

Opinion: Dr. Ananda Bahadur Thapa

Encounter: Bel Prasad Shrestha

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The National Newsmagazine

SPOTLIGHT

July 28-Aug 03, 2006

KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY

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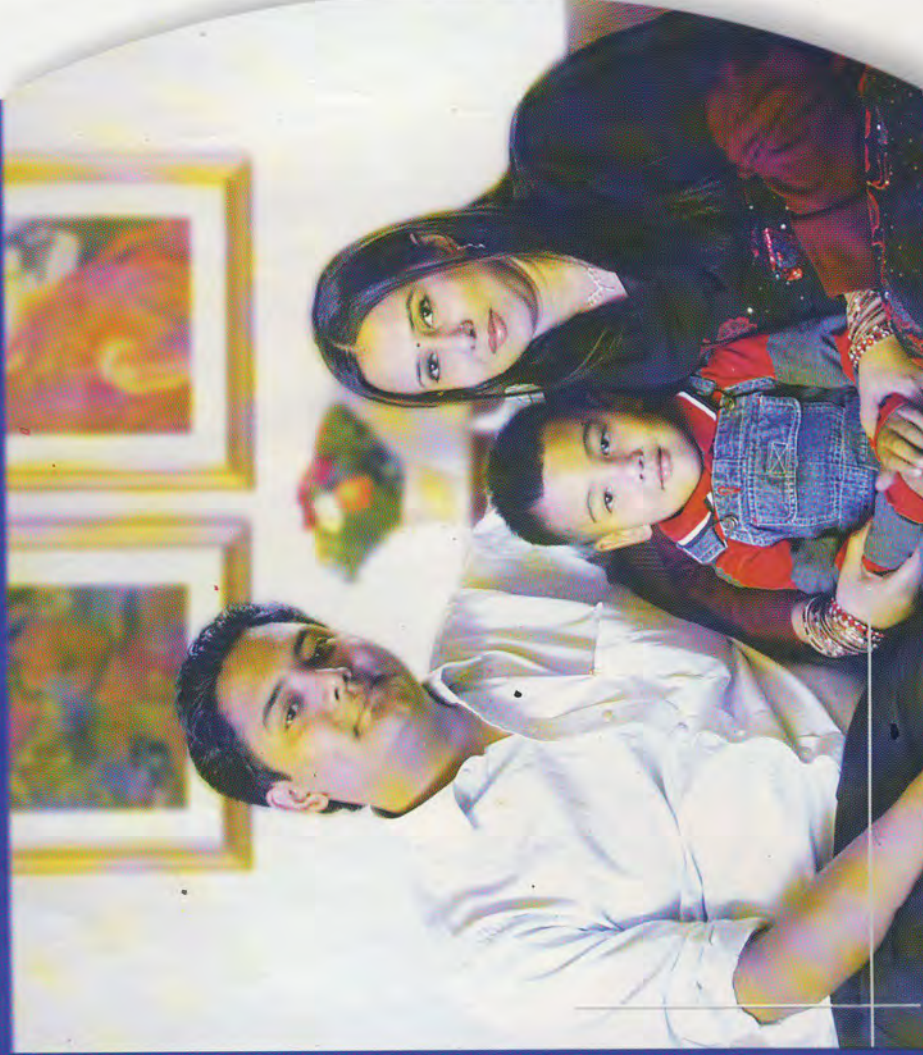
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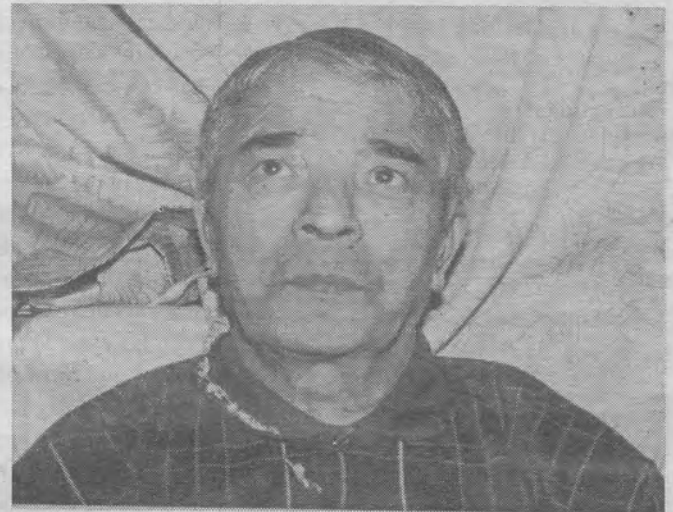
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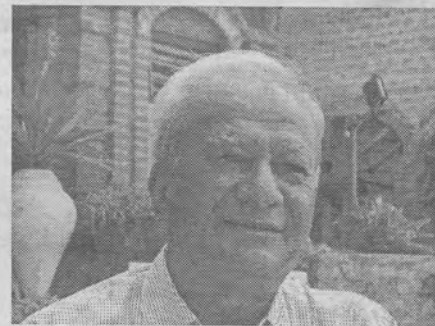
COVERSTORY : Leadership Matters

The leadership at the Kathmandu University has proven that nothing is impossible if there is a committed management with true dedication towards service and quality Page 12



NATIONAL: An Alarming Trend

There is an alarming erosion of values and institutions in recent times Page 10



ENCOUNTER : Bel Prasad Shrestha

Former mayor of Dhulikhel municipality Shrestha talks about how the opening of KU transformed his town Page 15

SPOTLIGHT

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 25, No 47, July 28, 2006
Sawan 12, 2063

Chief Editor And Publisher
Madhav Kumar Rimal

Editor
Sarita Rimal

Managing Editor
Keshab Poudel

Senior Reporter
Sanjaya Dhakal

Reporter
Thakur Amgai

Design and Layout
Jyoti Singh Dangol

Photographer
Sandesh Manandhar

Legal Advisor
Advocate Lok Bhakta Rana

Marketing
Navin Kumar Maharjan
Madan Raj Poudel
Bishnu Prasad Chaulagain

Editorial Office
GPO Box 7256, Maitidevi, Kathmandu
Tel (977-1) 4423127 Fax: (977-1) 4417845
Chief Editor's : 4435594,
E-mail : spot@mail.com.np
Internet : www.nepalnews.com/spotlight

Cover Design : Digi-Tech Scanning & Pre-Press Pvt. Ltd.
P.O. Box : 1655, Jwagal, Kupondole,
Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel : 5551251, 5529530
E-mail : degiscan@wlink.com.np

Distribution : R.B. News Paper Traders
New Road, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ph : 4232784, 2020247, 4244679
E-mail : rbnewspaper@hotmail.com

Printers : Printers World Pulishing House (P.) Ltd.
Maitidevi, Kathmandu
Ph : 4423904, 4426520

C.D.O.Regd. No
151/039-40
Postal Regd. No
42/61/62
U.S. Library of Congress
Catalogue No. 91-905060

The bane of Nepali politics is the pernicious undercurrent that is omnipresent in various shapes and forms. The unenviable physical vulnerabilities of the country and the pliant character of Nepali politicians, ever since they started playing some kind of decisive roles, have always provided the invisible influence a smooth and safe playground where any patriotic feeling or national sentiment can be nipped in the bud. It is, indeed, a very sad experience. And it needs no emphasis that these noble virtues are very hard to come by in Nepal. As apprehended, the sky of understanding between the Seven Party Alliance and the CPN (Maoists) has started being beclouded. If the atmosphere is not cleared by strenuous efforts on both sides without delay, not only the contracting parties but the whole nation might have to face greater uncertainties leading to disastrous consequences. It is not a time to get complacent for either. Both the Seven Party Alliance and the CPN (Maoists) have to abjure complacency, due to whatever reasons, and must not let this golden opportunity of carving a proud and dignified living for their poorer brethren, slip out of their fingers. The CPN (Maoists), it seems, have not yet become fully aware that they are gradually sliding down to the receiving end. Their overpowering advantage gained through the unprecedented public uprisings and demonstrations has started to evaporate. It is high time they girded up their loins if they want to sustain their negotiating leverage, which they enjoyed a few weeks back. The SPA, too, must be thankful to the CPN (Maoists) that they were mainly responsible in restoring their grounded credibility. If they do want to lose it again, and that could be for a long time, they have to be most cautious and conscientious and must fully abide by the agreements they enter into. Parting ways in over swollen midstream could prove fatal for all. The Nepali common man has come a long way and can now distinguish which side his bread is buttered.

* * *

The suggestion of senior Supreme Court justice Anup Raj Sharma to augment the stature of the Supreme Court of Nepal is most timely and worth serious consideration. The Supreme Court of a country is the most August body of a nation and must always be above all kinds of reproach. And that is possible only when it is manned by men of unimpeachable integrity. Supreme Court judges must not be appointed by any executive authority, howsoever high, as they are apt to turn partisan. We have seen how the Supreme Court, even in the United States of America, not only the richest and most powerful country in the world but also a paragon of Democracy and Human Rights, influences the democratic elections of the President, the Chief Executive of the nation. We have also experienced how Nepal's Supreme Court, too, has influenced the dissolutions and reinstatements of Nepal's House of Representatives adversely affecting the destiny of the nation itself. Consequently, the Supreme Court of any nation, at least our country, must be beyond the reach of the Executive authority, manned by supermen, whose appointments must be made by a non-partisan and non-political organization of distinguished personalities. As such, we do trust all those concerned will seriously take up Sharma's recommendation and make necessary researches to find ways and means to appoint men of super-integrity to the most prestigious organ of the state so that it may set an everlasting precedent for all the judiciaries of the world, and make our nation proud. ■

Madhav Kumar Rimal
Madhav Kumar Rimal
Chief Editor & Publisher



Nothing Amazing

If the government chooses to shrug off the existence of the Maoists despite knowing that they have become a big power by not touching their interests in the budget and not involving them in any other activities in the interest of the nation, then it is natural, the proclaimed budget has not been accepted by the Maoists (Overtaken by Uncertainty, July 21).

Birat Kumar
New Baneshwor

Better Late Than Never

As the saying goes haste makes waste. If any step is taken without adequate homework then such step is bound to result into a failure. If the government and the Maoists are not able to make each other assured about their commitment to go ahead to the elections for constituent assembly and do not respect each other's views in any matter of national interest, then think what will be their image in the international level where it is essential to win their confidence in order to obtain assistance from them, which is necessary to complement the budget (Overtaken By Uncertainty, July 21). The government, on the one hand, doesn't take any suggestion of Maoists when framing budget or sending letter to the UN, on the other hand, the Maoists do not take any step to neutralize their weapons. They first announce their decisions and then regret or criticize each other by blaming each other. This is not the proper way to move ahead.

Dinesh Pahadi
Kuleswor

Time To Act

It is a very touching story of Diwani Ghimire ("There Is No Environment For

Returning," July 21). Moreover, she has raised very genuine questions. Her question must be answered by both the parties. Now in such a situation who will take the responsibility of her condition and rescue her. Do they have any answer to give? Her past has gone. No one can bring her past life back. But the government must give some compensation to people like her.

Hari Thapa
Teku

Be Aware of Your Existence

The government, which is soon going to hand over its power to the interim government, cannot be authorized to formulate budget for the whole fiscal year. (Overtaken By Uncertainty July 21) It is I think very funny and is similar to the election carried out by the King's government, which turned out to be useless exercise after the restoration of the parliament. All the provisions and policies including the budget formulation will face the same fate as the election. Because, the current budget, programs and policies do not have any representation from any power of society including the Maoists and civil society.

Diya Maharjan
Lalitpur

Don't Be Over Confident

The concerned persons who have taken the responsibility to lead the peace talks are in such a rush that they even don't think it necessary to take view of the prime minister before signing an agreement regarding the dissolution of House of Representatives and the formation of the interim constitution (Power by Elections Or Nomination, July 21.) Don't forget that Girija Prasad Koirala is the one who has succeeded to gain the confidence of rebel Maoists and led towards the first step of peace in the country. In this situation, by ignoring him no one can go ahead because the maximum credit of success of Janaandolan II goes to him. He is only the leader to whom Nepalese can believe at present.

