

SPOTLIGHT

Nov 30- Dec 06, 2007

Exclusive Interview



PM Girija Prasad Koirala

NEPAL STOCK EXCHANGE LIMITED
TODAY'S INDEX & TRADING PRICE

INDEX

COM. BANKS

FOR

Bull's Run

- Face to Face : Prachanda
- Politics : Uncertain Course
- Carter's Visit : President's Prescription
- AI Report : Note of Caution

Nepal NRs
 India INR
 Bhutan Nu.
 30.00 Other SAARC Nations US \$ 1.00
 25.00 ASEAN Countries US \$ 1.00
 25.00 Japan US \$ 1.00
 1.00 China/Korea US \$ 1.00
 1.00 MEX/Israel US \$ 1.00
 1.00 Hong Kong/Taiwan US \$ 1.00
 1.00 Australia/New Zealand US \$ 1.00
 1.00 Europe US \$ 1.00
 1.00 Singapore US \$ 1.00

< TUBORG Law no. 15 >

All for one, Tuborg for all!



TUBORG
GOLD

< TUBORG Law no. 1 >

जिउ जिन्दगी रमेर



CONTENTS



Page

LETTERS 3

NEWS NOTES 4

BRIEFS 6

COVER STORY: Soaring Stocks In the last one and a half years, the index of Nepal Stock Exchange have soared very rapidly but officials say it is based on speculative drive

Page 12

QUOTE UNQUOTE/TRANSITION 7

OPINION : Laxmi Thapa 8

CARTER'S VISIT : President's Prescriptions 11

AI REPORT: Note Of Caution 15

NIBL: Heights Of Success 18

HEALTH: Challenges For All 19



FACE TO FACE: Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda 20

POLITICS :Uncertain Course Amid deepening political crisis, the course of politics remains uncertain Page 10

VIEWPOINT: Sachetak 22

INTERVIEW:
PM Girija Prasad Koirala
Prime Minister GP Koirala talks at length about the political situation Page 16

BOOK 23

ART: Winds From Italy 24



SPOTLIGHT

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 27, No 12, November 30, 2007
Mangsir 14, 2064

Chief Editor And Publisher
Madhav Kumar Rimal

Editor
Sarita Rimal

Managing Editor
Keshab Poudel

Senior Reporter
Sanjaya Dhakal

Design and Layout
Hari Krishna Bastakoti
Jyoti Dangol (Singh)

Photographer
Sandesh Manandhar

Legal Advisor
Advocate Lok Bhakta Rana

Marketing
Navin Kumar Maharjan
Madan Raj Poudel

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

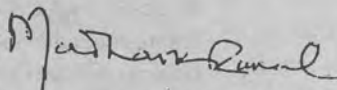
Cover Design : Digi-Tech Scanning & Pre-Press Pvt. Ltd.
P.O. Box : 1655, Jwagal, Kupondole,
Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel : 5551251, 5529530
E-mail : degiscan@wlink.com.np

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

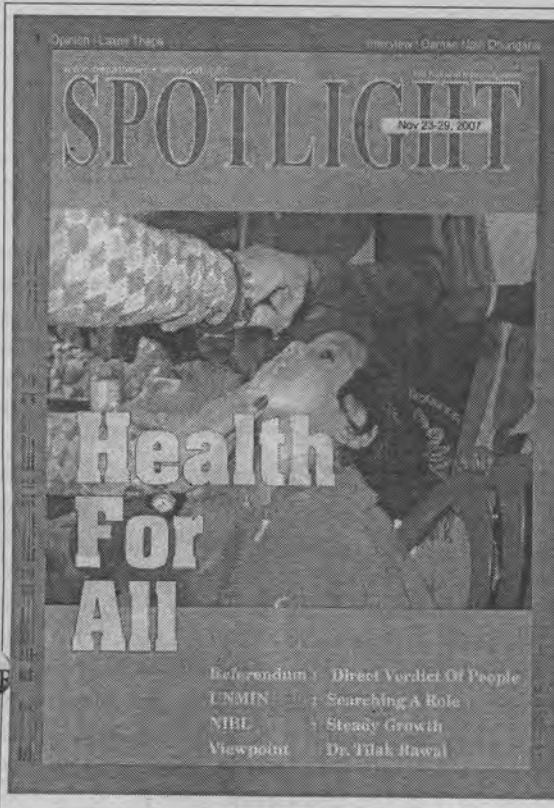
Printers : Printers World Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.
Maitidevi, Kathmandu
Ph : 4423904, 4426520

