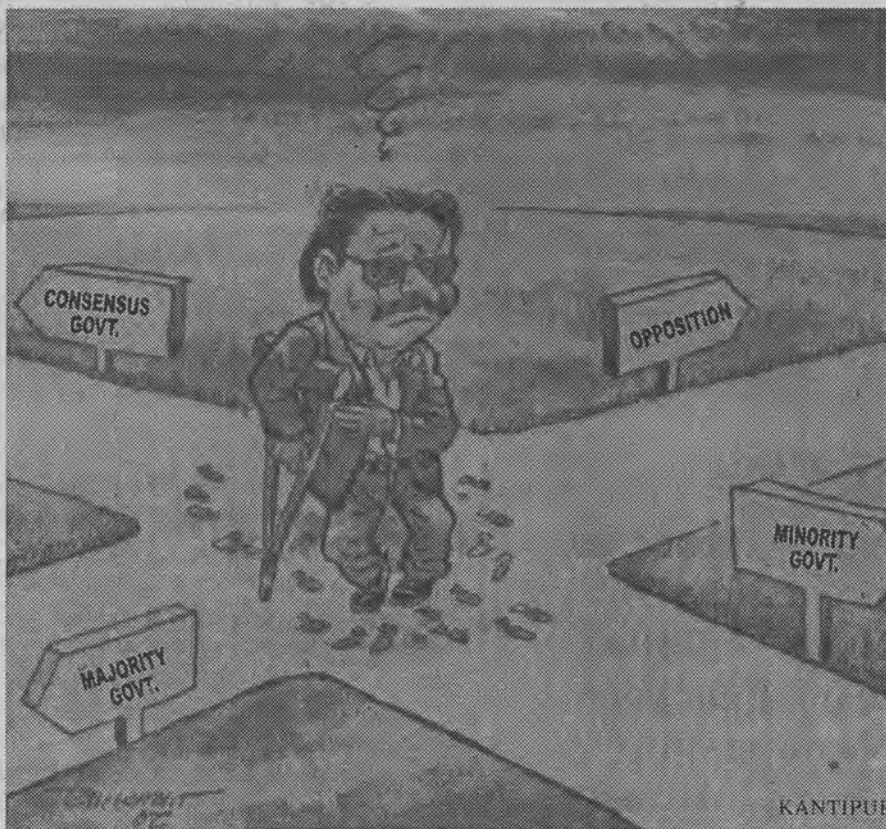
Madhav Kumar Nepal, former general secretary of Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), detailing betrayals he suffered at the hands of the Maoists, in Himal Khabarpatrika.

“Right now, neither the demand of One Madhes One Pradesh nor the demands of people’s multiparty democracy (championed by UML) and people’s democracy (championed by Maoists) can be fulfilled.”

Upendra Yadav, coordinator of Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF), in The Himalayan Times.

“The Maoists may have desire to form a single party government. But the constitution does not have any provision on such government.”

Jhal Nath Khanal, general secretary of Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), in Kantipur.



“A party that is set to head a national government cannot pose conditions. Instead, it needs to accommodate others’ conditions.”

Arjun Narsingh KC, spokesperson of Nepali Congress (NC), rejecting Maoist conditions for forming the government.

“The Common Minimum Program (CMP) underscores the aspiration of the Nepali people for forward-looking change and lasting peace.”

Krishna Bahadur Mahara,

spokesperson of the Maoists.

“The reports of my suspension are nothing but false.”

Amik Sherchan, leader of Jana Morcha.

“In fighting against the transport syndicate, we are trying to cleanse the business sector itself of unhealthy practices.”

Kush Kumar Joshi, president of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

TRANSITION

HELD: The 15th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

RETURNED: Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, after leading Nepali delegation, for Colombo, Sri Lanka,

where he attended the 15th SAARC Summit.