Sudin Pandey
Bijuli Bazaar

Uneqval Treatment

When security forces are being tried and investigated for violation of human rights, why are the corrupt and unethical politicians being let off? Haven't they committed, if not more, equally heinous crimes against the nation which is tantamount to millions of poor countrymen? Why this discriminatory treatment? We think the corrupt and immoral politicians too must be thoroughly investigated and punished if found guilty. In a people's democracy, no body howsoever big and powerful politician too, must be spared for cheating the country. What would be the difference between an autocratic monarchy and the people's democracy if culprits happen to be above law? Would the human rightists take note?

Members of honest
Civil Society
Nepal

Welcome Profile

The profile of actor Sarita Lamichhane (July 21) was a welcome article. I hope your magazine will continue doing profile of such talented actors also in the coming weeks. It would be fun to read about the talented young actors and artistes.

Tika Ram Thapaliya
Kuleshor

23 Killed In Bus Mishap

At least 23 persons were killed when a bus traveling from Kathmandu to Jalbire in Sindhupalchowk plunged 150 meter down from a cliff in Chanaute Phulpidanda-6. Those killed include driver, conductor, farmers and school children. Nineteen persons died on the spot while others succumbed to their injuries later on. Around two dozen persons were injured. Nepal Army, Police and local Maoist militia engaged in rescue efforts following the accident. *Leading dailies report.*

Maoist Army Obstructing Interim Govt

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister K.P. Oli has said that the presence of armed People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the Maoists was a stumbling block to the immediate formation of interim government. "Once interim government is formed, there would not be separate militaries of the state and the Maoists; the talks team would also go, everything will have to be dissolved," said Oli, adding, "All these things have to be settled beforehand." Speaking at a program in Pokhara, Oli said interim government cannot be formed before settling the issue of arms management. *Kantipur daily reports.*

Proposal Made For Arms Management

The all party peace committee has proposed a comprehensive ceasefire agreement with detail provisions regarding the management of army and weapons belonging to the state and the Maoists. The committee formed by the government came up with the proposal after one week of homework. It has submitted the draft proposal to the government. The seven-page long draft calls for stopping recruitment in both government and Maoist army. It calls for stopping demonstration of weapons and combat uniform by Maoist army in public. It calls for stopping Maoist armed activities including transporting of weapons and explosives. "Nepali Army shall also limit its activities unless there is a threat to national security," the draft

states. It proposes that Nepali Army can be mobilized in necessary situation such as when there is external aggression; it can organize patrol when there is illegal transport of arms and so on. The draft states that one side cannot seize or search arms stored by other side. The draft also has provisions calling for total and safe rehabilitation of displaced persons, among others. *Kantipur daily reports.*

Few Know About CA

An opinion poll, the findings of which were made public on Sunday (July 23), revealed that as many as 71 percent of the illiterate respondents from among 1860 were not aware what constituent assembly election meant. Ditto in the case of respondents from ethnic groups, with 64 percent of them demonstrating lack of knowledge about constituent assembly elections. Only 4 percent from among Badis, Magars, Tharus and Pariyar communities were aware of what it is all about. Consider this: 31 percent of the respondents from among farmers, 32 percent from among members of ethnic groups and 46 of illiterate respondents were found equally ignorant on its technical aspects. Some 19 percent of the respondents said it was all about re-writing a constitution. Some 29 percent of the respondents felt that such an election should ensure representation cutting across religious beliefs, caste, language and geographical divide. Another 25 percent said it could be based on proportional representation. Similarly, 60 percent felt that a constituent assembly could bring peace while 31 percent felt it could herald total democracy. Some 6 percent felt the election could see Maoists forming a government. Fifty-two percent felt that the election to CA be held within six months while another 28 percent said it could be held in the next 12 months. However, a majority of the respondents from political and professional brackets said an election be held within 6 months. Then there are 46 percent of respondents who preferred to issue a call for settlement of Maoist arms before the election. A large number of respondents felt that democracy can be sustained only if corruption is controlled. The polls,

conducted by the Nepal International Electoral Forum, had divided respondents from among political, professional, students, farmers, ethnic and illiterate groups. It was conducted between May 20-June 6 in 31 municipalities in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Nepalgunj, Palpa and Dipayal, among others. *The Himalayan Times daily reports.*

Five Nepalese Return Home From Lebanon

Five Nepalese nationals have returned home on Saturday from the war-torn Lebanon whereas 80 others would be returning soon. The five Nepalese who arrived in Kathmandu – rescued by Indian government along with Indian nationals – from New Delhi include Anju Gurung, I Bahadur Thapa, Shree Prasad Gurung, Manmaya Gurung and Samjhana Tiwari. Seven Nepalese had been rescued by Indian ship from Lebanon a few days ago. Two persons – Aruna Devi Adhikari and Om Prakash Oli – however, decided to remain in India at their relatives' home. According to Thapa, all Nepalese in Lebanon want to return home. "Because the war has intensified, anything can happen to anyone there. So, the government should not delay in rescuing them," said Thapa. *Nepal Samacharpatra daily reports.*

Maoists For 33 Percent Seat In Interim Parliament

Maoist leader Dr. Baburam Bhatta has told the visiting European delegation that his party was vying for an interim parliament, which would constitute one-third representation from the seven-party alliance, the Maoists and civil society. "A few members of our delegation met the Maoists' second-in-command and he talked about an interim parliament in which he demanded one-third representation of the SPA, one third of the Maoists and one third of the civil society," said Neena Gill, the delegation's leader, wrapping up the visit on Friday (July 21). She said the cordial discussions between the delegation members and Dr. Bhattarai concentrated

on the issue of arms management. Dr. Bhattarai did not give any assurance of ending extortion to the EU delegates, according to Gill. Luisa Morgantini, a team member, who also met Dr. Bhattarai, said: "I have an impression that the Maoists are serious in returning to competitive politics, the only thing is that they are bargaining for more." Gill said the EU would fund the government of Nepal in its efforts to reach out to the needy. She said the Maoists are also in need of funds. "All will get equal aid; we are not going to dole out money to any political party or group," Gill said. She did not meet Maoist leaders because "the EU has a policy of not meeting the Maoists until they disarm." She said the question of decommissioning of the Nepal Army should not arise as it cannot be treated on par with the Maoist army. The current government is legitimate because it was elected by the people at one point of time and the national army holds similar legitimacy, Gill said. She further suggested the Maoists come up with 'realistic demands.' "They are keen to join the political system, but if they come up with unrealistic demands, the peace process will break down," she told reporters after a press conference. The Maoists are not willing to disarm before elections to a Constituent Assembly, she said, adding, "We encourage them not to carry arms because no political party can go to elections with weapons." Gill said, "The government had given us a list of areas which needed EU's support and we told the deputy prime minister to prioritize them." She said the EU has already released 7 million euros as development assistance to Nepal after the restoration of democracy. *The Himalayan Times daily reports.*

Mahara Objects To Govt. Letter To UN

Maoist spokesperson Krishna Bahadur Mahara has raised serious objections to the letter sent by the government to the United Nations. "In the letter, the government has asked the UN to ensure that Nepalese Army remains within barracks. Whereas it has asked

the UN to monitor the decommissioning of arms of our People's Liberation Army, which means our army and arms will have to be separated. This is not acceptable to us. We will not decommission till the final settlement of political issues," Mahara said. He urged the government to reconsider its letter to the UN. *Compiled from reports.*

Agreement On Interim Parliament, 100 Seats For Maoists, Civil Society

The NC, UML and the Maoists had, in their talks at Godavari, reached an agreement to retain all the members of the revived parliament and add representatives of the Maoists and civil society in an interim parliament to be formed, according to a news report in The Himalayan Times daily datelined New Delhi. Rahul Barua, secretary general of the South Asia Foundation based in New Delhi, an organization working for a peaceful solution of the conflict in Nepal, told this to this daily after meeting top leaders of the political parties and Maoists in Kathmandu. "I met NC leaders Dr. Shekhar Koirala, Chakra Prasad Bastola and Maoist peace talks coordinator Krishna Mahara in Kathmandu. I have briefed the Indian government and Sitaram Yechuri of my discussions with them and explained the Godavari agreement," Barua said. Barua had accompanied Yechuri to Nepal recently. He also worked as secretary of the Nepal Democracy Solidarity Forum based in New Delhi, which was formed for restoration of democracy in Nepal. "The 205 members of the House of Representatives will continue as members of the interim parliament. In addition, 100 seats will be allotted to the Maoists and the civil society," he said. The Maoists will have 60 to 65 seats in the interim parliament and the civil society 35 to 40 seats," he added. He said the roadmap formulated by Sitaram Yechuri for restoration of peace in Nepal is heading towards success. "The interim parliament will come into existence with an announcement of the HoR and all the powers and authority will be transferred to it," he said. The Maoist leadership is ready to deal with the issue of arms

management after an interim arrangement is made, he said, "All the issues will be included in the agenda that will be discussed in the talks scheduled for July 21." *The Himalayan Times daily reports.*

Palace Military Secretariat Abolished

The cabinet meeting on Monday dissolved the Military Secretariat at the Royal Palace. It decided to form a coordinating team under the Ministry of Defense to look after the issues of security of the palace. The meeting chaired by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was held at his official residence in Baluwatar. The Military Secretariat had come under severe criticism for its role in centralizing the military authority in the royal palace. The Secretariat used to act as contact point for the royal palace in military-related matters. It was charged of becoming extra-legally powerful. *Compiled from reports.*

25 Nepalis Returning From Lebanon

Twenty-five Nepalis are returning home from Lebanon on Indian ship. According to Dipendra Upreti, president of Nepali Service Society in Beirut, they were rescued along with Indians. Upreti added that there are only ten more Nepalis who want to return home. Others are content to wait and watch. First Secretary at Nepalese Embassy in Egypt Bhriku Dhungana has traveled to Beirut to help Nepalis without proper travel documents. Meanwhile, International Organization of Migration (IOM) has also started to rescue Nepalis stranded in Lebanon. According to IOM's Nepal Representative Srijana Pokharel, the organization is ready to rescue workers from ten countries including Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Philippines. Nepal Government has requested the organization for help in rescuing its nationals, she said. She added that Nepal has also informed about its willingness to become IOM member soon. *Kantipur daily reports.*



SPOTLIGHT Family extends best wishes to Nava Yuvraj Hridayendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on the occasion of his fifth birthday

THE INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SHYAM SARAN PAIDA courtesy call to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Sunday (July 23). Saran, who is currently in Kathmandu to attend the review meeting of Indian ambassadors posted in SAARC countries, held talks on various political issues such as peace talks, interim government, arms management and constituent assembly. Saran has also met with other political leaders including Nepali Congress (democratic) president Sher Bahadur Deuba, Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) president Pashupati SJB Rana, and Rastriya Janashakti Party (RJP) president Surya Bahadur Thapa.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO FORM A HIGH LEVEL Freed Kamaiya Rehabilitation Commission to rehabilitate the freed Kamaiyas within a month. This decision was reached following the meeting between freed Kamaiya representatives and officials of Land Reforms Ministry led by Minister Prabhu Narayan Chaudhary on Sunday. The decision also includes providing proper land to them, revoking land bank scheme, and providing identity card and health service to them. Following the agreement, the agitating freed Kamaiyas have suspended their agitation in Kathmandu. They have said they would watch the implementation of the agreement and resort to stronger agitation if not satisfied.

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED NINE PERSONS FROM KABILAS VDC in Chitawan in related with the robbery at Continental Finance Private Limited in Tripureshwore. On Friday, robbers made away with Rs 2.2 million from the company. They were caught staging the robbery by CCTV installed in the company.

OUT OF OVER 100,000 BHUTANESE REFUGEES, 16 HAVE been permitted to be resettled in third country. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the government would provide them with outward visa, reports Kantipur daily. The visiting Assistant High Commissioner at UNHCR Judy Cheng-Hopkins said that after sixteen years of the start of this problem, this was the first concrete step. She said that foreign minister KP Oli has agreed to allow helpless and needy 16 persons to be resettled in the first phase. They include mostly the rape victims. They would be resettled in Canada. She added that

during her visit to refugee camps, many refugees requested her for their resettlement. Acting foreign secretary Bhagirath Basnet said the Home Ministry is investigating the authenticity of those to be provided with proper permission to be resettled in third country. The UNHCR is also planning to conduct census of the refugee camps in October. Meanwhile, refugee leader Tek Nath Rijal has stated that the decision to resettle '16' out of 100,000 refugees was 'shameful.' He said Nepal would lose image if this decision is implemented. "Do only 16 refugees seem to be suffering and victimized in the eyes of UNHCR and the government?" he asked.

