

SPOTLIGHT

September:26-Oct. 02, 2008

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Other SAARC Nations.....
Asean Countries.....
Japan.....

30.00
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Nepal.....NRS.
India.....IRS.
Bhutan.....NU.



BUDGET 2008

Ambitions Set High

INSIDE

COURT-NBA STANDOFF: Destroying Judiciary

INDO-NEPAL JOINT STATEMENT : Package Of Commitment

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: Uphill Task

अब... १* रु. १ मै बचत खाता



नेपाल इन्भेष्टमेण्ट बैंक बढी भन्दा बढी
नागरिकहरुमा बैंकिङ्ग सेवाको पहिलो अनुभव
एवं बानी बस्न सकोस भन्नाका लागि सगौरव
प्रस्तुत गर्दछः... **मात्र रु.१ मा**
“आफ्नै बचत खाता”
सम्पूर्ण अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरको सेवा सुविधा सहित ।



जीवनका पहिला पलहरू देखि नै बचतको बानी
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एनए इन्भेस्टमेण्ट बैंक

VISA Electron

VISA



ATM 365
24 HOURS 365 DAYS BANKING

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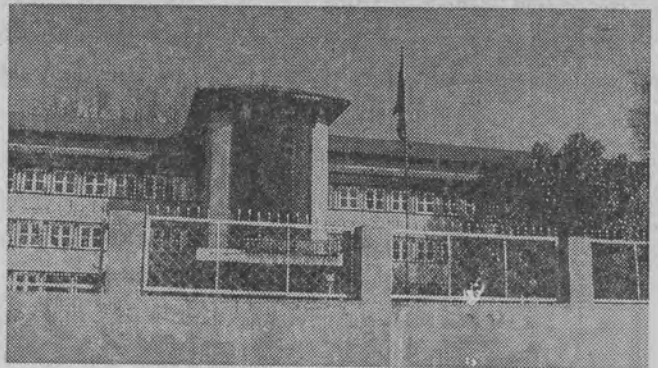
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SPOTLIGHT

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

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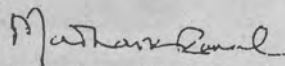
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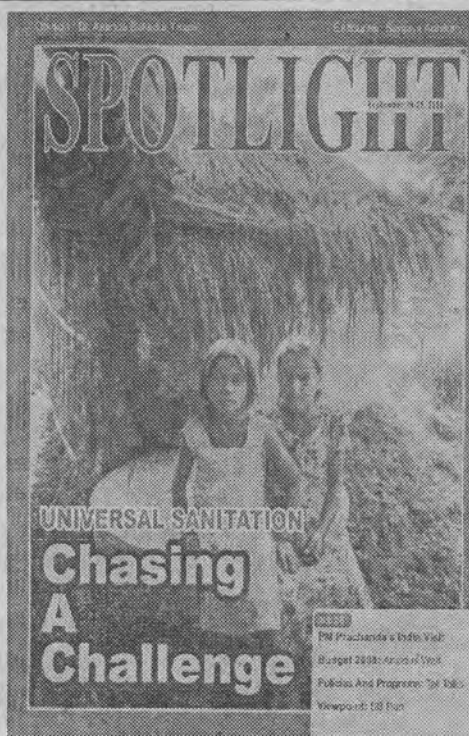
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Although Prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, alias Prachanda, has already visited three countries in just over a month, the Nepali people are not sure whether the Nepali politicians have any stature at all. The way prime minister Dahal behave in his recent visit to New Delhi was shocking. He has shown similar kinds of behavior in his recent visit to New York. He must understand that those who go piggy-back must be prepared to bear the jolt of being thrown down after their utility comes to an end. The scholar studded Maoist leadership is behaving like a lotus-eater dreaming of going back to the days of Joseph Stalin and Mao Tse Tung. They, surely, are not that naïve as to believe that the clock can be turned back. It would be nothing but a great pity if they believed that their twelve year long honey moon with their benefactors is not yet over. Are they so overburdened with gratitude for bringing them to the center stage of Nepali politics that they don't mind to twist and turn at their beck and call? Or could it be possible that they have seen only the face of Dr Jekyll and not that of Mr. Hyde? Since our poor country is still most unsteadily poised at the tip of a precipice, it becomes the unbounded duty of every Nepali to sink all their differences and jointly pull the country back to its solid feet. We must not forget the most important factor of modern day global politics that even the super power is guided by its own interests only. No body will come to the rescue of smaller, poorer and weaker nations like ours. It is only the twenty-six million Nepalis who must stand hand to hand to defend their country. Since this is an age of revolutions and history making, our country too has to move along with the time. The Nepali people urgently need to change the political leadership of their country. Even in the great America a new history has been written and come November, will be sealed forever. So, poor Nepalis! gird up your loins for a counter revolution if you want to survive as a sovereign independent nation.


Madhav K. Rimal
Chief Editor & Publisher



Safe Sanitation

After reading your cover story (Universal Sanitation: Chasing a Challenge, Spotlight September 19-25), I came to realize that the country cannot meet its challenges to provide sanitation to all by 2017. The cover story paints the pathetic situation of sanitation problems in Nepal. Although government and non-governmental organizations have been launching various programs to provide sanitation for all, it seems virtually impossible to do so. I agree with your argument that political leaders have many good slogans for new Nepal but what they don't have is the vision to build one toilet for each house.

*Jamuna Lama
Balaju via email*

Coordination Is Key

The challenges in front of the country is how to make the coordination among various agencies working in sanitation and drinking water. The report prepared by WaterAid Nepal and Asian Development Bank clearly spells out lacunae in the implementation of the sanitation and drinking water project. Thank you very much for publishing the article based on the report. Every NGO and INGO working in the area must read the report so that they can find out the weaknesses. It is very unfortunate to know that people are yet to get benefits from programs launched for their sake.

*Kapil Pokharel
Via email*

No Toilet

It is shameful to know that over 60 percent of the population is yet to have access to toilets. At a time when there are many new cheap technologies available to build toilets, we can achieve the target to provide sanitation for all by

2017. What is required now is the political commitment and strong will. As the country is moving ahead with a mantra of new Nepal, it is our duty to prove what new Nepal is all about. If we are unable to build toilets for all, we cannot expect to fulfill other wishes.

*Sashikala Sunuwar
London Via email*

Community Approach

The INGO like WaterAid Nepal has been playing important role in supporting the government to achieve its target to provide sanitation for all. After reading the cover story in Spotlight on sanitation coverage, Nepal needs to follow program like Community Led Total Sanitation approach. Past experiences have shown that the community mobilization is one of the important aspects to make the sanitation program effective and durable. Let's try promoting community led total sanitation.

*Banu K.C
Via email*

Good Job

Thank you very much for reviewing the book China, Tibet and Nepal by late Baburam Acharya as it was very timely. Although it is published in Nepali, this kind of book needs to be circulated to every nook and corner of the country. Apart from India, Nepal also shares a long border with China to the north. This is the reason why China, too, is genuinely concerned about Nepal's prosperity. Renowned historian late Acharya's argument that strong and stable China has never committed any hostile activity against Nepal is a stark reminder of real politics. Spotlight needs to review many books like that of Acharya's.

*Kamala Rai
Via e-mail*

Frank Speech

Prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda seems to be a very frank politician. This is the reason why he didn't mince words when describing his whereabouts during the period of ten years long insurgency. He admitted that twelve points agreement was signed in Indian capital New Delhi and that he had stayed for eight important years out of that ten years of insurgency in India. Revealing about his revolution, Prime Minister Prachanda challenged many Nepalese scholars and academicians about their points that Prachanda had stayed in Nepal while steering the insurgency. One of the important aspects of prime minister Prachanda's recent visit to India is his revelation that his revolution was launched from a foreign country – the country which itself is facing the Maoist terrorism menace of its own.

*Thakur Singh
Birgunj via Email*



PM's Actions Symbolise Totalitarianism: Koirala

Former Prime Minister and Nepali Congress (NC) President Girija Prasad Koirala Thursday (Sep 18) remarked that the behavior and speech of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal are signs of totalitarianism. Speaking at a program organized in the capital today to mark the 11th Ganeshman Memorial Day, Koirala claimed that PM Dahal's statement that parliamentary system was unacceptable to his party clarify that the Maoist is an anti-democratic party. The former prime minister directed his party cadres to be ready to defend democracy under any circumstances. "When a man fails to recognize his power, he becomes feeble," said Koirala hinting at PM Dahal, adding, "That's why I would advise the PM to read history." The octogenarian leader said that Prime Minister Dahal's assertion on neither to accept the parliamentary democracy nor to establish socialism immediately is a threat to his own party CPN-Maoist. NC president Koirala said that he knitted web of words to establish communism in the country, but now he has been trapped in the same web. He opined that socialism is a fusion of communism and parliamentary democracy and the NC has also embraced the same. While underlining that the immediate challenges for now are to take the peace process to a logical end and write a new constitution by maintaining political stability, Koirala suggested the party leaders to assist in the process.

Koirala said that it is not necessary for the NC to caricature any other party as it has its own strong and long-standing background. Likewise, senior NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, who was also present at the program, accused the Maoists of trying to impose a one-party communist dictatorship. Deuba called on his party youths to get ready as the responsibility to run the new era has been transferred into their shoulders. Other participants in the program urged the party leadership to move ahead by reforming the party. *Compiled from reports*

Judges Debar Bar President From Practice For Six Months

In a dramatic decision, judges have banned Nepal Bar President (NBA) president Bishwo Kanta Mainali from taking part in legal hearing in courts across the country for the next six months. The harsh decision from the judges has come in response to a remark attributed to Mainali where he termed judges as corrupt. The decision was made following the meeting of the full court on Thursday (Sep 18). It termed Mainali's remarks as 'objectionable and misleading.' The judges of district and appellate courts of capital valley had, on Thursday, boycotted hearing for two hours between 10 am and 12 noon, Thursday, to protest Mainali's remarks. Meanwhile, Mainali had said that he did not mean to belittle judiciary. "The NBA is quite aware about the importance of judiciary in this transitional phase. As its president, I cannot even imagine about belittling or soiling the prestige of judiciary," Bishwo Kanta Mainali told Nepal FM on Thursday morning. "What I said was that in existing laws, a judge is not made criminally liable for corruption. I said that the judicial council should work to bring the judges within the system of accountability. And I said that if that does not happen then a position of judge becomes like a license for corruption. And I stand by what I said," Mainali had said. Following the decision of the full court to ban him for six months, Mainali said it was a autocratic decision taken without

allowing him to clarify himself. This episode marks the beginning of a new round of dispute between bar and bench.