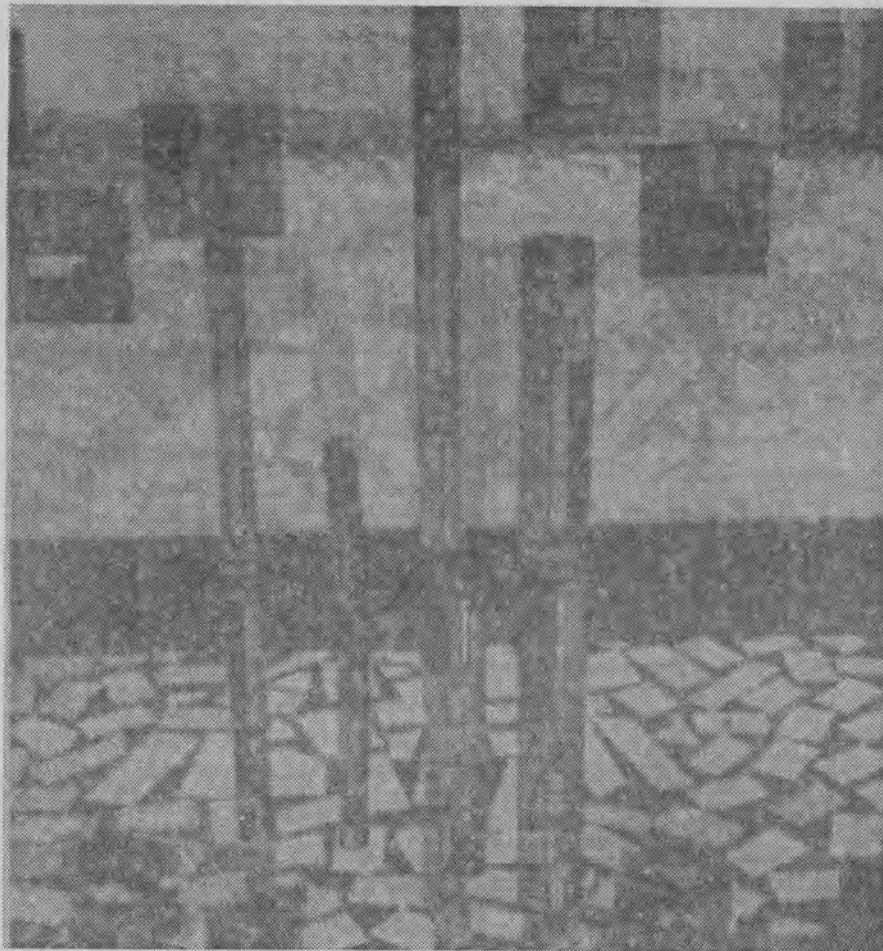
Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, from Colombo, Sri Lanka, where he led the ministerial delegation.

PRESENTED: A draft of Common Minimum Program (CMP), by the Maoists.

EXPELLED: Amik Sherchan, chief of

Jana Morcha, for three months from the Morcha and for six months from CPN-Masal, by CPN-Masal of which Morcha is a political organ.

KILLED: Thirty-six Nepali pilgrims when a bus carrying them plunged into swollen Alak Nanda river in Chamoli of Uttarakhanda state of India. They were returning home from Badrinath Dham.



ART

Evolution And Revolution

A group of artists participated in an open art exhibition

By A CORRESPONDENT

As the country has been passing through a very fragile time with uncertain political course amid chaos, every one is concerned about what will happen if the situation continues to move ahead like this.

Although every human being has his/her own imagination regarding coming difficulties and challenges, only a few can express the situation to the public through their imagination. Artists are one of them.

Organized by Sutra Art Center on August 2, ten artists painted various forms of human activities visualizing the challenges and difficulties faced by them in a workshop titled Evolution and Revolution.

Every art piece is full of inner

expression of human being and their trauma but all the artists have their own way of expressing human behavior. The exhibition included both paintings and installation arts which describe various aspects of human life and current political and social situation of the country.

Human nature is very complex and it is hard to explain. As society changes, so does the emotion and expression of human beings. This is what one can see in the art work of ten artists.

From foreigners to Nepalis, the participant artists are diverse. They include Gir Bahadur Magar, Krishna Shah, L.P. Gurung, Tirtha Niraula, Marie Lucia, Pramila Bajracharya, Rabin Koirala, Sangeeta Shrestha, Rabin Koirala, Sangee Shrestha, Shova Wagle

and Surendra Pradhan.

The artists used different methods to explain the situation and human emotions. What is common among them is the theme of social turmoil in the country. Whether it is figurative or abstract, one can see the personal emotions of human being.

Marie Lucia, the only foreigner taking part in the workshop, created her works on emotive view of Nepali culture using anthropological analysis. She tried to depict the process of evolution of Nepali culture. As a foreigner, she can perceive the various stages of Nepalese arts and its implications in society.

Another artist Krishna Shah has his own way of describing the situation of the country. He painted the picture of three dogs fighting over and tearing pieces of cloth. Shah wanted to show the political clashes going on among the major political parties. He viewed the cloth as a symbol of power and three dogs represented the political parties which are now competing for power.

His satire was unique and symbolic. Although politics is all about power and the competition to grab the power is natural, the artist Shah sees something unusual when political parties vying for power try to torn it into pieces.

Like Marie Lucia, Sangee Shrestha's installation art too has unique meaning. In his paintings titled Hami, Shrestha tries to explain natural emotions of the people. He shows how people hide it and how people express it. Despite difficulties and complications in describing it, artist Shrestha is able to do so.

From human emotions of artist Shrestha, artist Shova Wagle jumped to explain effect and consequences of global warming in human life. She had depicted different aspects of global warming. Although he lives far away from capital, Gir Bahadur Magar, the artist from Pyuthan, 300 miles west of capital, used plastic water cups to portray the law of nature.

From colors to other, artist also used the materials like sand, bricks, and wood in their installation. Unlike in the traditional forms of arts the art of installation has its own unique feature where people use various forms and ways to depict human activities.

As the title suggests, the painting exhibition shows the social evolutionary process on its own way. Other artists participating in the workshop also have displayed their creative passion. ■

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