THE UNITED NATIONS IS SENDING A FIVE-MEMBER HIGH- level team in order to assess the needs of Nepal in peace process. The team is arriving in Kathmandu on July 27 in response to the letter sent by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for the latter's assistance in arms management and monitoring of truce. "We received UN response a few days back notifying that a UN team is arriving on 27 July," said Suresh Chalise, foreign affairs advisor to Koirala. He said the UN's letter welcomed the government's request and promised to help Nepal in all requested areas by sending its top officials.

FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF NEPAL, CHIEFS OF constitutional organs and Nepalese Army took oath of office before the parliament. As per the House of Representatives declaration, Chief of Army Staff, General Pyara Jung Thapa took oath of office along with heads of constitutional bodies. Speaker of HoR Subas Nemwang administered the oath of office to General Thapa as well as chairman of Public Service Commission (PSC) Tirtha Man Shakya, chief of Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) Surya Nath Upadhyaya, Accounting General Gehendra Nath Adhikari, and Attorney General Yagya Murti Banjade.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IS LIKELY TO ACCEPT Nepal's proposal for promoting more than 22 exportable items to the Japanese market under Aid for Trade (Aft), reports The Himalayan Times daily. The new political development in Nepal seems to be working on behalf of Nepal, giving its economy a boost in terms of foreign trade. The Commerce Ministry prepared the list and handed it to Finance Ministry, which is the lead agency for handling aid matters in the country. In recent days, the WTO has also started discussing ways to expedite implementation of Aft among all 32 Least Developed Countries who are members of WTO as per the decision of sixth ministerial held in Hong Kong in December 2005. The WTO meeting has decided to give aid to LDCs worth \$10 billion to boost their weak economies under Aft. Japan has allocated \$2 billion to be given to 32 LDCs in a bid to boost their economies. Some of the products that Nepal has put forth are honey, sweet orange (Junar), coffee, jute products, essential oil, medicinal herbs, rainbow trout and ginger to boost rural economy. However, Japan is interested to help in more than 22 exportable products under the one-village-one-product concept. Japan had started the concept in 1979. Nepal government has also introduced the concept in this year's budget.

“Once interim government is formed, there would not be separate militaries of the state and the Maoists; the talks team would also go, everything will have to be dissolved. All these things have to be settled beforehand.”

K.P. Oli, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressing a program of Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) party in Pokhara.

* * *

“This is not acceptable to us. We will not decommission till the final settlement of political issues.”

Krishna Bahadur Mahara, spokesperson of the Maoists, criticizing the content of the letter sent by the government to the UN in which the latter has been asked to ensure that “Nepalese Army remains within barracks” and monitor “decommissioning of arms of Maoists’ People’s Liberation Army.”

* * *

“The three accords will help address the major issues.”

Speaker Subas Nemwang, urging the government and the Maoists to sign ceasefire, peace, and human rights accord, after the parliamentary committee formed to monitor the dialogue process made public the letter sent by the government to the UN.

* * *

Oh! Ask me anything but don't ask me to predict about summit talks.



Bimarsha

“They are keen to join the political system, but if they come up with unrealistic demands, the peace process will break down.”

Neena Gill, head of the delegation of EU parliamentarians who recently visited Nepal, stating that the Maoists must lay down arms before going to the CA elections, in The Himalayan Times daily reports.

* * *

“Do only 16 refugees seem to be suffering and victimized in the eyes of UNHCR and the government?”

Tek Nath Rijal, leader of the Bhutanese refugees, criticizing efforts to resettle select refugees to Canada, in Kantipur daily.

* * *

“Because the war has intensified, anything can happen to anyone there. So, the government should not delay in rescuing them.”

Lok Bahadur Thapa, a Nepalese worker who has returned from Lebanon after he was rescued by Indian government, talking to reporters about the hazards to the workers in war-torn Lebanon, in Nepal Samacharpatra daily.

* * *

“All the noodle industries have ceased distributing noodles since the budget announcement. The stock in market would not last more than a week.”

Rabindra Shrestha, chief executive of Himalayan Snacks and Noodles Pvt Ltd, informing that instant noodle-makers have decided to pull down the shutters in their factories to protest the budget decision to increase tax and impose excise duty on their products.

* * *

TRANSITION

POSTPONED: The second round of the summit talks between seven party leaders and Maoist leaders, which was scheduled for July 21.

REVOKED: The regulation that made it mandatory for pillion riders, too, to wear safety helmet, by the traffic police.

SWORN IN: Chief of Army Staff, Nepalese Army, General **Pyara Jung Thapa** and the heads of constitutional bodies, at the Parliament Secretariat office, by the Speaker of the House of Representatives **Subas Nemwang**, as per the House of Representative declaration.

INJURED: **Sushil Koirala**, Nepali Congress vice president, in an accident.

ARRIVED: **Judy Cheng-Hopkins**, Assistant High Commissioner at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on an assessment mission to take stock of the situation of Bhutanese refugees.

LEFT: The five-member delegation of European Union parliamentarians led by Neena Gill, after completing a brief visit to the country.

Indo-Nepal Relation And Water Resources

By DR. AB THAPA

Both India and Nepal could be enormously benefited if Nepal's vast water resources are carefully developed based on sound engineering practices. Nepal could produce electricity in abundance to export to India. Similarly Nepal could expect to receive a fair share of the downstream benefits accruing to India from the use of regulated flows. Needless to explain that the Indo-Nepal cooperation on water resources could have far reaching positive impact on economy of North India. Cheap electricity supplied from Nepal to industries in India could be a boon to enhance further their competitiveness in the domestic as well as world markets.

The Northern UP, of all other region of India, would be the main beneficiary. There are three major rivers that cross the Terai region of the western half of Nepal before entering into India. They are the Gandak, Karnali and Mahakali rivers. These three rivers carry on an average annual flow in the range of 3500 cumecs. Such enormous flow of these rivers could bring under year round irrigation a vast area of lands to the north of the Ganges river in the eastern UP. Nobody has any doubt that sooner or later the water drawn from the giant hydraulic structures built in Nepal would be transforming the vast tract of lands in India to the north of the Ganges river into one of the most advanced regions in agriculture production.

Local People Should Not Be Victimized

Local people should be assured that the proposed large water resource projects are not going to be implemented in a way detrimental to their genuine interest. Thus the problems such as the one related to Laxmanpur barrage (called Rapti barrage in India) arising from the wrongly planned Saryu Canal should be quickly resolved to win the confidence of the local people living on both sides of the Rapti and other rivers in Nepalese territory. Their cooperation would be vital for the successful launching of the Karnali, West Seti and Pancheshwor storage projects.

If we carefully examined the West Rapti flood problem, it is not difficult to find out that the present flood problem is directly the result of the plans to build the Karnali or the West Seti or Pancheshwor storage dam projects. As a result, the governments of both India and Nepal could be blamed for the dreadful plight of people living in the eastern Banke district of Nepal. Thus both the governments should resolve the submersion problem at the earliest.

Indian Public Are Often Misled

In recent times almost every year widespread submersion and the loss of life and property are reported in the Indian territory due to the West Rapti floods. Unfortunately the poor people living in India who bear the brunt of the West Rapti flood disasters are often wrongly informed by certain section of the Indian press and even by some politicians. They try to lay the entire blame on Nepal for the West Rapti flood disasters. They do not hesitate to convince the Indian public by falsely claiming, whenever there is a heavy spell of rainfall across the border in Indian territory which results in worsening of the West Rapti flood situation, that Nepal should be blamed for the flooding because it has opened the flood gates of its nonexistent West Rapti storage reservoirs.

Dr. K.L. Rao, a renowned expert in the field of water resources engineering and onetime Union Minister of Irrigation & Power, Government of India has very correctly explained

The Northern UP, of all other region of India, would be the main beneficiary. There are three major rivers that cross the Terai region of the western half of Nepal before entering into India. They are the Gandak, Karnali and Mahakali rivers. These three rivers carry on an average annual flow in the range of 3500 cumecs. Such enormous flow of these rivers could bring under year round irrigation a vast area of lands to the north of the Ganges river in the eastern UP.

the cause of the West Rapti flood problem. He has put forward his own ideas with a view to resolving the West Rapti flood problems in his book "India's Water Wealth".

Dr. K. L. Rao's Observations

Flood plains are generally heavily populated since they are very fertile and are easily accessible. The Ganga basin has nearly 40% of India's population. The flood plains in India are not being developed in a regulated manner. Consequently, the

damage and the loss of life and cattle due to floods are increasing year after year. The increase in damage due to the floods can also be attributed to the urbanization of the flood plains and the indiscriminate development of industries in areas normally liable to floods. As a result, whenever high magnitude floods occur, the damage is considerably more than in the days when the flood plains were mostly used for cultivation purposes.

Damage due to inundation can be reduced by limiting the flood discharges at the damage centre. Reservoirs, detention basins, diversions and soil conservation measures help in reducing the magnitude of the flood flows. Reservoirs and detention basins store a part of the flood waters and moderate the flood peaks. Diversions and floodways take a part of the flood flows to another basin, and consequently reduce the flood discharge in the main river. The floods affect the most densely populated areas of the country.

They can be checked (in case of the West Rapti river) only by constructing detention reservoirs particularly on the Rapti at Sikta.

How the Submersion is Caused

The total length of the Saryu canal running almost parallel to Indo-Nepal border is about 230 km. In the original design the barrage across the Saryu river was at a location about 328 meters to the south of the railway bridge at Nanpara. Later, the design was modified and the location of the barrage was shifted 10 km to the north from the original site. The longitudinal gradient of the Saryu canal has been reduced to a minimum. It is only one meter on a stretch of 9 km. The adoption of such extremely mild slope permitted the alignment of the canal to be pushed as far as possible to the north very close to Indo-Nepal border specially in its middle and lower reaches.

Normally siphons are provided to deliver canal water across a river. A much higher average slope of the canal is required for the operation of this type of cross drainage structure, which has to operate under pressurized condition. free flow hydraulic regime needs to be maintained at the river crossing if the average gradient of the canal is to be reduced. For reducing the average slope of the Saryu canal an altogether a different type of structures has been devised, which at first glance drives anybody crazy. Barrages have been built across the rivers to elevate the river water to such a level that would allow free passage of canal water across the river into the canal taking off from the other side of the river. The contentious Laxmanpur barrage is one of such structures devised to deliver the water from the Girjapur barrage across the West Rapti river.

It would be necessary to maintain all the time pond water upstream of the barrage above certain fixed level to keep the Saryu canal running at desired capacity. Thus the pond would always be full, with the result that a sizeable area of lands in Nepalese territory could remain perpetually submerged. When the river is in flood, the water would be spreading out onto the lands that were never before regarded prone to flooding.

The Saryu canal is expected to cross innumerable small rivers and drains on its way. Embankments and dikes are needed to train these drains and small rivers for the protection of the Saryu canal. These river training structures could also result in widespread flooding inside Nepal where the canal route is close to the border

Similar Kosi Canal

India had proposed Nepal to build a canal similar to the Saryu canal to deliver Kosi water drawn near Chatra to irrigate lands as far as Birgunj in the west. Instead of such Indian proposal, Nepal indicated its decision to implement the Sun-Kosi diversion project. The Indian proposal was dropped. The following is the excerpt from the Indian proposal.

"The Project, therefore, envisages the construction of a new barrage at Chatra which would be 8 km downstream of the proposed Kosi High Dam, with two high level

canals, one on each bank in Nepal. These canals are expected to serve one of the most fertile areas of the terrain in Nepal. Preliminary assessment on the basis of data available shows that it may be possible to cover a gross command of 11.05 lakh ha on the right bank and 4.17 lakh ha on the left bank (both in Nepal and India). Another major advantage of providing Kosi waters to the high level canals in Nepal would be that, dependence on smaller rivers which are crossed by these canals would not be necessary and it may be possible to develop these rivers in an integrated manner along with Kosi water which would provide irrigation needs both in Nepal and India and at the same time release waters below Chatra for intensifying irrigation in India."

(Thapa writes on water resources)

ADB Concerned Over Delay In Melamchi

In a strong remarks, the resident representative of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Nepal Resident Mission in Kathmandu Sultan Hafeez Rahman has said the time has come to consider whether Melamchi project is necessary or not, reports KAntipur daily.