Compiled from reports

Protests Against Non Allocation Of Budget For Jatras

People from Newar community in Kathmandu staged angry protests against the government on Saturday (Sep 20) for not allocating budget for traditional jatras (religious festivals) observed in Kathmandu Valley. The protesters blocked traffic at several places by burning tyres on the road. There were protest rallies in Basantapur, Teku and Kalimati areas throughout the day. Shops remained closed in these areas with the protesters frequently clashing with the police. The local Newars took to the streets saying the Finance Minister, who unveiled the budget estimate for the fiscal year 2008/09, cut off the funding for jatras. Protests had started as soon as the Finance Minister presented the budget at the parliament. On the contrary, some news reports quoting government sources said the funding for jatras has not been cut off. However, the Finance Ministry has not said anything on the matter. Meanwhile, issuing a statement this evening, the Home Ministry urged the protesters to call off their protest and help maintain peace and security in the capital city. The ministry also said security has been beefed up in some areas in the capital to prevent possible violence in the wake of the protests. *Compiled from reports*

Kulekhani III Not To Complete By 2010

The completion of the Kulekhani-3 hydroelectricity project has been delayed following the lack of cooperation among government authorities and insatiable demands of the locals. Although the project started in the fiscal year 2062/63 with the target of completion within 2010, only some 10 per cent work has been completed while 25 per cent work should already have been carried out by now. According to Madhusudan Mall, chief of the project, the project could not speed up because of the indifference of the Makwanpur District Forest Office, the

Forest Ministry and the local authorities. He said, "We are not allowed yet to use the land that the community forest owns." The project targets to generate 14 megawatt electricity from the power house using water from Kulekhani-2 and other streams. *eKantipur reports*

Delay In Framing Rules On Drafting Constitution

Even after five months since the election for the Constituent Assembly (CA), the major task of writing a new constitution has not started. In fact, it has been three months since a committee was formed chaired by Narayan Man Bijukchhe, president of Nepal Workers and Peasants Party (NWPP), to draft rules for constitution writing and setting up of various committees. Although around ten different committees have been proposed, the issue has been stalled after even smaller parties clamored for their representation in each of them. According to the interim constitution, the CA will have to write a new constitution in two and a half years. Meanwhile, a new canteen has been opened in CA. A committee on management of canteen led by CA member Pari Thapa handed over the responsibility to Kings Burger Pvt Ltd. *Nepal Samacharpatra daily reports*

PM Dahal Returns Home Happy Over Delhi Visit

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal returned home Thursday (Sep 18) afternoon, wrapping up his five-day official tour to India. He had flown to India on September 15, leading a 44-member delegation in what he claimed as his first "political visit" to a foreign country, although he had visited China last month to attend the Olympic Games closing ceremony. Speaking to the press at the Tribhuvan International Airport on his return, PM Dahal said he was satisfied with his tour to the southern neighbor, claiming that the visit had taken the bilateral ties to a new height. "I put the agendas of bilateral interest in a sincere manner," he said, adding, "I believe it was a successful visit." He added that India pledging to build the 240 MW Naumure hydel for Nepal, as a gesture of goodwill, was the "culmination

of the positive-ness of the visit". Asked if the Indian side raised concern about his earlier visit to China, the PM said the issue didn't figure in the meetings in Delhi. "Only the media persons asked this question," said he. According to him, the secretary-level meetings on the agreement reached during the visit would take place within a month. On Wednesday, a 22-point joint press statement was issued following a meeting between the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India with both sides noting their deep ties and pledging to expand them in future. In the joint statement, the Indian government has agreed to provide Rs 320 million as immediate relief to flood-affected people in Sunsari and Saptari districts and also pledged to rebuild a segment of the East-West highway, damaged in the recent Saptakoshi deluge. India also offered a credit of to Rs 2.4 billion to Nepal for the next three months to ensure uninterrupted supply of petroleum products. Similarly, India also agreed to implement the Naumure hydro-electric project on the Rapti River. The same day, PM Dahal traveled to south Indian city of Bangalore to observe the rapid development of Information Technology. Apart from meeting his counterpart Dr Man Mohan Singh, PM Dahal also met Indian President Pratibha Patil, vice-President Hamid Ansari, ruling Congress (I) President Soniya Gandhi, former Indian prime ministers, opposition party leaders, high-level officials and dignitaries during his five-day stay. *Compiled from reports*

Buddha Air's ATRs To Start Operation

Buddha Air will start flying its newly-purchased two ATR 42/320 aircraft from Wednesday (Sep 17). Addressing a press meet, Tuesday, managing director of Buddha Air Birendra Bahadur Basnet said that the airlines with its two-new aircrafts ATR 42/320 that it bought from France will fly to five loss-making sectors like Dhangadi, Nepalgunj, Bhairahawa, Biratnagar and Bhadrapur. "After these 47-seater will start flying, Buddha Air can slash its air fares and fly passengers at lower cost," he added. Buddha Air had a total of seven aircrafts — five 1900D

Beech aircraft and two 1900C Beech aircraft before it bought the new aircrafts with the help of IFC. IFC, a member of World Bank Group, had provided \$10 million loan to the experienced private air operator Buddha Air to strengthen its market leadership in August. "For the purchase of two ATR 42/320 aircraft from France, Buddha Air submitted an investment proposal to IFC and it approved it after going through it minutely," he said. IFC had approved a 10 year term loan of \$10 million to part finance this expansion. Buddha Air has been in operation since October of 1997. *The Himalayan Times daily reports*

PM Dahal Says Yadav Will Face Action

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has said that Minister for Land Reforms and Management Matrika Yadav will face action. "He will face party action as he decided to resign and then flash his resignation letter as well. He will also face action for resigning from



the cabinet," PM Dahal told reporters. Earlier, Yadav had forwarded his resignation to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Friday (Sep 19) afternoon. In his resignation submitted to PM Dahal, Yadav has accused Madhesi Janadhikar Forum and CPN (UML), partners in the current coalition government, of being anti-people parties. He submitted the resignation to the PM at his official residence in Baluwatar. Stating that he had acted in favor of the people, Yadav reiterated to remain a pro-people politician. The party had instructed Yadav to apologize publicly or resign as minister. Other members of the coalition and opposition Nepali Congress had condemned the acts of Yadav and demanded action against him. *Compiled from reports* ■



Army chief Rookmangud Katawal at the passing out parade in Kharipati

PRIME MINISTER, PUSHPA KAMAL DAHAL 'PRACHANDA' left for the United States on Saturday (Sep 20) to attend the general assembly of the United Nations in New York. "I am leaving for the US visit where I will address the general assembly. I have also just received an invitation to attend a reception to be hosted there by the US president George Bush," PM Dahal said while addressing the Constituent Assembly on Friday night. This will be a landmark visit for the prime minister who is the chairman of the CPN-Maoists that is labeled as a terrorist organization by the American government. It was only after his party won largest number of seats in the Constituent Assembly elections in April that the American officials finally started meeting with him. In New York, PM Dahal will also attend programs organized by The Asia Society and India China Institute, according to reports.

CLEARING THE CONFUSION surrounding the entry of Indian army personnel for the inspection of the damaged Kosi embankments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that they came with the government's permission. The Ministry has said that the Indian army personnel came for repairs of the embankments in coordination with the government of Nepal. The Ministry's clarifications came after some political parties had protested the arrival of Indian army. Meanwhile, the Indian army personnel have returned after completing their initial survey of the damaged structure and concluded that the Kosi current can be reverted once the water level subsides.

AT LEAST 14 PEOPLE HAVE DIED in a passenger bus accident in Bhumesthan, Dhading district Friday (Sep 19) morning leaving three dozen more injured. The passenger bus with number plate Na 1 Kh 3554, heading towards Kathmandu from Birgunj, met with the accident at around 5 o'clock in the morning. The bus skidded off the road and plunged 200 m down into a rivulet. Most of the injured have been brought to Bir Hospital in Kathmandu for treatment. The cause of the accident has not yet been ascertained.

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL has announced the appointment of Karin Landgren of Sweden as his Deputy Special Representative for Nepal on Wednesday. Landgren has years of political, managerial and international law experience with the United Nations system in a number of

duty stations, a statement by UN spokesperson said. She worked with UNHCR in India and the Philippines, and an emergency mission in the Great Lakes region of Africa. She was UNHCR's country representative to Eritrea, Singapore and Bosnia-Herzegovina and as UNHCR's chief of standards and legal advice and she has published and lectured widely on humanitarian, refugee and child protection issues. Before being appointed to this position, Landgren was UNICEF's head of child protection overseeing a burgeoning field of knowledge and strategy for the protection of children from violence and exploitation. She has replaced Tamrat Samuel as the deputy to Ian Martin at United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN).

A HUMAN RIGHTS WATCHDOG HAS asked Nepal to protect the rights of Tibetan refugees. The Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) urged Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' who is visiting New Delhi to respect the rights of the Tibetans in Nepal. It asked PM Dahal to refrain from refoulement of any Tibetan refugee to China. A statement by the rights body charged, "Nepal has turned into a poodle of China." It was referring to recent decision of Nepal government to tighten security and add restrictions to prevent the public demonstrations by Tibetan refugees in front of Chinese embassy in Kathmandu. ACHR also urged the Nepalese PM to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to peaceful freedom of association and assembly of all refugees in Nepal.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS announced a grant assistance of nearly 603 million rupees (USD 8,230,000) to Nepal for construction of primary schools as part of the second phase of 'Education for All' project. Japanese ambassador to Nepal, Tatsuo Mizuno, and secretary of the Finance Ministry, Rameshore Prasad Khanal, signed the aid agreement on behalf of their respective governments in Kathmandu on Tuesday (Sep 16). Under the aid agreement, 370 classroom buildings, 362 toilets, 90 water supply facilities, and 11,420 sets of classroom furniture in eight districts - Baglung, Dhading, Gulmi, Kaski, Lalitpur, Palpa, Rupandehi and Surkhet - would be built, according to the Japanese embassy. "The major objective of the project is to help enhance access to primary education and improve the quality of education through the provision of education infrastructures in line with the Nepalese National Plan of Actions for achieving universal primary education by 2015," the embassy release said. ■



Actor Jharna Thapa (right) is nominated as ambassador for sanitation

SUPREME COURT AND WEST SETI DECISION

■ AB Thapa

At present our country is heading for the implementation of the West Seti storage dam project. This project will have a concrete faced gravel fill type dam which could be the highest dam of this type in the whole world. The dam will impound a vast storage reservoir. It will be about 1,500 million cubic meters in volume. Needless to say that the failure of the West Seti dam would result to a colossal loss of life and property. It still remains unanswered who would be held responsible for failure of the mammoth West Seti dam, which is proposed to be built by a private developer perhaps even without being thoroughly examined by a competent panel of experts on behalf of the government. Let us not forget that slight negligence resulted to failure of the Malpasset dam

near Frejus in Southern France. Similarly Italy was hit by 261 meters high Vaijont dam disaster.

It does appear that the Supreme Court has not been properly informed by the concerned government agency about various critical issues pertaining to the West Seti project. It is hoped that the full court of the Supreme Court will soon be reviewing the earlier decision of the two judges on West Seti taking into cognizance the evidences described hereinafter.