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

The justification of the seven party government having ended with the second annulment of the elections to the constituent assembly, the government headed by Girija Prasad Koirala must have resigned immediately. Since such principled behavior is practised only by conscientious politicians of integrity and character, no wonder Koirala and his team are still sticking to the official chairs. The betrayal of the mandate of the people by the SPA government must make the Nepali people wiser and they must withdraw their mandate as soon as they can. The mandate was not given to make a handful of unscrupulous politicians rich. The eighteen months of the SPA rule has neither been able to stem the rot nor check the downward slide of the nation. Girija Prasad Koirala, as the leader of the SPA government, has totally failed to rule the country. He could not even preserve the dignity and honor of the high positions he is holding. The liberty foreigners, near and far, are taking to blatantly interfere in the internal affairs in this small country is due to the shaky knees of the leader. Even in his earlier stints, he had not been able to give a strong leadership. In the interest of the country and even in the interest of his own political party, Girija Koirala must make room for a stronger leadership. His failing health does not permit him to occupy such important positions any more. His party, the Nepali Congress, being the oldest political party in the country must not set bad examples to other political parties and younger politicians. Since the restoration of democracy in 1990, the political leadership have miserably failed to rise up to the expectations of the people. The people are looking for new and stronger leadership which can only emerge in a free and fair elections. And people here do not believe this present set up will even be able to hold a free and fair elections. Moreover, the wrangles between the Maoists and specially, the Nepali Congress, do not bode well for restoring political stability in the country. The disinclination of the Maoists to adhere to peaceful politics is working like a red rag to the bull. The Maoist threat that they would return to the streets if their demands are not met has filled the atmosphere with great concern and apprehension. This is time Nepal's good friends must not keep quiet. And this is time Nepali Congress must overhaul its whole organization and give the leadership to a stronger and more dynamic person with a cleaner image, a person who can win friends in and out. And this is the time when the Nepali people have to rise and speak out, once more. They must be knowing time and tide wait for no man.



Madhav K. Rimal
Chief Editor & Publisher



Health Story

The cover story on health for all (Spotlight November 23-30) was interesting to read. Nepal's experiment to community mobilization in health sector has received world wide recognition. At time when country's all successful experiments are in the process of decaying, there is a doubt how long the successful experiments of community mobilization in health sector. If we want to sustain this success, we must prepare a long term program.

Suraj Rai

Via-email, Pokhara

Destruction Path

At a time when a group of politicized Female Community Health Volunteers issue a threat to launch the nation wide agitation with demand for monthly salary, the process of successful mobilization of FCHV in health sectors is on destruction path. Following the restoration of Nepalese version of democracy (Loktantra), Nepal has seen destruction of all the institutions and experiments of last fifty years. By destroying the values and ideals of judiciary to parliament, Loktantric leaders of New Nepal have already shown what their vision likes. Recently some politically affiliated FCHVs have threatened to call strike in case government does not appoint them as a permanent staff. As they are appointed as volunteers, how could FCHVs justify their demand to get monthly salary? This exposes the intention of

such FCHVs and their aim is to destroy the successful experiment.

Sanat Sharma

New Baneshwore

Build Ownership

I agree with public health expert Ram Kumar Shrestha when he says that the time has come now to link the health services with the families. In a country like ours, the government alone cannot deliver health services and the effective delivery of the services depends upon the families. Just offering health facilities in the rural areas cannot make change. What is required is public ownership. The coming challenge is how to develop these kinds of ownership? Experts like Shrestha can play important role for it.

Nirmala Subba

Canberra, Australia via-email

Pick Up Pace

After Dashain and Tihar holidays, I found Spotlight with good paper and

full of interesting stories. I hope Spotlight will maintain them now. Along with political issues, you also need to give due space for the issues of public interest. Keep it up.