His remarks came after the local community in Melamchi area posed latest obstruction to project implementation by raising demands not concerned with the project. Rahman said that while due to conflict and other related reasons the project was already delayed, it was unacceptable that there would be further delay due to unrelated demands. The local community have demanded that the project provide 'one family one employment' and provide jobs to 20 youths who graduate from local college every year.

After the project deemed the demands unjustified, the local community has obstructed all works since last five days. The multi-million dollar water project is already in financial troubles after major donors Norway and Sweden pulled out their support of \$23 million following royal takeover. Rahman said that the government and the local community must play an important role if the project is to materialize. He said that the project has been fulfilling every justified demands of the local community.

At present, the construction of access road to 27 km long tunnel is nearly complete. The project, which should have been completed by 2006, has been delayed due to persistent strikes, obstructions, blockades and so on. It seems the project may not be complete even by 2011. The project, which aims to pump 170 Million Liters a Day drinking water to Kathmandu, had started 15 years ago.

EROSION OF VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS

An Alarming Trend

The erosion of values and institutions in the last few months of actions send a disturbing signal

By KESHAB POUDEL

From self-proclamation of sovereign body by the House of Representatives to the exercise of arbitrary power by Rayamajhi Investigation Commission, all are not in accordance with rule of law and internationally and domestically established precedents.

In the name of mandate of Janandolan II, they are, however, justifying all of their actions as legitimate and legal. Whether the Speaker of House of Representatives and lawyer Subas Chandra Nembang or chairman of Interim Constitution Drafting Commission former judge of Supreme Court Laxman Prasad Aryal or chairman of High Level Investigation Commission and former Supreme Court judge Krishna Jung

Rayamajhi or supreme court judge Anup Raj Sharma, all of them seem to be in the process of destroying democratic values and institutions.

All democratic values and institutions based upon that are systematically being destroyed in Nepal. Surprisingly, those political forces, which have a long history of preaching and professing higher ideals of democracy, rule of law and tolerant society, are appearing instrumental to go against those very ideals.

Two retired judges Aryal and Krishna Jung Rayamajhi - who had earned a good reputation in the bench - have made a surprising metamorphosis in their new role of destroying the faith upon the present constitution. Though they hardly know the team they have to work with and they are kept completely

in dark about the destination, they seem to be enjoying their new role.

In a populist race, Supreme Court judge Anup Raj Sharma, who also has a good reputation as a lawyer and judge, also jumps in without judging what the implications of his statement would be on judiciary.

In his early interview to a private Television Channel Kantipur, former judge and chairman of Interim Constitution Drafting Committee Aryal said that he will come out with "the best constitution of the world."

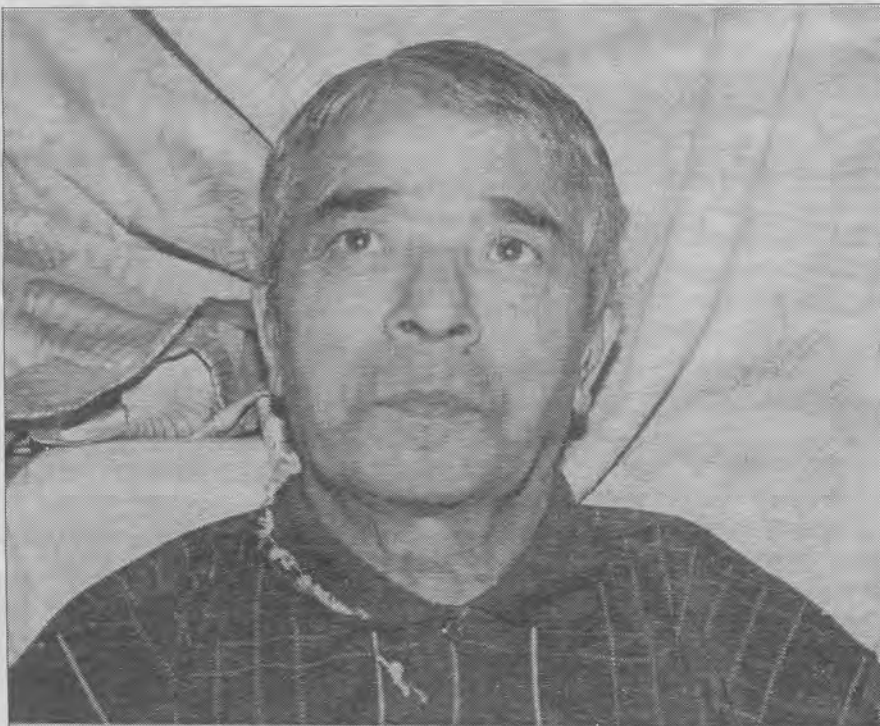
After a fortnight, Aryal repeated fear against the conspiracy from unknown center. "Some one is trying to hatch conspiracy not to allow the promulgation of interim constitution," said Aryal, adding. "We will hand over the draft in scheduled time."

Now the team has been quantitatively and qualitatively changed which Aryal has to accept though he may have his own grumblings in private. The same helplessness can be seen with another retired judge Rayamajhi who has repeatedly boasted beyond the limit of the law that he will not spare anybody.

"This commission can summon anybody before it. We will summon the King if necessary for his role in oppression of Janandolan II," said Rayamajhi whose commission was set up under an executive order. "We have a mandate of Janandolan II."

Unfortunately, he has to work in a team with a person who has accepted flat slush money from the royal regime. Out of perhaps vengeance, Rayamajhi Commission humiliated former chief justice Hari Prasad Sharma by summoning him though the commission doesn't have the authority to deal with lapses in judiciary.

"During the Royal regime when a district court judge was summoned to appear before the high level anti-corruption commission, a country wide hue and cry was made in support of independence of judiciary. Now that sanctity of judiciary has also been violated but no institution and not a single voice has come as a force of check and balance to restrain the arbitrary exercise of power. The power prescribed



Aryal: "I will draft best constitution"

by the law is being stretched beyond the limit in the name of popular mandate of the new regime of Loktantra," said a political analyst.

Investigating former chief justice Sharma, though he was controversial in several of his deed as a chief justice, was beyond the jurisdiction of this commission constituted under an executive decision. A bad precedent was, thus, established for the first time. Even a chief justice, whether he is serving or retired, will be grilled by a commission like this in future.

"I did not have any role to play. As they required my cooperation, I appeared before them," said former chief justice Hari Prasad Sharma, who has nothing to do with the oppression of Janandolan II.

By making former chief justice humble before this executive commission, a

trend has been set to coerce and threaten the sitting judges also. Unfortunately, that was done by a commission headed by a retired judge of Supreme Court. Interestingly, except a journalist, all others its members are lawyers. In no democratic country and even in military rules of the past in Bangladesh and Pakistan, those kinds of things have ever happened. In the name of Loktantra, everything is possible right now in Nepal like that of Royal regime of past.

Rayamajhi commission does not spare even questioning the jurisdiction of legislature. Similarly former speaker of House of Representatives Taranath Ranabhat, who was all the time persistent in his stand for the reinstatement of the parliament defying even the Royal wishes, has been coerced to stand before the commission.

"The parliament in the past has asserted its internal autonomy as an



Rayamajhi: "I will summon everyone"

organ of the state. That sanctity has also been violated. Just a year ago, the Supreme Court disposed of a case against the internal proceedings of the parliament in which a petition was filed making Speaker Ranabhat as a respondent. The apex court restrained itself from entering into the merit of the internal proceedings of legislature. As the highest official of the parliament, the Speaker has some privileged freedom in the past. Now that also has been violated in an absolutism of new variety," said the analyst.

All these trends have to be checked before it goes into indiscriminate exercise of the power. An action of the present, whether it is right or wrong, has already established a precedent for the future. The opinion leaders, who are in whatever capacity in the organ of the state, have to restrain themselves. Otherwise the absolute exercise of power- which they

have with them- may destroy values and institutions which the country had built up within half a century by precedents after precedents and by brick after brick.

In a series of controversial debate, sitting judge of Supreme Court Sharma also joined the bandwagon of Loktantra suggesting that the interim constitution should have provisions of reappointment of all the judges and other constitutional bodies in order to strengthen the Loktantrik system. "Only those persons should be appointed in the court who have commitments towards Loktantrik system and right of people. The court is yet to be Loktantrik," said justice Sharma in a meeting of lawyers' forum (See Kantipur July 24).

Though judge Sharma has delivered a most controversial statement, incidentally it is not against the present trend of Loktantra. Supposed if his colleague in the court exercises the same freedom

but opposite to Sharma's views, will he be tolerated? Will that judge get immunity from harassment by the Rayamajhi Commission? According to legal opinion of justice Holmes of US Supreme Court, freedom of speech means freedom to that idea also which we hate. Shall this be possible in Loktantric jurisprudence?

The most controversial Kumar Mangalam doctrine in India - which said that the judges should have a political commitment to implement the socialist program in India - seems to be surfacing in Nepal. According to justice Sharma, political commitments towards Loktantra are important rather than political impartiality.

All the trends have shown that Nepal is in the process of destroying democratic values and the institutions based upon it. These institutions were set up brick by brick in the last fifty years of modernization. ■

KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY

Leadership

Matters

When country's many other institutions of higher education including the Tribhuvan University are facing internal troubles and disturbances, the managerial skill and leadership of Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma and his team has turned Kathmandu University (KU), a private university, into an institution of educational excellence. Although the KU has made an immense contribution to the higher education, the institution is always in the eye of forces of destabilization. Last year, then Education and Sports Minister Radha Krishna Mainali threatened the KU's stability by proposing an ordinance to bring it under a single umbrella in the name of imparting nationalist education. Now, it is facing a new threat from another group - which wants to destabilize the institution of excellence by putting forth irrational demands. The KU's leadership was successful to avert all previous attempts of destabilization but how will they manage the new threat remains to be seen

By KESHAB POUDEL in Dhulikhel

Sangita Humagain, 17, of Panauti Municipality, who recently passed School Leaving Certificate, wants to join science faculty in certificate level. Thanks to the KU's science school located at about an hour's distance from her home, she does not have to worry about where to join.

"I have a long dream to study in the KU," said Humagain, who passed SLC securing distinction. "Our school has secured hundred percent results," she boasted.

Like Humagain, Binod Kayastha, 17, from Banepa, also prefers the KU. Having passed with distinction mark, Kayastha has already filed his application to study

intermediate level in science. "My first preference is KU since this university is ours," said Kayastha.

Suntali Khadka, 48, a resident of Bethan Village Development Committee of Ramechhap district has brought her 18-years-old daughter-in-law to Dhulikhel Hospital, KU's Teaching Hospital, following complications in delivery. Her daughter-in-law gave birth to a baby boy after being admitting to the hospital.

These three cases speak about how people in the region have gradually developed sense of ownership in the university. Not only the people of Dhulikhel and Kavre districts but also many other people from six other districts surrounding Kavre are benefiting from

Dhulikhel Hospital and the KU. "Although it took me a day to reach the hospital, it saved my daughter-in-law's life and that of her son," said Khadka. "In the past, we had to go to Kathmandu for even a small surgery but this hospital provides all kinds of health services now."

Since its establishment in 1991 under the act passed by parliament, the KU has seen many ups and downs and its leadership faced many challenges in the process of institution-making. During initial period, the challenges were to restore the credibility of institution and generate resources. They have done it.

The present challenges are how to maintain the stability in the university.

This phase is more complicated and difficult than previous one as people of various shades have been working to destabilize the university placing many demands one after another.

The country's four government universities have been bearing the cost of politicization as these universities are without leadership and there is no possibility for early appointment of office bearers. All political parties want to induct their own henchmen in the position. Thanks to this, the future of more than half a million students studying in higher education is uncertain. On the other hand, with the continuity of leadership, the KU is still functioning normally.