Banke People Seek Justice

The very recent decision of the Supreme Court on West Seti project has greatly shocked those of us, who know that a vast number of people of Nepal living in Banke district would be displaced from their ancestral homes due to widespread submergence once the West Seti storage project becomes operational. The controversial Laxmanpur barrage located very close to Indo-Nepal border is a direct extension of the West Seti storage dam project. People of Banke district are already suffering from the partial submergence after the completion of the Laxmanpur project. The flooding

situation would greatly worsen when the West Seti project starts to operate.

There can hardly be any justification to the government decision to implement any project enhancing the viability of the Laxmanpur barrage when our civil society and the local inhabitants since a long time are demanding the demolition of that barrage.



Irrigation Benefit to India Twice the Power Benefit

It is explained hereinafter how the net irrigation benefits

The controversial Laxmanpur barrage located very close to Indo-Nepal border is a direct extension of the West Seti storage dam project. People of Banke district are already suffering from the partial submergence after the completion of the Laxmanpur project.

accruing to India from the use of the augmented regulated flow of the West Seti could be almost twice as much as the total net power benefit of that project.

According to the feasibility study of the Karnali High Dam project carried out under the assistance of the World Bank in close collaboration with the governments of India and Nepal the total net discounted irrigation benefit of the West Seti project accruing to India at a discount rate of 10% at 1989 price level for the reference year 2003 is found to be as high as 720 million US Dollars. Similarly, based on the feasibility study carried out by the SOGREAH, if the year 2003 is taken as the reference year and the 1989 price level is adopted at a discount rate of 10%, the total discounted power benefit of the West Seti project would be 912 million US Dollars against a discounted cost of the project estimated at 456 million US Dollars. Thus the total net discounted

power benefit of the project could be only 456 million US Dollars. It implies that the net irrigation benefit accruing to India would be almost twice the total net power benefit.

Nepal Would Forfeit Forever its Right

Nepal would forfeit forever its right to benefit in perpetuity from the regulated flow of the West Seti if agreements are not signed in advance between the governments of India and Nepal on the benefit sharing issue. Our full right to ownership of waters stored in our proposed storage reservoirs is guaranteed by widely accepted international practices. Moreover, India too is willing to buy water from our country. It is quite unfortunate that our decision makers under the pressure of some multinationals are turning a blind eye to it.

International Principles Governing Water Export

It can be generally said in reference to storage projects proposed in Nepal that the guaranteed availability of water would be quadruplicated after the construction of storage projects. In

other words West Seti with a storage dam would be equivalent to four West Seti rivers. Our right to ownership of such vastly augmented flow of the West Seti is guaranteed by international laws as described hereinafter.

Various treaties and agreements including the Columbia River Treaty and the more recent Lesotho Highland Water Project Treaty can be construed to serve as the basis governing the water export according to the Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. The Statute provides that the Court, whose function is to decide in accordance with international law- both in general and international water resources- such disputes as are submitted to it shall apply international conventions, treaties between states, customs, general principles of law, etc.

Columbia River Treaty

The Columbia River treaty between the United States and Canada signed on Sept. 16, 1964, constitutes an incontrovertible advance in international law. The treaty, whose ratification was delayed for three and a half years represents a modern approach to international water problems. It also embodies the so-called downstream benefit (water export) theory, which prescribes that

benefits accruing to the lower riparian because of installations and works constructed in the territory of the upper riparian be divided equally between the two. Upper riparian is entitled to this benefit in perpetuity. This theory has virtually become one of the general principles of international law.

Lesotho Highland Water Project Treaty

Realization of the Lesotho Highland Water Project is made possible under a Treaty signed by the Republic of South Africa and Lesotho in 1986. Under the terms of the Treaty, the South Africa agrees to pay in perpetuity a royalty for all water made available to it after hydroelectricity generation in Lesotho.

India Willing to Pay

Recently the information provided in the Indian news media clearly suggests that the Government of India is now engaged in developing a policy to

Water export or downstream benefit sharing is a very sensitive issue. It is evidenced from way the Columbia River Treaty between the USA and Canada was finalized that our government or in its place a government of any other country must feel itself duty bound to immediately step in to make correction once it is realized that some mistakes have been made.

obtain the consent of Nepal and Bhutan through a revenue sharing agreements in respect of the regulated waters discharged from the storage reservoirs built inside our countries. Unfortunately, our country is not paying attention to this highly important development that would help to maximize the benefits accruing to our country from the large storage dam projects to be implemented inside Nepal.

Water Export Sensitive Issue

Water export or downstream benefit sharing is a very sensitive issue. It is evidenced from way the Columbia River Treaty between the USA and Canada was finalized that our government or in its place a government of any other country must feel itself duty bound to immediately step in to make correction once it is realized that some mistakes have been made. Canada had turned down the Columbia River Treaty even after initialing the Treaty in White House followed by its approval in the US Congress once the Canadian Government realized that the Treaty does not fully meet the aspirations of its people. Ultimately the USA was forced to make substantial amendments to the Treaty according to the wishes of Canada. ■



THIRD POWER SUMMIT

Power Points

Officials, experts and businessmen from Nepal and India discuss ways for expanding cooperation in hydropower

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

The mood during the Third Power Summit (September 23-24) this year was palpably more positive than the two summits in the past.

The mood had, in fact, been set to this mode since the announcement by the new government led by Maoists that Nepal will target to build 10,000 MW of power within next ten years – a bulk of which will have to be exported to next door neighbor India.

As the cost of building that quantity of power is estimated to stand around \$ 20 billion, the financing would have to come from private sectors of not only the two countries but also from international investors.

In fact, addressing the summit, India's Minister of State for Commerce and Power Jairam Ramesh said that it will need the role for the government of India and Nepal to raise such a huge amount of resources.

"I don't believe that private capital markets are alone going to provide \$ 20 billion. There has to be a role for the government of Nepal, government of India and other governments in the region," Ramesh said.

At the inaugural session of the Summit, Nepalese ministers made elaborate statements urging investment and assuring security.

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Bamdev Gautam said, "This

government has attached highest importance to maintaining law and order. I assure you that we will provide full security to investors and the projects." His views were echoed by Water Resources Minister Bishnu Poudel. "Most of the investors whom I have met have raised the issue of security. This government is capable of delivering security. I want to assure you all," he said, adding that the government would make all necessary changes to move on a 'fast pace' to realize the hydropower potential.

Indian Minister Ramesh had also pointed at the economic benefits for Nepal from generating power. "Export of power will undoubtedly earn for Nepal substantial revenues. Nepal's electricity potential could also be used to attract Indian investments in electricity intensive industries, exports of which to India could help bridge the trade deficit that Nepal has been concerned in relation to India – a legitimate concern, I might add, since we too are worried about our growing trade deficit with China."

"I would also state straightaway that we recognize Nepal's sensitivities and, therefore, fully appreciate that our interactions have to be at a pace and in a manner with which Nepal is comfortable," the Indian minister said.

The Indian minister even went on to add, "The remote control is in your (Nepal's) hands. If you want to press fast

forward, India will go ahead in fast forward mode. If you want to press pause, India will join you in the pause mode. I hope you will not press rewind button."

Tantra Narayan Thakur, Chairman and Managing Director of Power Trading Corporation (PTC) of India, said that Nepal should first fulfill its need and then export surplus power to India. "The harnessing of 10,000 MW in ten years is a huge task but a doable one," he said.

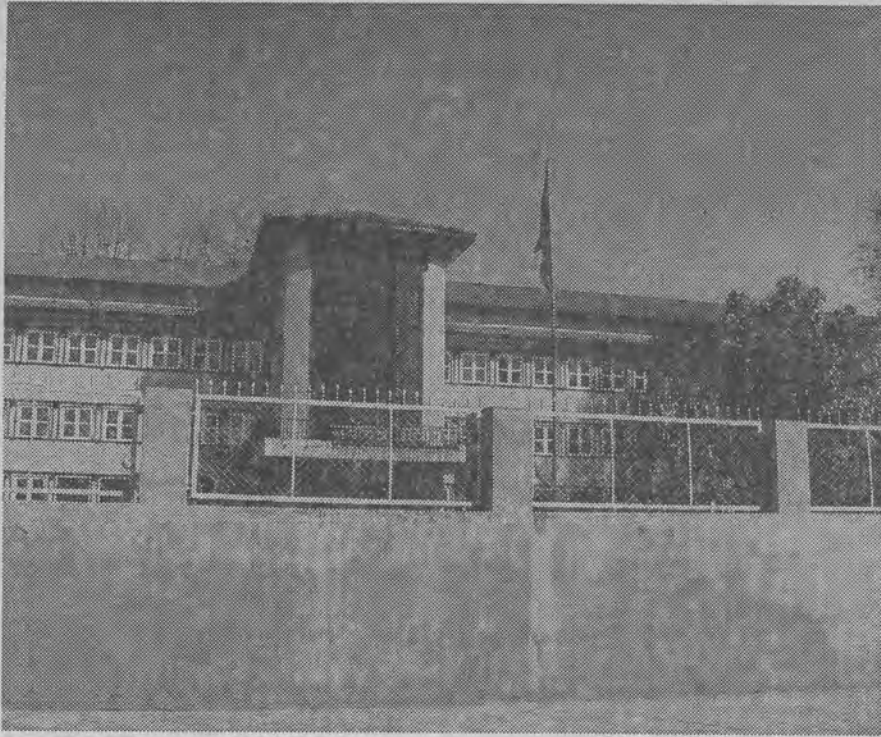
Sandip Shah, president of Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal (IPPAN), said that political will for harnessing power on a business basis is getting stronger on both sides in recent times. "We have been holding power summit since 2006 in order to promote the hydropower cooperation at business to business level apart from government to government level," said Shah.

Arun Chaudhary, the president of Nepal India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI), said that it was only because of 'too much politicization' that Nepal could not harness its hydropower in the past and had to suffer from 40 hours a week of load shedding despite being so rich in water resources.

"There is a huge yearning in Nepal to regain the opportunities lost in the last ten years due to conflict. There cannot be such a good match between India – which is hungry for energy – and Nepal – which is rich in hydropower especially since the hydropower is now being regarded as a trading commodity," said Chaudhary.

The two-day Power Summit 2008 had been jointly organized by IPPAN, NICCI and PTC. More than 300 delegates from India, Nepal and other countries took part in the summit. Some of the Indian sponsors of the event were leading names of Indian power sector such as – Jindal, GMR, Suzlon, Athena, AES, IL&FS, and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam. Similarly, from Nepal, SN Power, BPC, ICTC, West Seti and Moserbaer sponsored the event.

The two-day summit primarily focused on the hydropower cooperation between Nepal and India along with the discussions on the regulatory environment and various project development issues impacting the growth of hydropower in Nepal. They also discussed issues relating to transmission, interconnection and power trade. The power summit was participated by the leading development financial institutions, eg the World Bank, IFC, DEG, ADB etc that provide with the financiers' perspective on the various hydropower projects in Nepal. ■



Apex Court: In Unnecessary controversy

COURT-NBA TRUCE

Risky tussle

Although all the damages have been done, lawyers and judges have used their sense at the last minute to save the judiciary

By KESHAB POUDEL

After more than a week long standoff, the judges and lawyers finally used their sense to save the judiciary from eventual collapse. The agreement reached between the judges and lawyers averted the major crisis.