KU's Contribution

From education to health, the opening of Kathmandu University has brought much

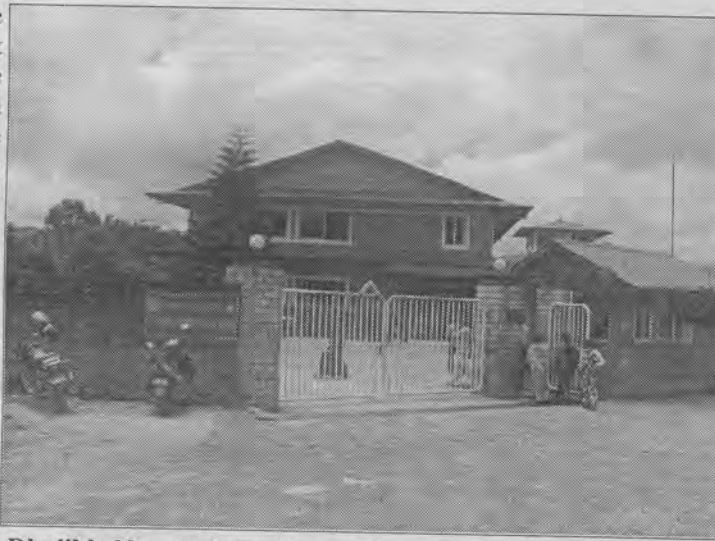
transformation in Kavre district and the residents of Dhulikhel have benefited a lot from those socioeconomic changes.

Dhulikhel is a beautiful place for all seasons. In the winter one can see the Himalaya range whereas in monsoon, the scenes of clouds are mesmerizing. The university building sits at the top of a hillock and provides a panoramic view of mountains and one can enjoy both the beauty of nature and excellence of education in this period of uncertainty and destruction.

Though it has a moderate size capacity as a university, whatever has been constructed has been done with adequate attention on aesthetic sense. Its initial architecture design was prepared by volunteers from Denmark. The traditions of early days have been followed by a team of engineers – who are always busy constructing roads and buildings one after another.

Buildings are modest in size but situated in beautiful location in terrace-type of hilly landscape. There are different scenes including Himalayas, high hills and valleys that can be seen from the top of hills of University.

"This university has transformed Dhulikhel City. Previously, it was known



Dhulikhel hospital: Quality service at doorsteps

only for adventure tourists but the city is now home for learning, following the establishment of world class university," said popular social worker and hotel entrepreneur Bel Prasad Shrestha. "KU is a jewel of Dhulikhel and our destiny is now linked with the university."

Other local people, too, hold similar views. "People in Dhulikhel have gradually realized that the KU is their own university. We want to see it flourish," said Krishna Lal Sapkota, former president of Kavre District Development Committee and CPN-UML leader. "This university should be a model for education excellence."

In the last one decade, the face of Dhulikhel has completely changed as it has a well-equipped Dhulikhel Hospital along with the well-planned university building and a medical college. Along with these infrastructures, growing activities in the university also generate employment opportunities to the local communities.

Overall quality of education status in and health indicators in Kavre and its surrounding areas have tremendously changed. A year ago, two students from Kavre secured highest mark in the SLC. According to the annual report of the Department of Health Services, the access to health in Kavre district is significantly higher compared to other districts.

"This university has helped improve the quality of education and health indicators in the district," said Shrestha. "Even the quality of education

in the government schools has already gone up."

Dedicated Leadership

Frequent political disturbance, changing leadership and student and teacher politics have already made almost all government universities non-functional. Following the resignation of office bearers under pressure from employees and students, the whole academic calendar of Tribhuvan University, Purbanchal University, Pokhara University and Mahendra Sanskrit University has already derailed.

Thanks to managerial and leadership skill of vice chancellor Suresh Raj Sharma and registrar Sitaram Adhikary, students in the KU do not have to face any kind of uncertainty. They have done what they need to do.

Everywhere second men are jealous who want to replace his boss but Sharma's second man prefers retirement rather than compete with his first man.

The superior quality of leadership and intensity of dedication have resulted into a vibrant and magnificent institution of learning. A large area of residence of Dhulikhel and its suburbs have already achieved a sense of belongingness.

This is not an individual contribution. Vice chancellor Sharma, a former civil servant in the Ministry of Education having a teaching background in Tribhuvan University, has back up support of several of his dedicated colleagues like Adhikary, Dr. Ram Kantha Shrestha and Bhadra Man Tuladhar and many more.

In a society like Nepal where even two persons hardly remain united in a team with independence and self respect, it is difficult to name who among his team has a unifying role and dynamism in spirit. Although some elements are making efforts to destabilize the dedicated leadership of the KU, vice chancellor Sharma is fortunate enough to have dedicated colleagues around him. The success of this university is definitely shared by the whole team along with him.

Operation Destabilization

In a country where political leaders are in fight to finish all the institutions, some dedicated individuals are in the

process of strengthening university ignoring the efforts to rock their leadership. Last year, under the government led by King Gyanendra, then Minister for Education and Sports Radha Krishna Mainali attempted to rock the university by announcing to bring an ordinance to put all five universities under an umbrella with the King as the chancellor. Had Mainali's tenure been extended, the ordinance would have destroyed the whole leadership of the university.

After the announcement of movement, Mainali's plan was foiled but the efforts to destabilize university continue in different postures. Following the restoration of democracy, all of a sudden some individuals associated with university have opened a new front to rock the stability of university, which had survived even the most difficult phase of insurgency.

With the backing from some elements and a populist media known for its active role in operation destabilization, some individual teachers have launched a tirade against the university management putting unreasonable demands including permission to open teachers' and students' union.

One of the hopeful signs is that the leadership are ably coping with the pressure. When

the whole Nepal seems to be burning by instability, anarchy and series of agitation, Kathmandu University still gives hopeful picture to young aspiring students. The glow in their faces and high aspiration in their eyes assures even pessimists that they are the future of the country and the future of Nepal.

"There are different patterns of serving the people and serving the nation. One type of persons claim to have their dedication to the nation by creating disorder and, thus, destroying the peace of the country as well as the hard achievements of the modernization of past few decades. That is a destructive role, which can hardly be appreciated in



Students and parents: Rush hour for admission at KU

a civilized standard. There are other elements who, by their creative roles and imaginations, give shape to their dedications into some tangible and concrete things. A team of the builders of this institution are in that way constructive, creative and thus promoting the civilized behavior," said an analyst.

Persons With Dedication

Dhulikhel does not lack dedication of committed persons. Take for instance Dr. Ram Kantha Shrestha, who had much better prospects in Austria where he was trained but chose a spot in Dhulikhel and created a model of health service center with the same sense of discipline and dedication, which is found anywhere in Austria.

Set up by Dr. Shrestha, Dhulikhel Hospital or Dhulikhel Medical Institute has earned high reputation and fame in the area. Before 1994, there was not a single nurse and doctor based in Dhulikhel. The situation has changed now as there are more than 57 doctors and 100 nurses working at Dhulikhel Hospital alone.

Equipped with many modern equipment, the hospital is a hope of many rural people living in the surroundings and Dr. Shrestha is their savior. One of the success stories behind the KU is the contribution and dedication of individuals like Dr. Shrestha.

Social worker Bel Prasad Shrestha, too, is a person with vision. He mobilizes the local people for the sake of university contributing enormous time to transform Dhulikhel city.

University's Capability

The University literally started from a scratch. Initially, Dhulikhel Municipality provided 200 ropanis of land and financial contribution made by United Mission to Nepal, Rana Bahadur Shaha and industrialist Mohan Gopal Khetan of about Rs. 20 million helped to start the project. Unlike other government universities, the KU's success lies on its dedication of leadership and imparting the quality education.

With around 2500 students studying at its constituent schools, the KU has more than 387 faculties

and staffs; and 225 of them are in teaching faculty. It has six schools offering courses in different streams such as science, management, engineering, medicines, humanities and education. The KU also provides 177 scholarships, of them 48 to girls. The KU affiliated colleges provide 365 scholarships to students through the government.

Five medical colleges are affiliated with it from where around 600 MBBS students graduate every year. More than 250 foreign students are also studying in them. Along with this, the medical schools are running hospitals with total capacity of 3000 plus beds. There are more than 150 students studying in the engineering schools in computers, electrical and mechanical field.

Commitment for Quality of Education

With a commitment to impart quality in higher education, vice chancellor Dr. Sharma and his team established this university. Since the establishment in 1991, the KU has produced high quality manpower in the country. There are high demands of the KU's management graduates in the markets as almost all of

them get lucrative jobs as soon as they complete their course. In the private banking sector, the KU's graduates have established their reputation as qualified and competitive candidates.

As the modern buildings of KU management school is on the process of completion in Balkumari, Lalitpur, the university will have another new feather in its cap in terms of adding the infrastructure.

"It is equally difficult to maintain and sustain the credibility and recognition. In fact, for a private sector university like ours,

the day students, parents and market begins to doubt our quality, we are dead. We have to continuously strive for betterment. In today's globalize world, it is not enough to become good in one's country. You have to prove to the international market as well. Our objective is to become a world-class university devoted to bringing knowledge and technology to the services of Nepal," said vice chancellor Suresh Raj Sharma.

In the process of institution building, the teachers of the university

have done a monumental task. During initial period, the KU brought distinguished teachers from Indian Universities but now gradually the trained and experienced Nepalese teachers are filling the vacancies.

At a time when every sector of the country is getting disturbed and dragged into a state of chaos, all the concerned people need to help - not disrupt - a pioneering and quality educational institutions like the KU. ■

"The Present Leadership Of The KU Will Overcome The Crisis"

—BEL PRASAD SHRESTHA

Social activist and hotelier BEL PRASAD SHRESTHA is known for his contribution to transform Dhulikhel. Shrestha worked in Dhulikhel in various capacities in bringing changes to the area. Shrestha, who is known as one of the builders of Dhulikhel, along with Suresh Raj Sharma and Ram Kantha Shrestha, spoke to SPOTLIGHT on various issues related with the development of the city. Excerpts:

How has the KU brought changes to Dhulikhel?

There are tremendous benefits Dhulikhel has enjoyed due to the Kathmandu University (KU). It generates the employment and economic opportunities to the area. Thanks to the number of students coming to the university, the demands of rental houses are going up. Even farmers are making money by renting out their traditional houses. Genius and talented local students have access to higher education and the medical college is providing high standard of health facilities. In this way, the contribution of the KU has been immense to Dhulikhel.

How do you see the contribution of local people to the KU?

The investment of local people is very nominal comparison to the benefits given by the KU to local communities. Dhulikhel Municipality provided some land in early days. People see Dhulikhel now as a place of learning and its name has become tied with the KU. Dhulikhel is synonymous to the KU.

How do the local people feel about the institution?

People of Banepa, Dhulikhel and Panauti see the KU as a light of their districts. This is a light, which shows everything to us. Because of presence of the university, the quality of education in local schools have gone up. We have many students in SLC who secure distinction marks. Because of the university, education sector has seen a lot of change. Dhulikhel now not only has the fame of tourist city but also has fame of institution of educational excellence. Every local people see the KU as a part of their life and all of them have stakes over it. There is a sense of ownership on the KU. This is the brain of Dhulikhel.

How do you see the current dispute in the KU?

The KU is a private university, which gets very nominal annual budget from the government. Compared to Tribhuvan University and other government universities, which are fully funded by the government, the KU has to generate resources on its own. One cannot expect the KU to follow the course of government universities. Government universities can survive even without attaining better results and quality products but the KU will be finished in case of failure to produce quality students. Everybody wants quality education in the KU as parents have to pay high price for the education of their children. The KU is run from fees of the students. So, the university management has to guarantee the quality of education to its student. One cannot apply the modalities in the KU followed in government universities. Everyone knows that the KU provides the quality education at par with international level.



As you have been involved from early days to establish the university in Dhulikhel, how do you see the achievements made by the KU?

The KU has made tremendous achievement in the short period of time with limited resources on its own. The government does not bear any financial burden. Many foreign students are coming here for studies even. Its progress is very impressive. Because of dedication of leadership in the university, we have been able to achieve it. Many institutions are coming up in Nepal but only a few produce best results. Compared with other institutions, the KU has made enormous progress.

Do you think the KU will survive from the present instability and threat?

The KU has already seen a number of difficulties in its process of evolution. In initial phase, the problems with university were related with the resources and land. We spent a lot of time to mobilize the local people. I think every one has to face problems in their life. I am confident that the present leadership of the KU will overcome the crisis and provide much needed stability to it. ■

MONSOON

Wet Nepal

The rainfall in the country is being caused by the moisture in the airflow coming from Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean

By SAHISHNU POUDYAL

After a couple of years of disruption, the monsoon seems to have arrived in its full strength this year. Unlike previous years, there are only a few areas where farmers are complaining that they are yet to plant the paddy due to shortage of rainfall this year.