With the intention discussions and compromise, they signed the truce on Tuesday. The judges on their part revoke the decision to suspend NBA president and senior advocate Bishwokanta Mainali and lawyers too have given up their bench boycott call.

At a time when the country has been passing through a very critical period with destabilization of almost all institutions, judiciary – the only institution that had remained out of

controversy - too was finally pushed to the process of destabilization.

Although several efforts have been made in different period to destabilize the judiciary, it had survived them all the time. However, the judiciary was pushed into the controversy this time not from outsiders but from judges and lawyers themselves.

With the formation of Maoist-led government and surprising appointment of former judge of appellate court Raghav Lal Vaidya as an attorney general, many thought something was brewing.

Soon after taking the office, Vaidya used harsh remarks against judges indicating there was something cooking against the independence of judiciary.

Whether it was coincidental or malicious design, the credit for the recent rounds of judicial standoff goes to Nepal Bar Association president and senior advocate Bishwo Kanta Mainali. The remarks he made at Nepal Bar Association on September 16 sparked the present controversy.

In a program attended by chief justice of apex court Kedar Prasad Giri as the chief guest, the remarks by responsible lawyer were so harsh that judges, who had remained tolerant for a long time, could not control their anger.

Although two former presidents of Nepal Bar Association senior advocate Harihar Dahal and Sambhu Thapa and attorney general Raghav Lal Vaidya spoke vehemently against judiciary charging judges as a bunch of corrupt people, soft spoken senior advocate Mainali, who have avoided confrontation with court in his last two years of tenure, was stood out in the row.

As chief justice Giri and senior judge Anup Raj Sharma remained eyewitness of the program, other judges prevailed over the decision for suspending Mainali for six months on the basis of sensational headline created by Rajdhani daily on September 17.

It is reported that one senior judge who returned from a treatment in New Delhi pursued chief justice Giri who was proposing a middle way or filing a petition on contempt of court to take such drastic action.

Before suspending senior advocate Mainali, on September 18, judges of appellate court and district courts boycotted the bench for two hours last Friday.

The decision sparked a new round of protest on the part of NBA which called three days of boycott of court on September 21, 22 and 23.

Although several efforts have been made to end the deadlock, the standoff between the lawyers and judges continues till writing of this story on September 24.

As people from same profession, they don't have any option other than to compromise at the last minute. But, nobody knows how long they will remain rigid on their stand.

Sensible persons in society disagree with extreme ways chosen by both the parties of disputes. Even if Mainali's remarks were against the court, the judges should have moved contempt of court and provided senior advocate Mainali an opportunity to present his views.

"Judges have shown how irresponsible they are by taking such harsh actions against me. I was not give any chance to explain my views," said senior advocate Mainali, who tried to keep judiciary out of controversy in his nearly two years of tenure as a president of NBA.

Although individually no one will lose or win, the episode has damaged the dignity and prestige of judiciary.

"There is a need to protect the institution like judiciary but there is also a need to reform judiciary to increase public faith. The judiciary should be independent, free and fair. People have to take judiciary as the last resort to protect their life, liberty and property. I am conscious about the dignity and independence of judiciary. What is my concern is the corruption as long as judges are given criminal immunity in the corruption charges," Mainali told Spotlight. "I am not against honest judges but I am arguing for the punishment of corrupt judges."

Senior advocate Mainali who always gave importance for judicial stability and dignity unexpectedly got involved in the controversy in this critical hour. "The bar and judiciary must be united in this critical transition period. In the process of making new constitution, we have to work together to uphold the dignity of judiciary."

But he regrets the decision of the full court to ban him from practice for six months. "It is against the natural justice. Right to profession is a fundamental right. This decision of the full court is unfortunate decision in the history of judiciary. Since last 36 years I have defended free, fair, competent and independent judiciary."

Had the petition of contempt of court been filed against Mainali for making the



CJ Giri and Mainali (right): Risky tussle

remarks; the situation would not have gone out of control. After all a judiciary has the final say in the question of laws.

In a trade union spirit, the judges boycotted the bench for two hours seeking actions against lawyer. In reply, lawyers boycotted the court. Ultimately, the people at large have to suffer. A large number of people who come to the court with cases are immediate sufferers of the decision of lawyers.

Dominated by young lawyers ideologically close to communism who don't have faith in rule of law and individual freedom and rights, NBA's recent actions were reflected by such views. In the last one year, a section of lawyers have been trying to discredit the judiciary charging it as a corrupt institution.

Even at the same program in which Mainali made those controversial remarks, other speakers had also charged that there are rampant corruption in judiciary and said that corrupt judges should not be given legal impunity. Former presidents of NBA Dahal and Thapa were severely critical of judges. Attorney general Vaidya also criticized them vehemently.

Mainali's remarks acted as the last straw. "How long can we wait as a judge facing such kinds of individual and institutional criticism? We took the decision expecting the present scenario. This is necessary to keep independence

of judiciary," said a Supreme Court judge on condition of anonymity. "If there is a corruption in judiciary, the lawyers have to share the blame equally."

Whatever the judges said, some judges have already come out against their own decision. "I opposed the decision to suspend Mainali. I proposed some middle way which was denied in the meeting," said judge Bal Ram K.C. in Reporter's Club.

The court decision is definite to spark resentment among lawyers. Nepalese judiciary has a long history of protecting individual freedoms and rights. During the Maoist insurgency, most of the Maoist workers including the present general secretary of NBA Raman Shrestha were released under an order from court. Maoist lawyers Khim Lal Devkota, Ek Raj Bhandari, Maoist leader Suresh Ale Magar and Matrika Yadav were released from prison under the court's order.

Senior political leaders like Girija Prasad Koirala, Sher Bahadur Deuba, CPN-UML general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal and Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, all were protected by the judiciary.

But now in a process of destroying institutions, judiciary has fallen into a trap by the misadventure of some lawyers and judges.

Compare to other branches of state, judiciary has still survived as a credible institution in Nepal which can assure the freedom, democracy and rule of law. ■

BUDGET 2008

Ambitions Set High

The economists are unanimous – a rare occasion – in giving their verdict to the first-ever budget of the republican Nepal presented by a Maoist ideologue-turned-finance minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai. They all say that the 2008/09 budget is highly ambitious and is much more larger than the country can shoulder. The 236 billion budget – up by Rs 66 billion compared to the previous fiscal year has also promised everything for everybody. One thing, however, is clear – the Maoist leader has not dared make any visible/sharp departure from the established path of liberal economy. He re-emphasized this fact by making numerous statements backing the private sector role in the economic growth. Will the budget help the country leapfrog as the minister wants to reiterate or will it crash land, not only the experts but also the people are watching nervously

By SANJAYADHAKAL

"We are now in the process of making a great leap forward from one era to another. However, there is always a risk involved in such move. This

requires breaking relations from the conventional status quo in terms of thinking and acting. And this requires being little more ambitious too. We can

never reach the destination if we do not aim high, as the Great Poet Laxmi Prasad Devkota once famously said, - We should aim to fly high and touch the



FM Dr. Bhattarai: Aiming the sky

moon".

That was how Dr. Bhattarai defended his budget termed as 'inflated' by sundry experts.

A vocal supporter of 'leapfrogging' growth of economy, the finance minister presented a 60-page document a day after he produced what he called as the 'white paper' of the economy – predictably heaping the blame of economic ills and failings on the previous regimes.

"This coalition government has burdened the responsibility of realizing the dream of thousands of martyrs, the disappeared and the wounded in the course of people's war, people's movement and the Madhesi movement. Therefore, this budget has very carefully

and thoughtfully cherished some ambitious goals in areas of revenue and expenditure which, however, are not beyond reach. Likewise, the budget's major indicators have also not gone beyond the established international norms. This is why there will be found no logic in some people's arguing that this budget might negatively impact the macro-economic stability," the minister argued before he started presenting the hard budget facts when addressing the Constituent Assembly (CA) on Friday (Sep 19)

Terming stability as a relative fact quite different from "stagnation," the minister predicted that it will pass the litmus test. "Since this is the first step to

the great journey towards a new federal republican era, this budget contains many such programs of long-term nature which may not be completed in one year but would inevitably require to be initiated this year as otherwise it will be too late for the future," he said.

Budget Figures

Finance Minister Dr Baburam Bhattarai unveiled a whopping Rs. 236.15 billion budget for the fiscal year 2008-09, Friday, at the Constituent Assembly. Out of the total expenditure, recurrent expenditure is estimated at Rs. 128 billion 516.5 million, capital expenditure at Rs. 91 billion 311 million while Rs. 16 billion 189.3 million have been allocated for payment of principal and interest of loans.

The budget size itself is higher by 39.7 percent compared with the total allocation of Fiscal Year 2007/08 and 44.5 percent more than the revised expenditure of that year. The recurrent expenditure size has been increased by 40.6 percent while the capital expenditure has surged by 64.5 percent. The amount allocated for loan repayment has been lowered by 1 percent against the revised expenditure of the previous year.

Out of the total expenditure, Finance Minister Dr Baburam Bhattarai has proposed Rs.111 billion 824.9 million (47.38 percent) for general administration and Rs. 124 billion 199 million (52.62 percent) for development related programs.

The budget has aimed to raise Rs 129 billion revenue (up from Rs 105 billion collected in the previous fiscal year) and obtain Rs 47 billion of foreign grants and Rs 18 billion of foreign loan. The budget deficit will stand at Rs 41 billion – of which the budget aims to raise Rs 12 billion from reforms in revenue administration and Rs 3 billion from existing cash reserve. The remaining Rs 25 billion will be mobilized



NRB: Tackling Inflation will be a challenge

as internal loan.

Addressing the constituent assembly session, FM Bhattarai said government has given topmost priority to agriculture, water resources, tourism, human resource development and industrialization.

The minister aims that the budget will push the economic growth rate to 7

percent from current 5.6 percent. The growth rate in agriculture sector is expected to be at 4.5 percent and non agriculture sector at 8.3 percent. Inflation rate is estimated to be around 7.5 percent.

The budget has allocated Rs 5.91 billion for agriculture, Rs 5 billion for irrigation, Rs 1.52 billion for industrial sector, Rs 13.91 billion for road development, Rs 5.27 billion for rural infrastructure development, Rs 38 billion (44 percent more than past year) for education and Rs 15 billion for health sector. In education, the government expects foreign aid of Rs 10.5 billion and in health, it expects foreign aid of Rs 4.48 billion.

Likewise, the budget has allocated Rs 9.14 billion for the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction; Rs 12.26 billion for Ministry of Defense; Rs.12.47 billion for Ministry of Home Affairs and Rs 24.1 billion for Ministry of Local Development.

He has announced a number of populist programs. He has increased monthly allowance for elderly, widows, and disabled people and introduced



Natural Disasters: Drain on economy

slogans like Hamro Gaun Ramro Gaun (Our Village, Beautiful Village), New Nepal Healthy Nepal, Gau Gaunma Sahakari, Ghar Gharma Bhakari and so on. The budget also increased Rs 2000 in month salary, across the board, for government employees of all level.

He has also set aside millions of rupees for providing relief to conflict-victims and families of martyrs. Predictably, he has allocated some fund for development of what he called as 'Balidani Chhetra' – meaning the areas that made the sacrifice during the

'People's War' period, particularly in the mid west region. The budget has not substantially changed tax rates. The budget has also announced Voluntary Disclosure Scheme to extract more revenue.

The minister later clarified that the budget could not announce the multi-rate in the Value Added Tax (VAT) this time due to lack of homework. The minister also promised to do away with all kinds of transport syndicates and make roads free of Dhat (temporary and



CA member Khetan: "Need to promote private sector"



Dr. Mahat: Liberal Legacy

local tax collection units).

Criticisms

Economists have harshly criticized the budget terming it as 'over-ambitious' and 'beyond the means of the government.' "This is a huge budget. Where will the government get the resource from? It has said it will raise Rs 65 billion as foreign aid (both loan and grant) this year whereas we only got around Rs 21 billion in the previous fiscal year. And the budget deficit of Rs 41 billion and the plan to raise Rs 25 billion as internal loan are also 'historic,'" said economist Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal.

Another economist Dr. Raghav Dhoj Pant also described the budget as highly inflated. "The budget will not help the economy to leapfrog at all. Instead, it will drag down the growth below five percent," he said. Dr. Pyakuryal fears that the over-sized budget will trigger inflation beyond control. "The budget has raised monthly salaries by Rs 2000 for government employees but they will be hit by inflation which will increase their expenditure by more than Rs 3000 per month," he said. Dr. Shankar Sharma,

former vice chairman of National Planning Commission (NPC), also had a scathing remark against the budget size.

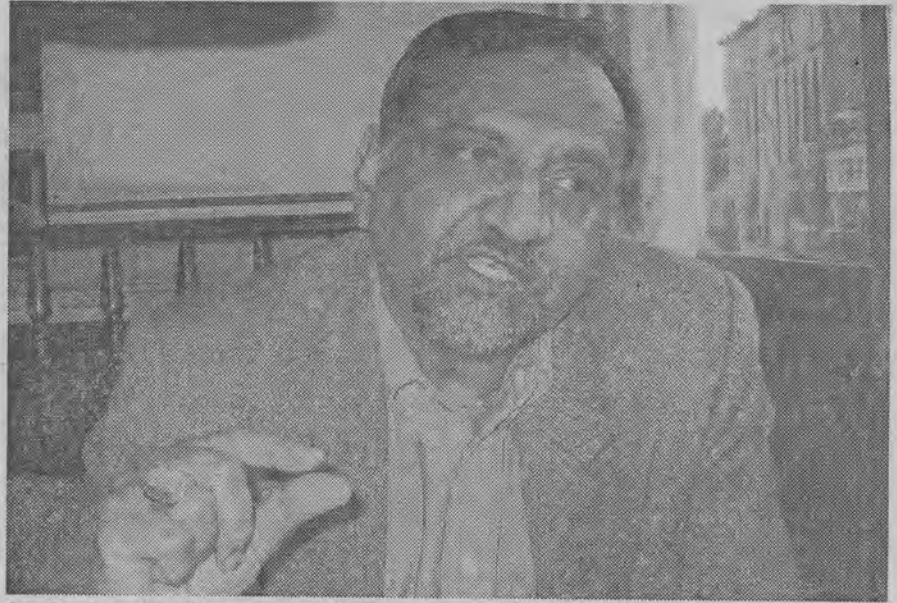
"This is untenable. The government must be very cautious to prevent economy from falling apart," he said. Meanwhile, Dr. Bhattarai, unveiling a white paper of the economy on the eve of budget presentation, said that the situation of economy as he inherited is poor. "It is the reality that despite some economic growth, there is increasing inequality and poor shape of manufacturing sector and industries," he said. In the white paper, the minister has presented the plan for accelerating the economic growth. As per the plan, the growth will be increased to over 7 percent for next two years and it will be increased to double digit for the five subsequent years after which, the minister aims to catapult the growth to 'leapfrogging' pace.

At the end of his budget speech, the finance minister had once again reiterated that his ambitious budget was what the people desired at this period. "All the Nepali people, particularly those

who are excluded from enjoying the fruits of development, segregated, downtrodden and poor, are expecting a dawn of new era through this budget. All the Nepali people are expecting speedy economic growth and social justice.”

“I believe that this budget has started a strong beginning in the direction to fulfill those hopes and expectations. We still have to travel a long journey. As has been said, the first step begins a thousand miles’ journey, and this is the first step towards that long journey.”

A small step or a great leap forward - that will be tested in the days to come. ■



Dr. Pyakuryal: “Too ambitious”

ECONOMIC FREEDOM RANKING

Nepal has fared poorly in a World Economic Freedom ranking. Nepal ranks at 128th position, way behind neighboring country India, in the latest global rankings of economic freedom, jointly released Tuesday (Sep 16) by independent research organization the Fraser Institute and the CATO Institute.

The Economic Freedom of the World: 2008 Annual Report has Nepal in the 128th spot with India at 77th rank along with China falling behind at 93rd and Sri-Lanka at 103rd spot just ahead of Pakistan. Hong Kong is again first in the rankings of 141 nations and jurisdictions, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Chile, the first Latin American country to break into the top 10. The 2008 report is based on 2006 data, the most recent available.

The overall rating of Nepal is 5.35 out of 10, further pushing it down from 123rd spot last time. However, neighboring country India maintains its 77th spot similar to last time with growing index every year. The report, at present, ranks 141 countries on a range of factors in five broad areas: 1) size of government; 2) legal structure and security of property rights; 3) access to sound money; 4) freedom to trade internationally; and 5) regulation of credit, labor and business. As the eradication of global poverty is a major concern in the world today, this year’s report includes a chapter investigating the connection between economic freedom and poverty.

According to the report, Nepal’s scores in key components of economic freedom (from 1 to 10 where a higher value indicates a higher level of economic freedom) has been thus; Size of government (5.26 up from 5.23 in the previous report); legal structures and security of property rights (dropped to 3.96 from 4.67); access to sound money (dropped to 6.58 from 6.61); freedom to trade internationally (improved to 5.49 from 5.40); and regulation of credit, labor and business (dropped to 5.46 from 5.83). ■

GROWTH

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised its projection for GDP growth rate for Nepal in the year 2009, now putting the projected growth rate at 5.0 percent. According to an update publication of the Asian Development Outlook 2008 published by the bank, Nepal will achieve a growth rate of 5.6 percent in 2008, against earlier expectation of 3.8 percent.

“The political situation offers ground for cautious hope, but remains fragile despite successful constituent assembly elections as well as elections for president and prime minister,” the reports states on Nepal.

GDP growth rebounded to 5.6 percent in this fiscal year from 2.6 percent last year due to a weather-induced recovery in agriculture. The growth revival was also aided by continued expansion of services. Industrial growth, however, declined to 1.8 percent from 3.9 percent due to the impact of power and fuel shortages and labor tensions. Assuming normal weather conditions, greater political stability, and improved power and fuel supplies, GDP is forecast to grow by about 5 percent in 2009.

As a result of sharp increases in food and oil prices, year-on-year inflation rose to 13.4 percent in mid-July 2008 while average inflation in 2009 is expected to remain at 8.5 percent, an increase from earlier forecast of 6.5 percent. Higher remittances and tourism receipts helped more than offset a widening trade deficit to bring the current account surplus to 1.9 percent of GDP (compared to a deficit of 0.1 percent in the previous year).

In 2009, the current account surplus is now projected at 1.5 percent of GDP, supported by sustained growth in remittances and tourism receipts. ■



Women: Plight Continues

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Uphill Task

The South Asian countries are unlikely to meet the target of maternal mortality despite steady improvement in the situation

By A CORRESPONDENT

With the progress in maternal mortality in South Asia still patchy, and notwithstanding fewer mothers dying during childbirth than in recent years, a new report by UNICEF entitled Progress For Children has stated the region is unlikely to meet the goals set out in Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

According to the report, South Asian women are among the least likely to have a skilled birth attendant at delivery. Only 41 percent of all births are delivered by a health professional in the region.

The proportion of rural women in Nepal whose birth was attended by a skilled birth health professional increased from 8 percent in 2001 to 14 percent in 2006. In India an estimated 14.4 million births per year are not attended by a skilled provider.

Nevertheless, there has been an

improvement in regional coverage from 31 percent to 40 percent between 1995 and 2005.

India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan are among ten countries that account for almost two thirds of maternal deaths globally, but South Asia's maternal mortality rates have dropped by 22 percent between 1990 and 2005, according to the report that focuses on maternal mortality.

During the period of 1990 to 2005, South Asia's maternal mortality ratio has fallen by 22 percent from 650 per 100,000 live births to 500 per 100,000 live births. The report further says antenatal care coverage in South Asia is the lowest in the world, but improvements are also proceeding more rapidly than in any other region. While 46 percent of women benefited from one antenatal visit during the mid 1990s, this figure rose to 65

percent by 2005.

India and Nepal have both made progress of 20 or more percentage points, with rural improvements surpassing urban. Regional disparities based on household wealth are even greater. The wealthiest women are approximately 4 times as likely as poorer women to have professionally attended births in India, 8 times as likely in Bangladesh and 11 times as likely in Nepal.

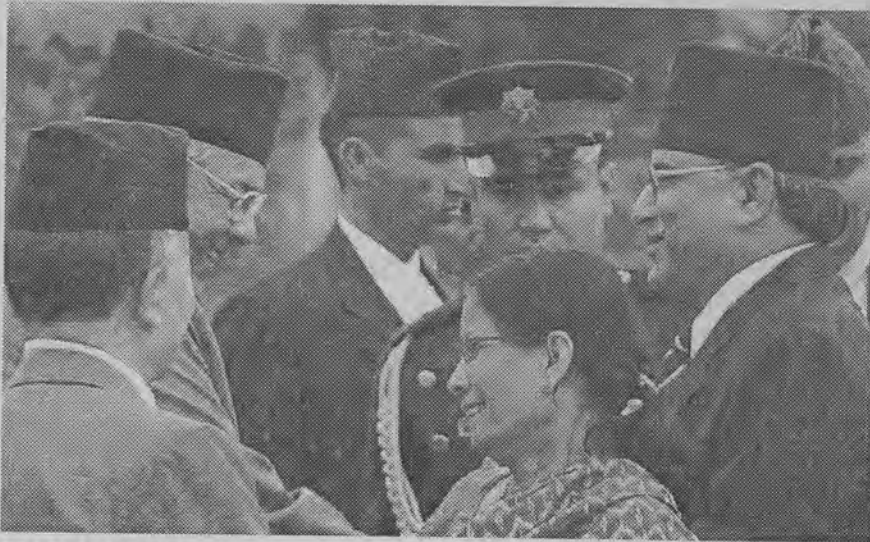
Despite these improvements, South Asia still accounts for more than one third (187,000) of the estimated 536,000 women who died in 2005 from maternal causes – a higher proportion than any other region in the world.