This is a good sign for the agriculture sector as the rainfall in June and July continues to be on average.

one can imagine going out without an umbrella or a raincoat. However, it does have its enjoyment value to get wet. This year the monsoon struck the country on June 1st, which is ten days earlier than last year.

"Normally June 10 to third week of September is considered as season of monsoon in Nepal. But it does not always occur at the accurate time. One reason for this is the change in global climate and another main reason is due to over

coming from Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal, so the irregularity of rain in Nepal is affected by the atmosphere in that region."

"As Nepal is agro-based country, it is good to have monsoon soon but it is not raining as good as it needs to be," said Mani Ratna Shakya, Senior Divisional Meteorologist. He added, "Looking at the record up to June this year it is found that in eastern part of hilly region it is raining above normal whereas in some part of western region it is raining under normal. In Kathmandu valley it is also raining below average i.e. 216.2mm, which can't be termed a good raining situation."

He added, "Monsoon of Nepal which is summer-based enters from the way of Bay of

Bengal from south east direction from Indian Ocean, centering at northern west part of India. As a result, first the monsoon starts from east then middle, and travels to western region of the country, respectively. Then, the air of monsoon goes towards northwest region of India on its way to Pakistan."

The record provided by the airport in Kathmandu of five years raining condition in the valley shows that the rainfall has been irregular.

In Nepal, the highest amount of rainfall was observed in 18 August 2001 in Pokhara, which was 357mm in twenty-four hours. And in Kathmandu, it is 23 July 2002, when there was 177.0 mm in twenty-four hours. In monsoon, on average, it rains 3126.6mm and 1125.6 mm in Pokhara and in Kathmandu respectively.

Annually in Nepal 80% of rain occur during monsoon season.

Actually, there are two kinds of monsoons, winter based monsoon and summer-based monsoon. The monsoon that occurs in Nepal is summer-based monsoon and is only the part of the airflow in south Asia. Winter-based monsoon is not felt by Nepal due to its geographical structure. ■



Overcast sky: Welcome rains

Although it is yet to be seen how the middle and the end of the monsoon season will be like, the current estimates show that there will be good monsoon this year.

As usual, the rainy season has arrived with its usual attachments. Damp roads, greenery everywhere and wet surrounding make every one of us aware about the arrival of the wet season. No

production of the green house gases by the industrial countries, which not only affect the monsoon by causing excessive rainfall but also, at times, deepens drought in dry season and increases coldness during winter," said Madan Lal Shrestha, Director General of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. He added, "Monsoon of Nepal depends on moisture of the air

MONETARY POLICY

Inflationary Pressures

External situation compounded by growing conflict in Middle East along with internal pressures could further push inflation

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

The spiraling Middle East conflict is likely to have not only humanitarian but also economic implications for Nepal. While the immediate concern may go out to the stranded Nepalese workers in Lebanon, some of whom have returned already, in the coming weeks the conflict could spell another round of hike in the price of crude oil in the international market triggering tremors all around the world including Nepal.

Already, the price of crude oil has crossed \$70 per barrel. It could further escalate if the conflict in the Middle East grows.

On the backdrop of the war in Lebanon, Nepal's economy could land in extremely difficult situation as further increase in oil prices – which appears inevitable – could push the inflation rate to the double digit figure and shake the foundations of macro-economic stability.

Since past two years, controlling the rate of inflation has been the major preoccupation for the central bank. As a result, when the Nepal

Rastra Bank (NRB) released its monetary policy for the fiscal year 2006/07 last week, it laid a strong emphasis to control rising inflation.

This year, the central bank aimed to keep the rate of inflation to 6 percent. But given the rapidly deteriorating external as well as internal situation, it would be almost impossible to attain the target. Last year, too, the central bank had vowed to keep the rate at 5 percent but it could do nothing to check the rise

of the inflation rate, which now stands at 9 percent. The fear of double-digit inflation is ominously close now.

The unabated rise of price of crude oil in the international market; subsequent hike of fuel prices in the domestic market accompanied by cascading effect of price rise in all consumer goods and transport fare; growth of unproductive expenses; decline in development expenditure are

NOC, there is loss of Rs 9.9 per liter in petrol at the current selling price. Losses in diesel, kerosene, aviation fuel and cooking gas stand at Rs 11, Rs 8.21, Rs 5.8 and Rs 189.25 (per cylinder) respectively.

Unveiling the monetary policy, Governor of NRB Bijaya Nath Bhattarai said that his number one objective is to strike a balance between economic growth and rate of inflation.

"It is a nice thing that the central bank plans to bring down the rate of inflation to 6 percent. But due to combination of some external and internal factors, it will be difficult to achieve the target," said Dr. Tilak Rawal, former governor of the central bank.

Dr. Rawal pointed out the unabated rise in the price of crude oil in the international market as the major external factor likely to impact on our rate of



Vegetables in market: Soaring inflation hits consumers

some of the major causes for triggering rate of inflation.

As none of these causes are likely to be adequately addressed anytime soon, it is anybody's guess whether the rate of inflation would head north or south in coming months.

The growing petro prices have become the major headache for the government. At present, the state-owned Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) is incurring Rs 20 million of loss daily. According to

inflation. "That apart, the fact that we need to spend resources in unproductive sectors like holding of election of constituent assembly, and subsequently that of parliament, would further push the inflation rate," he said, adding, "In this situation, I can only wish luck to the NRB."

In case the inflation continues to head north, the people will have to suffer a lot especially when the rate of GDP growth has almost stagnated since past few years. ■

NEPAL'S NEIGHBORS

Similarity Or Dissimilarity?

Nepal's two neighbors India and China seem to be pursuing a similar policy on Nepal Maoists

By A CORRESPONDENT

There is a news like the one in Indian website eNews.com and many others regarding China's 'secret deal' with Nepalese Maoists. Filed by Nepal-based correspondent of Indian Abroad News Service (IANS), the news seems to have raised eyebrows in the international community

"After spurning Nepal's Maoist guerrillas during King Gyanendra's direct rule, China, now realizing the rebels could become part of the new government, has stepped up overtures to them, a gesture that is worrying Nepal as well as international community," writes IANS.

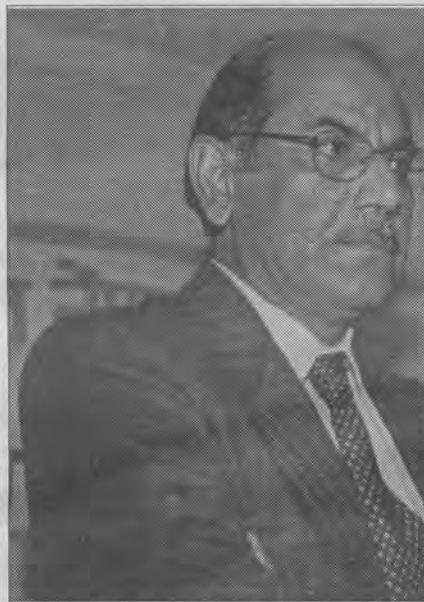
"It is feared that Beijing could have entered into a 'secret deal' to supply weapons to the Maoists in a bid to placate them after its earlier repudiation of them as anti-government forces that tarnished the image of Mao Zedong by calling themselves followers of the late Chinese revolutionary leader's philosophy. On July 1, three Chinese government officials made a secret trip to Nepal to hold talks with top leaders of the Maoists. Wang Je Chuan, a former counselor at the Chinese embassy in Kathmandu and known to have had contacts with the Maoists during his tenure, was brought in from Bangkok to open negotiations with the guerrillas," writes IANS Kathmandu-based correspondent.

It is difficult to understand the recent reaction of India – which supported and backed Maoists and Seven Parties Alliance in the signing of the 12-point deal in New Delhi in November – as it seems increasingly worried regarding recent meeting between Chinese officials and Maoist leaders. Like India, China, too, has backed peace process in Nepal urging the Maoists to join the interim government.

When both the governments of India and China are showing similar position on Maoists in Nepal, reactions of Indian news media sensitizing the Chinese contact with Maoists is surprising.

"Supporting the efforts of the new Nepal government in bringing Maoists into the political mainstream, India has urged it to show the 'same united front' it displayed in restoration of democracy in the Himalayan state," writes another dispatch of eNews.com.

Although India has yet maintained its official stand about the Maoists as terrorist, officially they have been treated as one of the political forces of Nepal and respectable republican fighters by India. Even during his recent visit to Kathmandu, Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran reportedly told the Prime Minister about the need to bring Maoists in the mainstream. Meanwhile, Chinese vice minister Wu Tawei is also scheduled to visit



Saran: Short but significant visit

Kathmandu next week to assess new political developments.

Before Chinese had any contact with these forces, Indian ambassador to Nepal Shiva Shanker Mukharjee received Maoist leaders in the Indian Embassy indicating changing attitudes towards them. Both American and British ambassadors, however, refused to meet them indicating they would not meet them until they renounce violence as well as lay down arms.

The Chinese seem to be much closer with Indian attitude towards Maoists than that of British and American governments. Maintaining the Asian solidarity between India and China, the Chinese seems to have responded to the

Maoists with friendly gesture like that of Indian ambassador to Nepal.

The American and British positions towards Maoists are consistent with their global attitudes against terrorism. Having a truly accountable and transparent democracy, the US government cannot treat the Maoists of Nepal as exception. The same is true with the British. But, there seems to be no problem with Indian and Chinese governments in this regard.

They accord their national and security interest highest priority. Chinese scholar professor Wang Hong Wei in his recent interview to Maoist mouthpiece Janadesh indicated that China could have official relations with Maoists at a time when Washington is trying to prevent them from joining the government. Professor Wang Hong Wei also met with Maoist leader Prachanda and Baburam Bhattarai in Kavre district, reports say.

The Americans have a preference to Indian hegemony as a democratic leader of South Asian. But due to ignorant and misinformed public opinion, despite democratic paraphernalia, such double dealings, internally or externally, go unhindered in India. China does not claim to be an open and democratic society. India does that but its democracy is still in a developing stage so determinant government in the center is badly influenced by the public opinion of whatever from it may have.

"A new factor is appearing in the relations between India and China after the Maoists showdown in Nepal. The Indian government is seriously alarmed by its own Maoist insurrection in almost one third of rural India," said a security expert in Nepal.

But Maoists in Nepal, in the words of former Indian foreign minister K. Natwar Singh, 'has nothing to do with Maoist ideology' though thousands of people have lost their lives in Nepal in the name of Maoist struggle. "While believing what a seasoned diplomat and politician like Natwar Singh and several other such persons, a new sensationalized propaganda in Indian press regarding the Chinese meeting Maoist leaders seems to have no logic. It is just like meeting any of the political forces of Nepal as China is best friend of Nepal as well as India, too," said a former diplomat on condition of anonymity.

"We had academic discussions with professor wong and not as a representative of government," Dr. Baburam Bhattarai confirmed the meeting.

Perhaps Chinese officials are playing complimentary role with that of India vis-à-vis Maoists. Both India and China have taken the Maoists seriously as a political force and it is up to Maoist leaders to respond to both of them on the basis of equi-distance - which some of the communists in the past have ignored. ■

Sino-Indian Nuclearism : Benefits for Nepal

By SHRISHTI RL RANA

Nuclearisation governs modern geopolitics. Essentially nuclearisation has two faces :one of war, one of peace. While, more often than not, going nuclear is a direct consequence of militaristic compulsion, it seems that the end result of countries becoming nuclear powers actually leads to active competition between them rather than the continuance of conflict. This, perhaps, appears to be almost a dialectical paradigm wherein antithetical conflict and cooperation synthesize into competition. The Sino- Indian nuclearism needs to be gauged against this backdrop especially as far as the immediate and long-term needs and interests of Nepal go.

The nuclearisation of China and later of India can be traced back to an aberrant period in Sino-Indian history when the two giants had become hostile towards each other to the extent of a serious war in 1962. Historically, for geographical and geopolitical reasons, these erstwhile Asian empires had never gone to war before. There were cordial intellectual and economic transactions between these nations for centuries. Interestingly, when China and India tested their nuclear weapons for the first time in 1964 and 1974 respectively, it did not have any drastic impact on international affairs. The acquisition of nuclear fire-power was perceived merely as an offshoot of their existing status, wealth, and development. Not surprisingly, such nuclear empowerment was brushed aside by the superpowers as a peripheral development rather than a part of new international order. Another reason why China and India's nuclear tests did not raise eyebrows was partly because of Waltz's theory of 'More May Be Better' which enshrines the view that the gradual spread of nuclear weapons is better than either no spread or rapid spread. Yet, the impact of their nuclearisation was bound to be felt sooner or later. The end of the Cold War in the nineties triggered the beginning of 'the Second Nuclear Age' in which the third world countries, mainly of the Asian region, were seen nuclearising themselves. Consequently, a new dynamics of change has emerged. This entails every nation, of this region, including Nepal, to evaluate afresh its policies in relation to these two Asian giants.

Despite the ominous scenario which 'the Second Nuclear Age' may seem to present, the ground reality, paradoxically, is different. Much of this change from conflict to competition, and even cooperation, can be explained by the basic contention that geopolitics at times is governed by the Hegelian model. Probably, such change has been made possible by the 'Nuclear deterrence' inherent in the nuclearisation in the present international order. Thus, a beginning of an era of friendly competition between these nuclear-giants — China and India— is no anomaly. China and India have not only improved their bilateral relations but increased their economic and trade relations. In April, last year, they signed an agreement to boost their trade to \$ 20 billion by 2008. This upswing in Sino-Indian relations has ushered in a new beginning in the region. So, such contemporary regional developments offer Nepal exciting prospects.

Moreover, a word about the internal situation of Nepal would not be out of place here. Nepal is heading towards rapid transformations internally through the process of a constituent

assembly. Whatever the implications of such transformations, it would be incumbent upon the would be rulers to simultaneously reassess and re-execute an innovative foreign policy. The leaders need to build up a consensus about the re-structuring of policies relating to the massive advantages likely for Nepal.

The peace process and the constituent assembly, in particular, should capitalise on the recent changes within the region and design the policies that are for the long-term interests of Nepal.

These recent regional changes in South Asia are shifts in geopolitical reality. The first such shift lies in the near impossibility of foreign aggression against Nepal. The historically strategic importance of Nepalese territory has shrunk as China and India are not likely to go to war. Even if they do, it will not be a conventional land-based war wherein the Nepalese territory would assume much importance. Non-alignment would help Nepal remain a peaceful buffer state. In fact, Nepal could even disband its army —demilitarising like Costa Rica, and eventually joining the Maldives, Mauritius or Palau which have no armies. The financial gain accruing thereby could be allocated to pressing economic development.

The second change lies in the economic opportunities and challenges which have presented themselves to Nepal. Newer avenues have been opened for Nepal to move beyond its obsolete hydro-electricity centered economy and attract huge foreign investments to produce goods for the Chinese and Indian markets. With the abundance of fresh river water supplies, Nepal can tempt India for both industrial and agricultural water supplies, and drinking water for its huge population. Nepal can also be a place for relocation of low-scale production processes from China and India. Since territorial expansion has become logically unnecessary for nuclearised countries, Nepal can now even gamble with the idea of linking its economy to India like the Mexican economy is to the US economy. Thereby the Nepalese economy can be saved from a serious crisis such as the one which happened in Argentina.

The third aspect promises Nepal more bargaining power both in regional and in international relations because these nuclearist neighbours poised to become superpowers wish to keep Nepal under their respective spheres of influence. Further, the change in the position of Nepal has been significant because of this Sino-Indian competitiveness. Nepal can now freely choose between China or India, or even use both of them for its advantage through a tactful foreign policy.

Summing up, from the global perspective, nuclearisation in South Asia has its ramification on the US also. With the end of the Cold War, there has been an increase of the US strategic interests in Asia. Further, the US wants to balance power between China and India to safeguard its own pre-eminence. For the US, Nepal may prove to be important strategically to contain both China and India as the other US bases in Asia are mainly located in Islamic nations with hostile fundamentalist groups. Hence, Nepal can now look beyond even China and India. Geopolitics is no longer a regional but global feature. The fear of political interference of these countries remains but the economic gains are much higher for economically backward Nepal. This, then, is the challenge of the future for Nepal.

BOOK

B. P. Koirala's Jail Diary

Published just a few days before his 24th death anniversary, his jail diary is eternal truth

By KESHAB POUDEL

“In the history of every nation, there comes such moment when its people have to risk their lives to safeguard the national identity. Such a moment has come in Nepal today. Our well-wishers had advised us not to return Nepal seeing the dangers involved in it. We would like to tell them that we have taken this historical decision because likely danger to our lives is nothing as compared to the danger to the nation,” said B.P. Koirala in the statement he gave on return from foreign exile on December 30, 1976.

Knowing that he could face even death penalty in Nepal, B.P. Koirala returned to Nepal with the message of national reconciliation to safeguard national unity. “In this hour of national crisis, all of us should get united by forgetting and ending the past unhealthy debates and experience and differences. Our program should be directed to by the feeling that we will no more exist in the absence of our nation,” B.P. Koirala added in his statement.

Although he came to Nepal with the call for national reconciliation, he was put in the Sundarijal Prison again along with another Nepali Congress leader Ganeshman Singh where both of them had served more than eight years prison sentence earlier. But, he had never given up his commitment to national unity.

Unlike the present day society where so many so-called revolutionaries who do not have to suffer any kind of mental torture in solitary confinement are portrayed as great leaders, no one was there to show concern over B.P. Koirala's condition in confinement and his commitment to national reconciliation. Even after his death, all politicians pay only lip-service in remembering B.P. but only a few of them remember his most important commitment to national reconciliation.

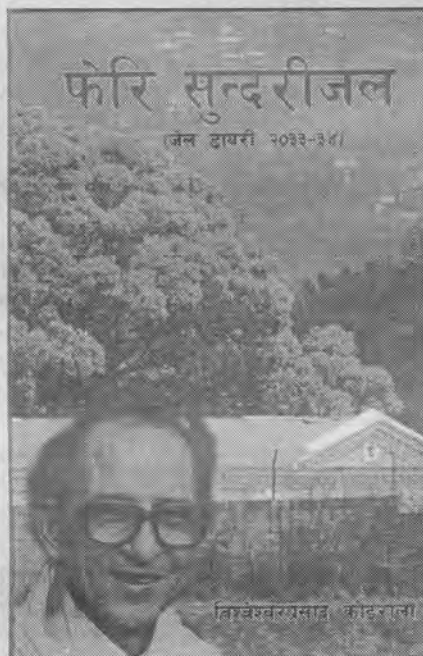
The diary is eternal truth as there are many important revelations about different situation. One of the interesting revelations

in the book is about Ganeshman Singh's determination and commitment to national reconciliation.

In the moment of second thought in the mind of B.P., Ganeshman Singh reinforced his confidence over the call for reconciliation which they had made at the time of coming back to Nepal in December 30, 1976. (See page 54-55)

Many distorted versions on the relation between B.P. and Ganeshmanji were circulated at that time. But this book shows B.P. Koirala's high regard on the stand of Ganeshman Singh.

After the death of B.P. the confusion was spread in the mind of even the persons of his party men that Ganeshmanji was in favor of confrontation and reconciliation was the line of B.P. But, writing of B.P. showed that Ganeshmanji, too, had strong



Pheri Sundarijal
(Again In Sundarijal, Jail Diary 2033-34)

By: Bishweswar Prasad Koirala

Editor: Rajendra Dahal

Translator: Sushil Sharma

Published by: Jagdamba Prakashan

commitments towards the national reconciliation.

Initially, B.P. was put in prison with Ganeshman Singh in Sundarijal together but later on both of them were separated. Despite difficulties and uncertainties of his life in prison B.P. Koirala never doubted his commitment to national reconciliation. Sometimes, he felt frustrated about the role of the King but he soon realized that there was no alternative with the King other than to follow national reconciliation, which he harped till the last day of his death.

Translated from English, the jail diary was transcribed from microfilm. B.P. Koirala was a prisoner of conscience who held the view that the nationalism and democracy are compatible. In his confinement in prison, he mentioned his own health as well as that of his family but his mind was preoccupied by the sense of patriotism and democracy. At a time when his party colleagues and his own brother are leading the course of confrontation, B.P. Koirala's jail diary can be an eye opener to them. Despite harsh punishment and difficulties in his personal life posed by confinement in the prison, B.P. continued to harp the line of national reconciliation.

The diary begins from 30 December 1976 covering events till 29 April, 1979. B. P. Koirala elaborated his roadmap on his diary of 29 May 1977 when he was in the prison of Policy Training Center. He wrote how important his one-to-one meeting with the King would be where he can explain his own roadmap. He declined to send message through a middleman whatever the position he holds. B.P. was cautious that external elements can play roles to divide democratic forces and the King.

Although B.P. died long time back, he is one of the architects of Nepal's foreign policy along with King Prithvi Narayan Shaha and King Birendra. Koirala's views on Nepal's foreign policy, particularly, on the relations between two neighbors are still valid (see page 34-35). He holds the view that the monarchy and democracy are two compatible forces and only through the unity between the two forces can Nepal's independence be guaranteed.

Although many of his party colleagues still celebrate his birth anniversary, death anniversary and national reconciliation day, everybody considers it liability to carry his commitment of national reconciliation. The publication of book at this time of transition will definitely help to understand the importance of B.P.'s views. ■

Uncertainty And Budget

By DR. TILAK RAWAL

When I remember what I had written about the forthcoming budget –Dr Ram Sharan Mahat is not expected to move mountains- a couple of days before it was read in the reinstated parliament, I do not get frustrated mainly because of minimal gap between my expectation and realization. Frankly, anyone with some knowledge of the conflict-torn economy would not expect miracles from Dr. Mahat who took charge of managing almost-empty state coffers about two months before the budget was made public. Like budgets in the past, this budget is here to run day-to-day state affairs and is little bit different in the sense that it has attempted to provide some solution to the conflict-born issues including rehabilitation of displaced people and rebuilding of destroyed infrastructures. The budget with a total outlay of Rs 144 billion, an increase of about 28 percent over the last year's figure, does not look ambitious and difficult to implement at a time when normalcy seems to be returning and there is so much demand for resources almost for every thing. Increased allocations for social sector and doubling of resources for economically dormant village committees are encouraging. As confessed in the document itself, the

successful implementation of the budget, however, is contingent upon prevalence of peace in the country. It will not at all be difficult to spend Rs 44 billion set aside under capital outlays head and also garner around Rs 40 billion from foreigners - as loans and grants - who are expected to be generous with resources in the changed democratic environment, hopefully stable also. Based on certain premise, the budget is definitely optimistic in various projections. The expectation that the

economy would grow by 5 percent may not be a wishful thinking notwithstanding the fact that our economy's performance in the last five years was very disappointing, registering a growth of around 2 percent in most years and even contracting in one. With stable environment in the offing, however, Nepal could seriously think about walking the path that would help the nation reach the "middle income country" status in not too distant future.

In our case at the moment, more than anything else the growth propeller is peace/stability. Dr. Mahat may, therefore, wish to make sure that this important aspect is given due

consideration while garnering and allocating resources. In the past years, economy stagnated and inflation remained low but now inflation is on the rise, about 9 percent, while the economy is yet to come out of the mess, which has made the life of common people all the more miserable. Still more threatening on the inflation front is the unabated rise in prices of crude oil on the global market and the need at home for making unproductive expenditures for holding elections to the constituent assembly and thereafter parliamentary polls. We can simply wish Nepal Rastra Bank luck in trying to contain inflation at 6 percent as declared in its recent monetary policy announcement. Getting the economy out of stagflation, rising prices and stagnating economy, is the challenge confronting Dr. Mahat and his team. I personally feel that there is no need to critically scrutinize the budget from different angles e.g. gap between commitment and disbursement: ability to generate



As confessed in the document itself, the successful implementation of the budget, however, is contingent upon prevalence of peace in the country. It will not at all be difficult to spend Rs 44 billion set aside under capital outlays head and also garner around Rs 40 billion from foreigners - as loans and grants - who are expected to be generous with resources in the changed democratic environment, hopefully stable also. Based on certain premise, the budget is definitely optimistic in various projections.

resources, internally and externally, and ability to achieve the targeted growth because like budgets in the past, this one is bound to have usual gaps between estimates, revised estimates and actual under different heads. Judged from fiscal discipline, strategic resource allocation and operational efficiency angles, what was said about budgets earlier can be said also about this budget brought out in a very challenging and difficult time after

the momentous political change.