India alone, with an estimated 117,000 deaths in 2005, accounted for about one fifth (22%) of the global total of maternal deaths, according to the report. Based on the present rate of progress, the world will fall short of meeting the MDG target (5A) of reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by three quarters between 1990 and 2015. Since 1990, the current average rate of reduction is less than 1 percent a year, which is well below the average of 5.5 percent (annually) needed to meet the target in 2015.

Hemorrhage (31 percent) is the leading cause of maternal deaths in South Asia followed by anemia (13 percent), sepsis/infections (12 percent) hypertensive disorders (9 percent), and obstructed labor (9 percent).

South Asia has some of the highest levels of maternal under nutrition in the world, a factor contributing to the risk of maternal mortality, as well as the high proportion of infants with low birth weight, the report adds. The report also cited the critical shortage of doctors, nurses and midwives in the region. Personnel shortages and the absence of human resources policies and strategies in some countries will constrain progress towards MDG 5. The MDG 5 targets can be met only if progress can be accelerated.

Governments, development organizations, and other partners, including civil society and the private sector, need to invest both the funds and commitment necessary to improve maternal health. ■



PM Dahal: Building diplomatic ties

INDO-NEPAL JOINT STATEMENT

Package Of Commitment

India and Nepal issue joint statement at the end of the visit of PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

By A CORRESPONDENT

A joint press statement was issued by India and Nepal on Wednesday (Sep 17), incorporating the understandings reached during the bilateral talks between the prime ministers of the two countries.

The 22-point statement talks about the review of Indo-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950 and forming a joint taskforce to initiate the study in this regard. In the joint statement, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal and his Indian counterpart Dr Manmohan Singh expressed satisfaction at the age-old close cordial and extensive relationships existing between Nepal and India. They also expressed their support and readiness to cooperate each other to further consolidate the relationship in the days ahead.

PM Dahal appreciated the positive support extended by India throughout the peaceful political democratic transformation while India expressed full support to peaceful democratic transition in Nepal.

In the joint statement, the Nepali Prime Minister is quoted to have said that following the Constituent Assembly elections, bringing the peace process to a logical conclusion, writing a new constitution and accelerating the pace

of economic development are the main priorities of the government of Nepal in the days ahead.

It further said two sides felt the need to inject new dynamism into the relations between the two countries for a forward looking change in tune with the realities of the time as well as the wishes and aspirations of the people of both the countries.

The two Prime Ministers also agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other agreements, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. A High-Level Committee at the level of foreign secretaries will be set up for this purpose.

The Nepali side informed that government of Nepal would take further necessary measures for the promotion of investor friendly, enabling business environment to encourage Indian public and private sector investments in Nepal. The two countries have also agreed to enhance cooperation in handling cross-border crime and security concerns for which home secretaries will meet soon to implement this decision.

They expressed concern over the damage caused by Koshi flood and decided to launch relief and

rehabilitation measures for the victims and the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure, and other measures as per the agreements, immediately, and take up preventive measures to avoid the recurrence of such events in the long term.

The two prime ministers also decided to take up preventive measures for the Gandak and other barrages under existing bilateral arrangements. Likewise, the two sides also discussed the problem of inundation in the border areas between Nepal and India and agreed to take up necessary work for its effective prevention on the basis of bilateral consultation.

According to agreement, government of India will provide IRs 200 million as immediate flood relief to Nepal and will also rebuild the segments of the East-West Highway, damaged by the floods. India will set up a camp office in Biratnagar for facilitating movement of Nepali vehicular traffic through Bihar for improved access to other parts of Nepal till the highway is repaired.

The statement further says a three-tier mechanism at the level of Ministerial, Secretary and technical levels will be established to rationalize and raise the efficacy of the existing bilateral mechanisms in order to push forward discussions on the development of water resources in a comprehensive manner, including hydro-power generation, irrigation, flood control and other water related cooperation. The secretaries will meet in two weeks.

The two Prime Ministers directed the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) at the level of Commerce Secretaries to meet in one month to initiate a comprehensive review of the existing trade and transit arrangements with a view to promoting industrialization in Nepal, expanding complementarities of bilateral trade on a sustainable basis and removing the barriers to trade.

Two countries will enhance the pace of economic development by extending support for the preparation and execution of mega projects, including infrastructure development such as road, rail and hydel-power projects.

Additionally, the government of India will remove the ban on the export of rice, wheat, maize, sugar and sucrose for quantities agreed with Nepal and will provide credit of up to IRs. 1.5 billion to Nepal for the next three months to ensure uninterrupted POL supplies to Nepal. Indian Prime Minister Dr Man Mohan Singh accepted the invitation from PM Dahal for Nepal visit at the earliest date, to be fixed through diplomatic channel. ■

FULL TEXT - Joint Press Statement on PM Prachanda's India Visit

1. The Rt. Hon'ble Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal, is on an official visit to India from September 14-18, 2008 at the invitation of H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal is accompanied by Hon'ble Mr. Upendra Yadav, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Minister for Information and Communication, Hon'ble Mr. Bishnu Prasad Poudel, Minister for Water Resources and Hon'ble Mr. Rajendra Mahato, Minister for Commerce and Supplies. The delegation includes four members of the Constituent Assembly, senior officials of the Government of Nepal, a business delegation and a delegation of media representatives.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal called on H.E. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of India, and on H.E. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Vice President of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, which was followed by delegation level talks, led by the two Prime Ministers, on issues of mutual interest and concern. The Prime Minister of India hosted a banquet in honour of the Prime Minister of Nepal. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs, Prof. Saif-u-Din-Soz, Minister of Water Resources and Shri L.K. Advani, leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha called on the Prime Minister of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a meeting with Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the President of Indian National Congress. The Prime Minister of Nepal also visited Rajghat and paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. An interaction with the Indian business community was jointly hosted by ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI in honour of the visiting dignitary. During his stay in India, the Prime Minister is visiting Bangalore from September 17-18, 2008.

3. The Prime Minister of India extended a warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Nepal as the first Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the age-old close, cordial and extensive relationships existing between Nepal and India. Both Prime Ministers expressed their support and cooperation to further consolidate the relationship in the days ahead.

4. The talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and warmth. They shared their views and assessment of the situation. The two Prime Ministers acclaimed the importance of peaceful, political, democratic transformation of historic significance in Nepal.

5. The Prime Minister of Nepal appreciated the positive support extended by the people and Government of India throughout the peaceful political democratic

transformation in the country.

6. The Government of India expressed full support to the peaceful, political, democratic transition in Nepal.

7. Both leaders recognized the historic changes that have taken place in Nepal with the elections to the Constituent Assembly and the declaration of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal according to the wishes of the people of Nepal.

8. The Prime Minister of Nepal stressed that following the Constituent Assembly elections, bringing the peace process to a logical conclusion, writing a new Constitution and accelerating the pace of economic development are the main priorities of the Government of Nepal in the days ahead.

9. The two sides felt the need to inject new dynamism into the relations between the two countries for a forward looking change in tune with the realities of the time as well as the wishes and aspirations of the people of both the countries.

10. Both sides agreed to reactivate the existing bilateral mechanisms in the evolving context.

11. Both sides noted that the multi-faceted and deep-rooted relationships between the two countries needed further consolidation and expansion in a forward-looking manner to better reflect the current realities. It was in this broader context that the two Prime Ministers agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other agreements, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. A High-Level Committee at the level of Foreign Secretaries will be set up for this purpose.

12. The Nepalese side informed that Government of Nepal will take further necessary measures for the promotion of investor friendly, enabling business environment to encourage Indian public and private sector investments in Nepal.

13. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in handling cross-border crime and security concerns. Home Secretaries will meet soon to implement this decision.

14. Government of India will continue to assist the Government and people of Nepal in its peaceful, democratic transition; its economic development and reconstruction. The areas of assistance would include infrastructure, human resource development, health and education.

15. Both sides expressed concern over the large-scale damage caused by the breach of embankment by the river in the Kosi barrage area and decided to launch relief and rehabilitation measures for the victims and the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure, and other measures as per the agreements, immediately, and take up preventive measures, to avoid the recurrence

of such events in the long term. They decided to take up preventive measures for the Gandak and other barrages under existing bilateral arrangements. Likewise, the two sides also discussed the problem of inundation in the border areas between Nepal and India and agreed to take up necessary work for its effective prevention on the basis of bilateral consultation.

16. Government of India will provide Rs. 20 crores as immediate flood relief to the people in Nepal. Government of India will also rebuild the segments of the East-West Highway, damaged in the recent Kosi floods.

17. Both sides agreed that Government of India will set up a camp office in Biratnagar for facilitating movement of Nepali vehicular traffic through Bihar for improved access to other parts of Nepal till the Highway is repaired.

18. A three-tier mechanism at the level of Ministerial, Secretary and technical levels will be established to rationalize and raise the efficacy of the existing bilateral mechanisms in order to push forward discussions on the development of water resources in a comprehensive manner, including hydro-power generation, irrigation, flood control and other water related cooperation. The Secretaries will meet in two weeks.

19. The two Prime Ministers directed the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) at the level of Commerce Secretaries to meet in one month to initiate a comprehensive review of the existing trade and transit arrangements with a view to promoting industrialization in Nepal, expanding complementarities of bilateral trade on a sustainable basis and removing the barriers to trade.

20. Both sides agreed to further enhance the pace of economic development between the two countries by extending support for the preparation and execution of mega projects, including infrastructure development such as road, rail and hydel-power projects. As a gesture of goodwill of the Government and people of India, Government of India agreed to implement the Naumure Hydro-electric Project on Rapti river.

21. In view of the shortages felt in Nepal for the essential commodities, Government of India will remove bans on the export of rice, wheat, maize, sugar and sucrose for quantities agreed with Nepal. Government of India will also provide a credit of up to Rs. 150 crores to Government of Nepal for the next three months to ensure uninterrupted POL supplies to Nepal.

22. The Prime Minister of Nepal extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The Prime Minister of India accepted it with pleasure. The date of the visit will be decided through the diplomatic channel. ■



UML Leader Khanal (Left) : Harping a new theory

POLITICS

Again Soil and Climate Theory ?

Founders of one party philosophy are again reviving the political system based on soil and climate theory like that of Panchayat

By KESHAB POUDEL

“**B**ritish forms of Parliamentary democracy system failed in Nepal and the country needs a political system that suits its climate and soil,” declared Jhalnath Khanal, general secretary of CPN-UML. “We don’t want parliamentary system of government which has already failed.”

Weeks before declaration of Jhalnath Khanal, prime minister and CPN-Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal had made similar announcement. “We want competitive political system but it is neither like that of Indian parliamentary system nor that of British. Twelve years of experiences have already shown that Nepal needs its own system, which is suitable to our soil,” thundered Prachanda, a hard core communist leader.