The annual ritual of presenting the budget and commenting on it having been more or less performed, it is now time to think about issues that warrant urgent attention of present government and political forces of this country. Mention worthy here would be my urging before the budget that Dr. Mahat may kindly wish to assure devastated Nepalis, preferably in consultation with the CPN (Maoist), that they will have the freedom to indulge in economic pursuits of their choice in a fearless environment and that nobody's property will be taken away illegally. On these important issues, the

budget has remained more or less silent nor have the Maoists been specific in their public deliberations on these issues. Further, it is equally perplexing to hear that the Maoists have decided to return the confiscated property of party workers only. A question one is tempted to ask in this context is- what about politically inactive people whose property is also confiscated? Why should they be discriminated against by the Maoists? Learned men in the party need not be told that unless people are given an opportunity to engage themselves in economic activities freely, prosperity of a nation is not possible. Lessons can be learnt from China which has leapfrogged many nations to become the fourth largest economy in the world today. What China has achieved today in terms of economic prosperity is the result of economic reform program that the country embarked upon some twenty five years ago. In the past, China had nothing substantial to offer to its people except preaching of Mao. Another glaring example would be India, already recognized as a global economic power, where the impressive growth of the economy is attributed to the creation of an environment in which Indians and foreigners alike could be engaged in productive activities without any fear or uncalled for intimidation. Through reform only, which facilitated creation of a liberal economic environment, was India able to get the economy out of the stagnating growth rates popularly known as the Hindu Rate of Growth. These two countries have created enough wealth for them to launch social distribution programs in a meaningful manner basically to address still very serious problems of rural poverty there. In our case, however, if there is anything that can be distributed in an egalitarian manner, it is rampant poverty. Even if there are assets to be distributed socially, it has to be done by enacting progressive laws and not taken away forcibly. This is essential to stop the flight of capital from this poor nation and to bring in investment from outside.

Understanding that peace is the prelude to growth and development and assuming that it is going to be further consolidated in times to come, it is time for us to look into the future and think in terms of generating resources, mostly from external sources, required for long term sustainable development of Nepal. Mobilized resources should be spent giving priority to reconstruction of destroyed physical as well as social infrastructures and on building new ones giving priority to relatively underdeveloped regions of Nepal. Equally important is the need to create employment opportunities and an overall environment for gainful engagement of rural mass, which can pave way for stability and sustainable development of rural Nepal. We have to learn lessons from our failure in the past to take advantage of relief programs, debt and poverty related programs, launched by multilateral and bilateral agencies and waste no time in converting into tangible assistance the sympathy and assurance showered upon us by donors who desperately want stability in Nepal. May be we should not compete with African nations in attracting the attention of donors pursuing Africa-centric policy/ programs but we can always build strong cases for them to pay a reasonable level of attention to us. Everybody wants stability,

a prerequisite to development, in Nepal. Initial hiccups are bound to surface in negotiating peace deal here as they have in other conflict-hit areas of Africa, Europe and Asia but important thing for us is to make sure that these differences do not culminate into full fledged war as has been the case in Sri Lanka where a huge sum pledged by donors has not been delivered due to want of peace. Let us hope that the Maoist's objection over the government letter sent to UN on decommissioning of arms is tactfully handled without hurting the prospects of much awaited permanent peace. Uncertainty is there but it can be hoped that it does not engulf the nation and the economy permanently. Maoists definitely have no small a contribution to make on this front. ■

(Dr. Rawal is former governor of Nepal Rastra Bank)

Maoists Confer With Private Sector

Maoists and the private sector have agreed to a six-point pact that calls for improving the environment of mutual trust and providing peace and security to industries. The pact was reached after extensive consultations between the leaders of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) and Maoist leaders Prachanda, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and others.

According to a participant at the discussion, the Maoists also presented flexible positions on foreign investment, profit, and liberal economy. The Maoists also agreed to air their statements through international media appealing tourists to come to Nepal. They also agreed to play necessary role in creating an environment of understanding between industry management and trade union activities. The business community were assured by the Maoist leaders' remarks.

The Maoists had also shown their flexible position on foreign investment and capitalist economy. They said that the country cannot develop without capital investment, which has to come from private sector, said the source. The Maoist leaders also clarified that they do not mean to indicate anyone on the basis of ethnicity when they talk about promoting 'national capitalists.' They, however, were aggressive against the trend of taking the capital outside the country.

The business leaders also agreed to take part in the major industrial seminar to be held by the Maoists in near future. During the discussion, the Maoist leaders said that in 21st century one cannot deny world trade and privatization but said they should be utilized for national interest. They said they had nothing against WTO, IMF or World Bank in principle but added that country's development programs should not be guided under their influence alone. ■

PRACHANDA'S LETTER TO UN

Growing Complications

The suspension of summit talks followed by Prachanda's letter bomb adds complications to the peace process

By A CORRESPONDENT

It appeared as an act of vengeance. The chairman of Maoist party Prachanda, who was angry over the government's unilateral action of sending a letter to the UN, responded by penning his own.

But the implications of the letter could be far-reaching – it could not only spoil the atmosphere but also weaken the possibilities of inviting the UN for monitoring the peace process and arms management here.

Despite immediate damage control exercise by the government as well as the Maoists with both their talks team members claiming it would not affect the ongoing peace talks, the letter war is likely to ruffle the feathers of the UN.

Announcing his strong objection to the letter sent by the government, Maoist chairman Prachanda wrote separately to Secretary General Kofi Annan. In his letter, Prachanda has strongly objected to the request made by the government that the UN monitor and decommission the arms of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). On July 2, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala had sent a letter to the UN asking it to "assist in the monitoring the combatants of the Maoists and decommissioning of their arms" and "ensure that the Nepali Army stays inside barracks."

"The letter was written and sent unilaterally without consulting us in utter violation of the spirit of the ongoing negotiations," Prachanda writes in his letter, adding that the government letter was in

complete violation of 12-point and 8-point pacts signed earlier between the seven parties and the Maoists. He further writes, "(We agree) to request the UN to assist in the management of the armies and weapons of both sides and to monitor them for a free and fair election to the constituent assembly." It further states, "Such arbitrary and unilateral application of two different yardsticks to the two armies is highly objectionable and totally unacceptable to us. Particularly any talk of 'decommissioning' of arms of only the PLA before the election to the constituent assembly is just unthinkable."

Prachanda's intractable position regarding the issue of arms management is becoming the major point of disagreement between the government and the Maoists. In fact, even the international community has indicated that the Maoist must show flexibility over this issue.

Last week, the visiting delegation of European Union parliament also urged the Maoists not to carry weapons when going for election. "They are keen to join the political system, but if they come up with unrealistic demands, the peace process will break down," said Neena Gill, the head of the delegation. ■

EXPOSITION

Creative Thought

The Paintings reflect various facets of society

By KABI ADHIKARI

With the objective of conserving and promoting Nepalese art and culture, Rising Artists' Group (RAG) has organized the first painting exhibition where 39 different colorful creations have been put up at the wall of Nepal Art Council, Babarmahal.

The paintings exhibited by three young artists, cover a wide range of content and style. While artist Roshan Bhandari from Nawalparasi has painted Buddha, Bell, Evening, Mother's Waiting, Love Winner, Ganesh etc; Prakash Poudel, from Chitawan, another young artist, has especially focused on landscape, nature, freedom, creation, daily life, harmony, freedom, etc.

Likewise, Santosh Dhital from Nijgadh, Bara has painted varieties of pictures including Kathmandu street, happiness, landscapes, mountains (himal), potter, harmony, image etc.

Although the styles of projections differ from each other, most of the creations have same name and they appear to be longing for peace, harmony, religion and love.

Artists Poudel and Bhandari both have painted the picture of Lord Ganesh – but both of their creations have symbolic meaning. The Ganesh made by Bhandari is decorated by shells, the one made by Poudel draw help from leaves. Poudel, in a symbolic gesture, also puts his Ganesh atop the hill of Swayambhunath.

On the other hand, Dhital has given more emphasis on the day to day life of

public. Streets of Kathmandu, potters, happiness, and himal depict the real picture of society from the perspective of mundane day-to-day life.

When asked why very few people come to the exhibition, they said, "Still people do not realize the importance of paintings. They are ready to spend their money in any other field of entertainment rather than on paintings though they themselves are very creative."

Being very young artists, all three of them seem energetic and emotive. Through paintings they all have attempted to expose their innermost emotions and feelings.

The trio had been planning to organize the joint exhibition annually. They plan to organize the next exhibition based on the main theme of female education and racial discrimination followed by the one on the plight of street children the next year.

They also want to use the money raised from selling their paintings in favor of street children and orphaned children while organizing their next exhibition. The current exhibition is on till 26th of July. ■

KUNTI MOKTAN

Magic Of Melody

Moktan has won the hearts of people

By KABI ADHIKARI

When a young girl in her post teens entered into Nepal from Darjeeling in 1980 searching for the opportunity to participate in a program with the famous song 'Kahilekahi Malai Pani Herideu Hai Pharkiyara' she never thought she would one day establish herself as a prominent female singer of Nepal.

Born in 1962, Ashad 29 in Darjeeling, Kunti Moktan is gifted with a soothing and melodious voice along with the flair for singing. She started her journey in singing from St. Xavier's high school Dilaram. When studying in Class 8, she passed vocal test in 'All India Radio Kurseong' and, thus, began her journey. She had sung beautiful folk songs while in 'Kurseong'. It was in 1977 that she first recorded her song.

Having keen interest in music field, she used to play Harmonium since early age. She used to participate in school level contests, too. Besides, she also engaged in singing songs in her village. Her teachers and friends would always urge her to sing songs and encourage her.

This inspiration led her to participate in more such programs. This led to her earning recognitions and awards for her school. She also took formal classes on 'Classical Music' during her student life.

While colleagues, well-wishers and audience urged her to continue impressed by the beautiful songs she sang in the past, she kept herself very busy after coming to Kathmandu permanently in 1980 along with senior musician Shila Bahadur Moktan, with whom she has married.

Her first album has four songs and was recorded in Shree Ratna Recording in disc record system. 'Kahilekahi' is her first cassette album. Then, her albums came to the market one after another.

She made progress by leaps and bounds in the subsequent years. 'Mayalulai' was her next album released in 1995. It included eight melodious songs, and earned best selling award.



Moktan: Versatile singer

Likewise, Meroman, Kriti (Khutta Tandai Gara), Kusum (Choli Ramro Palpali Dhakako, Sunkai Bhau Chha), Kamero (Dali Dalima, Humla Jumla), Collection (collection of hit songs) are her further albums.

"While traveling to various parts of Nepal in the course of stage performance I have found that people still love to listen to folk and modern songs," said Moktan.

Moktan feels very comfortable singing in the music composition of her

talented husband Sheela Bahadur Moktan. Almost 75 percent of her songs have earned popularity on his music composition, admits Moktan. Her vocal has given touchy and sensitive selection of words, the right feeling. Most people, today, know Moktan through her various songs. Her immense popularity has led her to visit many countries. She has performed in about 20 countries including the USA, Japan, England, Hong Kong, Germany, Switzerland, Korea etc.

Because of her marvelous songs, she has bagged a number of awards including Chhinnalata, Bhupalman Singh Yuba Puraskar, Niraman Samman (Sikkim), Diploma honor from Boston College of London, Hits F.M, Music Nepal awards etc.

Mokatan keeps herself busy by teaching music in Global, Cambridge, Paragon, Oasis, Jagat Mandir, Novs, Siddhartha Bidyapith, Shangrila, Manokamana (College), Trungram, and St. Joseph colleges as a part time teacher. ■

ADB DG To Visit Nepal

Kunio Senga, Director General of ADB's South Asia Department (SARD), is arriving in Kathmandu on Thursday (July 27) for a three-day official visit. During his visit, Senga will meet with the Prime Minister, other members of the Cabinet, and senior Government officials. He will hold consultations on the country's peace process and the improved environment for development in light of the recent changes in Nepal.

In his meetings with the Finance Minister and Government officials, Senga will consult on the Government's budget priorities and medium-term reform and development issues. He will also discuss ADB's ongoing assistance and possible new assistance commitments in 2006-2007. ■

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