Along with two communist leaders, Narahari Acharya, a follower of liberal Democratic Party Nepali Congress, too, joined the bandwagon for a political system based on soil and climate theory. “We cannot go for parliamentary forms of government because our experiences with it remain bitter,” said Congress CA

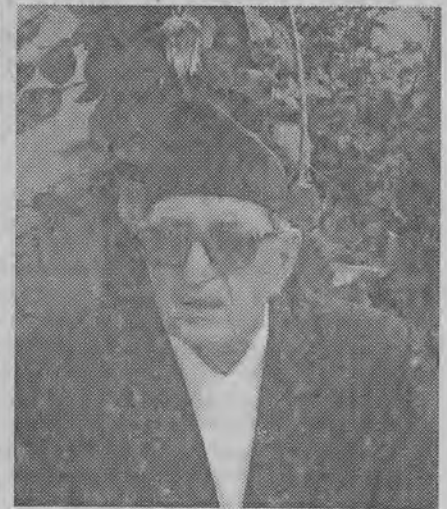
member Acharya.

In almost all countries of the region there are parliamentary forms of governments and the United Kingdom has proved it is a stable and fruitful form of government. What kinds of political systems do these leaders want is unclear.

While replacing parliamentary system with Panchayat, late King Mahendra had propounded soil and climate theory and introduced Panchayat system in 1961.

“Parliamentary system failed in our country because it was not suitable with climate and soil. Panchayat democracy is suited to our soil and climate,” the late King had said.

King Mahendra often argued that Nepal needs to grow a peculiar system which is viable in accordance with the climate of Nepal. As all communist parties had opposed King Mahendra’s Panchayat system, it is surprising to see two communist leaders and a Congress dissenter Acharya arguing in favor of different model of democracy. What would that model be like?



Koirala : In opposition

Which pattern of democracy do they want? Is it going to be a North Korean model? Cuban model or a Venezuelan model?

What will be the role of opposition party in their wishful political system based on soil and climate? Previous political system did not recognize any role of opposition like in North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela.

It seems that the political leaders want political system without any opposition. Opposing the parliamentary system means the government without any opposition which Nepal has already practiced in the last two years. The recent decision of Nepali Congress to play the role of opposition is much against what these three leaders have been saying.

“Nepali Congress will play the role of responsible opposition. We will be visible in Constituent Assembly, parliament and street as an opposition,” Girija Prasad Koirala told Spotlight, Sunday, at his residence. “We need to be very cautious particularly in defending the democracy,” said Koirala. “Parliamentary democracy is the best form of democracy.”

Believing what G. P. Koirala, who is responsible for legitimizing anti-democratic forces, said, there is a hopeful sign for revival of democracy again. Otherwise, it is inevitable that we will see the revival of a political system based on soil and climate theory like that of erstwhile Panchayat in a new cover. ■

BOOK

Rise Of A Rebel

Kathmandu-based correspondent of the Hindustan Times, Anirban Roy, describes the life of Maoist leader Prachanda

By A CORRESPONDENT

As Nepalese intellectuals have been hailing Maoist leader and prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' as a revolutionary hero who transformed Nepalese society from monarchical to republican, some politicians see the time is not ripe to hail the Maoist leader just yet.

"This is just an interval of Nepalese politics. Prime minister Prachanda is yet to show his capabilities to draft the democratic constitution for Nepal. Till writing the new democratic constitution for New Nepal, one has to cautiously watch prime minister Prachanda's action," said Subas Nemwang, chairman of Constituent Assembly, unveiling the book.

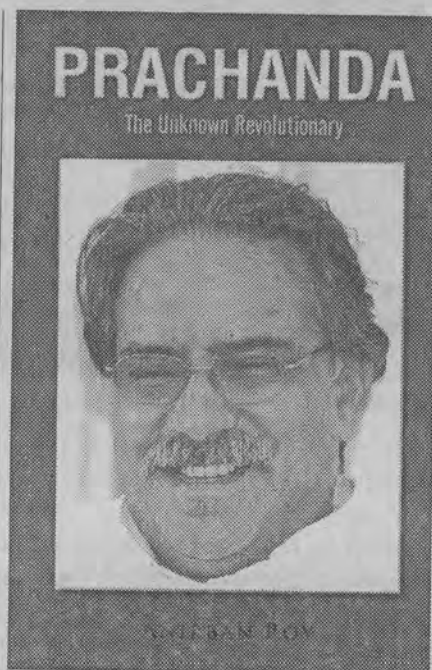
"We also received similar kinds of attention and inquiries when our party leaders joined the main stream politics after 1990. Our late leader Madan Bhandari was a hero at that time like prime minister Prachanda," Nemwang, who was a senior Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) leader, recalled.

Many books have already been published in vernacular Nepali language about the Maoist leader Prachanda and his role in the decade-long devastating civil war where more than 15000 people were killed.

However, Kathmandu-based Indian journalist Anirban Roy is the first writer to narrate the life of Maoist leader Prachanda in an English book.

Journalist Anirban Roy's book shows that the Maoist revolutionary was, in fact, inspired by state of the country.

From narrating his life to his revolutionary belief in Maoism, Indian journalist Anirban Roy traces the travails of Prachanda's life finally concluding that Prachanda's brand of Maoist ideology is different than what other



Prachanda: The Unknown Revolutionary

By: Anirban Roy

Published by: Mandala Book Point, Kantipath Kathmandu

Prices: Rs.350.00

Pages: 350

Maoists practice elsewhere in the world.

The book is the fruit of hard work of the author and is based on talks with hundreds of people who know the Maoist leader closely, ranging from his father, wife and children to comrades and politicians.

Anirban Roy describes various stages of Prachanda's life. How his father migrated from Kaski to Chitwan to make ends meet. Roy also describes his role in the insurgency.

At the Prachanda's call for people's revolution, more than 15000 people were

killed and infrastructures worth of billions of rupees were destroyed in the insurgency. But, biographer Anirban Roy misses from describing the state of those families and their opinions regarding the revolutionary Prachanda.

Prachanda, who himself recently revealed that he stayed in India for eight years out of ten years of insurgency in Nepal, had joined teaching profession after completion of his graduation in Agriculture science.

Although many Nepalese political leaders met Maoist leader Prachanda in various parts of India including Lucknow, New Delhi, and cities of West Bengal like Siliguri, only a few people have realized the implications.

Published by Mandala Book Point, the book is an intimate chronicle of the personal life of Prachanda, the man who has captured the world's imagination as a radical Communist leader. The book gives readers a glimpse into Prachanda's hidden life with hitherto unknown anecdotes and rare photographs of his childhood and underground.

One book is not enough to describe Maoist leader Prachanda and the insurgency he led. Even so, Indian journalist Anirban Roy's book gives many insights about the life and Prachanda's version of insurgency, the much talked 12 point agreement and meetings of political leaders prior to the signing of the agreement.

Although many books have already been written on Maoist insurgency in Nepal by Nepalese and Indian scholars, Anirban's book is first of its kind which is based on factual comments and meeting with the actors involved in it.

Printed in Nepal, the design and lay out of the book is of international standard. "This book Prachanda by Anirban Roy is a biography of the prime minister of Nepal also subtitled as unknown revolutionary. The book is the product of Anirban Roy's thorough

research on Prachanda's life and struggle," said Siddhartha Maharjan, director of Mandala Book Point, the publisher.

Not only the verbal conversation, there are interesting photographs of Maoist chief Prachanda. From his childhood to his stay in various parts of India, it has many interesting pictures. ■

Excerpts of the Book

- During my active movement days, I had mastered the art of bomb-making. So, I agreed to help him (Chairman Prachanda). Even in my first meeting, I had very positive impression about him (Prachanda)..... (Ram Raja Prasad Singh with Author Page 187)

- Providing treatment to the Maoist cadres injured during the fight with the security forces was difficult in Nepal. So, I arranged for their treatment in different places in Bihar. Once, I had even arranged treatment for as many as 700 Maoists cadres from Nepal in Patna. (Ram Raja Prasad Singh with Author Page 187)

- As a youth leader, Maoist leader Matrika Yadav has known chairman Prachanda since 1991. For the first time Yadav met Prachanda at the National convention of the All Nepal Youth Organiaotn at Kushi Nagar in Uttar Pradesh

- Our armed struggle would not have gotten underway had Koirala not announced the mid-term poll. The election was a good excuse to tell the people that the parties don't really care for them and were only interested in reaching power. Prachanda - Page 39

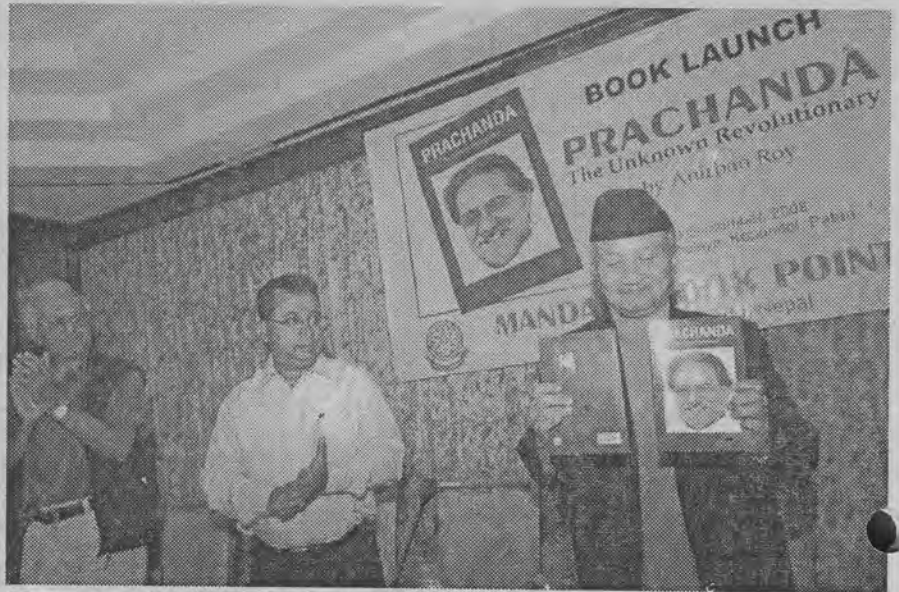
- Even if he had accepted the demands, the people's war was imminent. There could have been a slight delay but it would have definitely happened.

- Prachanda was worried about the safety of his three children in Kathmandu and in 1997 had them move to Siliguri (India)- Page 44

- In 1998, the apex military organ of the Maoists was constituted as the People's Army (PLA) with Prachanda as the Supreme Commander - Page 47

- People think that the military operation in Dunai was my plan. But I tell you that in our organization, every operation is planned in the headquarters, where minute detailed is deliberated and designed accordingly - Prachanda Page 58

- Prachandapath, adopted by the Maoists, does not apparently make an



Nemwang releasing the book: Revelations

ideological break with Lenin and Mao, but they find that the doctrines and strategies adopted by the two leaders cannot be replicated wholesale in the Nepali situation - professor Lok Raj Baral Page 64.

- "In fact, King Birendra was very concerned about the developments after the initiation of the People's war. He was interested in knowing more about us. I don't know what was in his mind but it seemed to me that he was positive towards our movement - Prachanda Page 68

- A lot of advice for Maoists in Nepal came from revolutionary movements in Latin America, Europe and Asia. But Prachanda drew the practical lessons of the People's War mainly from India. Although Prachanda got his initial training in guerilla warfare from the ex-Gurkha soldiers of Indian Army, he was in India to study from close quarters the movement in Bihar and Jhakanand.

- Thrilled by the success of the military operations, the Maoist chief, who was based in Mumbai said "the day we captured the barracks in Dang, I was told that the weapons were sufficient to continue fighting for four years" - Page 72

- Soon Prachanda realized that coordinating the organization's activities from Siliguri was no longer feasible. So in mid 1998, he moved to New Delhi along with his wife. After staying at different places, they finally rented a house at Ghaziabad - Page 47.

- By then a few other leaders, Shekhar Koirala of the Nepali Congress, and Jhalanath Khanal of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) - also turned up in New Delhi. Soon an office was set up in South Delhi, close to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to keep pushing the peace process forward Page 122.

- We drove to Noida (near New Delhi) to meet Prachanda. It was the first time I was meeting him. I had heard a lot about him but had never come face to face with him - former home minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula.

- Negotiations continued for a long time in New Delhi, and there was great support from Indian bureaucrats and politicians to the Nepali leaders. The meetings were mostly held in make-shift offices at the India International Center... Page 123 ■

“Only the media persons asked this question.”

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' when asked if the Indian side raised concerns about his earlier visit to China.

“When you want to leap-frog, you will eventually have to take certain risks.”

Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Finance Minister, defending the large size and ambitious plans of the new budget.

“The fusion between communism and democracy is socialism, which Nepali Congress has been following since its birth. I would advise the PM to read history.”

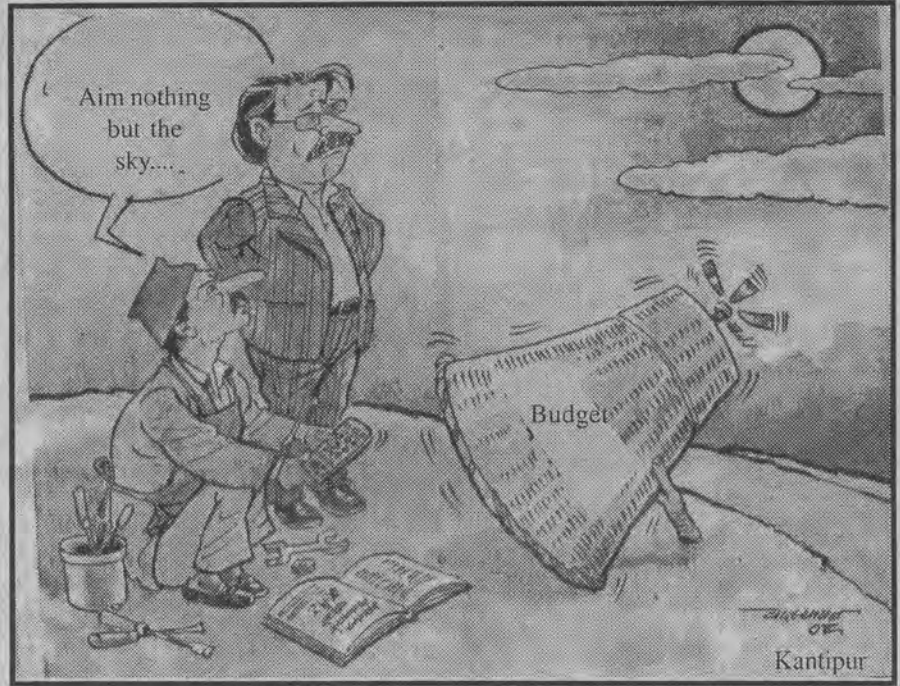
Girija Prasad Koirala, president of Nepali Congress and former prime minister, criticizing Prachanda for making remarks against democracy.

“I have done nothing wrong. So there is no question of apologizing. But I will continue to work for the party.”

Matrika Yadav, Maoist leader, who refused to apologize for recent Mirchaiya incident when asked by the central secretariat of the CPN-Maoists.

“Such statements are aimed at weakening the entire judiciary.”

Keshari Raj Pandit, chief judge at Patan Appellate Court, deploring Nepal Bar Association President Bishwo Kanta Mainali for commenting that position of judge was akin to license for corruption.



“What I said was that in existing laws, a judge is not made criminally liable for corruption. I said that the judicial council should work to bring the judges within the system of accountability. And I said that if that does not happen then a position of judge becomes like a license for corruption. And I stand by what I said.”

Bishwo Kanta Mainali, president of Nepal Bar Association (NBA), defending his remarks which has kicked off serious controversy in judiciary.

“There are not much programs to encourage the investors in the budget.”

Kush Kumar Joshi, president of

Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

“The structure of expenditure is highly unnatural and the revenue mobilization target is quite ambitious. This budget could further increase the rate of inflation.”

Mahesh Acharya, former finance minister and leader of Nepali Congress (NC), in Kantipur.

“The Finance Minister talked about lessening dependence on others. But he has expected double the amount of foreign aid compared with past year.”

Dr. Shankar Sharma, former vice chairman of National Planning Commission (NPC).

TRANSITION

RETURNED: Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda,' after completing five-day official visit to India.

LEFT: Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda,' for New York, United States, to attend the general assembly of the United Nations.

BANNED: Bishwo Kanta Mainali, president of Nepal Bar Association (NBA) from taking part in hearings across the country for six months, by

the full court meeting of Supreme Court judges.

BOYCOTTED: The judges of district and appellate courts of capital valley, the hearings, for two hours on Thursday (Sep 18), protesting NBA president's remarks against judiciary.

RESIGNED: Matrika Yadav, from the position of Minister for Land Reforms and Management.

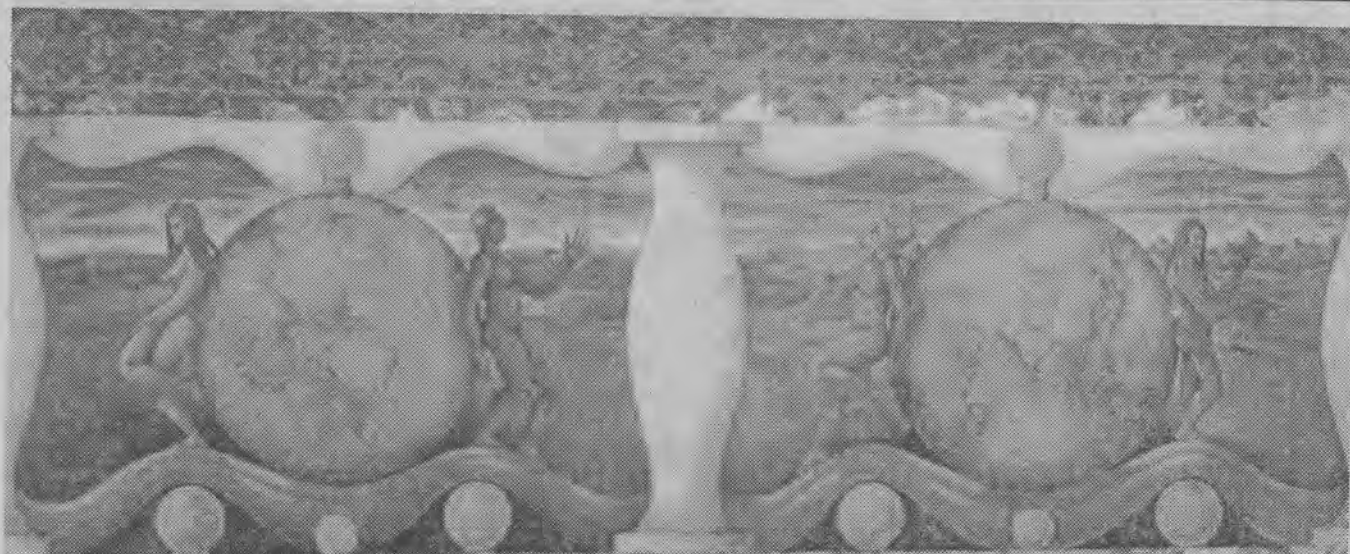
UNVEILED: The budget for the fiscal year 2008/09, by Finance Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai at the Constituent Assembly.

APPOINTED:

Karin Landgren of Sweden as the Deputy Special Representative for Nepal, by the UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon.



PASSED AWAY: Agnishikha, journalist, at the age of 54.



Bridges of Love

An exhibition of paintings

Tony Monsanto

12th to 26th September 2008

'Bridges of Love between Nepal and Curacao'

Siddhartha
ART GALLERY

Baber Mahal Revisted, Kathmandu

P.O.Box 1776 Tel: 4218048, 4438979 Fax: 4438718

E-mail: sthupa@mus.com.np Website: www.siddharthartgallery.com

Gallery Hours: Sunday-Friday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm

EXPOSITION

Bridges of Love

Dutch artist Tony Monsanto's paintings show various phenomena of love

By A CORRESPONDENT

For common people, love is a thing to be only felt in their heart but the artists, poets and laureates can comprehend the feeling through various media. Love has different meanings and forms as there are many interpretations.

In her figurative paintings, Dutch artist Tony Monsanto has also grasped her inner feelings and put them in art form.

The messages of paintings are clear

as they try to depict that there is a boundary for love and there is a bridge which can easily link human loves.

The exhibition of Monsanto's paintings was inaugurated by Honorary Consul of the Netherlands of Nepal Hans Heijdra. They are exhibited at the walls of Siddhartha Art Gallery showing various phenomena of love.

Love is the combination of despair and happiness. There is no doubt that human nature is full of affections. Art-

ist Monsanto has made every effort to show that there are ways to fill the gap in love. As it is related to human feelings, there are various ways to bridge the gap.

In one of the paintings called Brides of love between Nepal and Curacao, artist Monsanto has drawn a picture of a man and woman living in opposite direction of universe but they seem to have found the bridges in the gap. In the same painting, artist has made another experiment where the man and woman are put in opposite direction.

Wherever one lives or how far one lives, there is always a sense of love. The gap is always fulfilled by bridge of human emotions and feelings. The artist uses colors very skillfully. The combination of the theme of love and skill of expressing feeling is very compatible. ■



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Kathmandu Departure

0740 Hrs. Local Time
1135 Hrs. on Monday & Friday

Delhi Arrival

0855 Hrs. Local Time
1250 Hrs. on Monday & Friday

Delhi Departure

1000 Hrs. Local Time
1430 Hrs. on Monday & Friday

Kathmandu Arrival

1150 Hrs. Local Time
1620 Hrs. on Monday & Friday

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