Man Bahadur Thapa

Pulchowk, Lalitpur

Frustrating Interview

It was frustrating to read the interview of politician like Daman Dhungana (Spotlight November 23-30) who changes his stand every year. Dhungana who has committed all



unethical things in the last ten years is now talking about the morality and honesty. What honesty Dhungana has been talking about? He is a person who hailed the decision to destroy the constitution drafted by himself and who sided with Maoists to destabilize the country. What kind of honesty is this? Till a year ago, he found Maoists as a messiah and now he is blaming Maoists for all the mistakes. Is it new morality? He did not mention about the growing insurgency in terai. Can Nepal hold the elections as long as agitating groups raise arms in Terai. After reading Dhugana's interview, I draw the conclusion that dishonest man talks more about honesty.

Dhruba Hamal

New York, via e-mail

Prachanda Promises To Reform YCL

Talking with intellectuals in Chitawan, Sunday (November 25), Maoist chairman Prachanda said that the party's youth wing Young Communist League (YCL) will now cease to abduct, force donation or physical assault. He said that since the YCL had been found engaged in activities beyond party directives, it will now cease such activities. Meanwhile, on the issue of abduction and torture of doctors and administrators of Nobel Medical College, the YCL's Valley-in-charge Sagar expressed public apology on Sunday. At a press meet in Kathmandu, Sagar said he was misled by one Sunil Sharma of the same college who used him to settle his personal scores. His apology came at a time when professional organizations including doctors had warned of agitation against Maoists for the ill-treatment of doctors. In another incident, Prachanda said that all past agreements have now become meaningless and that it is necessary to move ahead by forging a new understanding. "All the past agreements have been repeatedly flouted and now they have lost their meaning. So we have to forge a new understanding while still keeping the seven-party unity intact" Prachanda said at an interaction with industrialists and businessmen in Chitawan, on Sunday. He also emphasized the need for reintegration of Nepali Army and Maoist army. Kantipur daily has reported Prachanda as revealing that he has held two phase meetings with NA generals on the issue of reintegration. Prachanda has also been quoted as saying that he has found NA positive towards reintegration. *Compiled from reports*

Bank Robbery In Kathmandu

Police have arrested four of the ten robbers who looted Rs 21 million from the central office of Bank of Kathmandu in Kamaladi on Sunday (Nov 25) evening. Police arrested Gajendra Bahadur Khadka and Mohan Ghatani as they were fleeing with the loot. Police recovered Rs 2.3 million from their



possession. Two others, whose identity has not been revealed by the police, too, have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the bank robbery. Police have said that they already know about the identity of the rest of the robbers and would soon nab them. The authorities heightened security checks in and around Kathmandu valley following the robbery. The gang of ten armed robbers had robbed the bank on Sunday evening by taking the bank employees under control by opening blank fires. They also damaged the CCTV, apparently to spoil the police's chances of identifying them.

Compiled from reports

PM Rules Out PR System, NC Hardens Position

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has said that the fully PR election system cannot be adopted for the CA election. Speaking with a delegation of trade union representatives, Saturday (Nov 24), Koirala said that a fresh census will be needed once the PR system is adopted, which will further derail the election. In another development, Finance Minister and senior Congress leader Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat has ruled out declaring republic from the interim parliament. Speaking in Pokhara, Dr. Mahat said that the constitution cannot be amended nor the government changed without the consent of NC. Similar comments were made by NC spokesperson Arjun Narsingh KC in Kathmandu who said that political parties will have to settle the issue and were not obliged to pay heed to suggestions from foreigners. *Compiled from reports*

FNJ Accuses Maoists Of Abducting Journalist Thakuri

The Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) has stated that the Maoists were involved in the abduction of

Kanchanpur district-based journalist Prakash Thakuri. Thakuri was abducted from his rented quarters on July 5. He was accused of aiding royalist elements. At a press conference in Kathmandu on Wednesday (Nov 21), the FNJ's fact-finding team presented its preliminary report on Thakuri's disappearance. The team said that the Maoist-affiliated Young Communist League (YCL), was involved in the abduction. The three-member mission led by FNJ vice-president DR Pant has further stated that the local police administration has not been able to carryout proper investigation into the case due to the Maoist involvement in the abduction. The FNJ report adds that Pom Lal Sharma, a Maoist cadre, was arrested three days after Thakuri's abduction, but was released after a simple interrogation. The Maoist activist was re-arrested a few days back after pressure mounted on the police administration to nab the guilty over the recent days. The FNJ has further stated that the journalist's abduction was the continuation of the Maoist policy to initiate violent action against the people, who do not comply with their ideology, treating them as the enemies. It has urged the Maoist leadership to handover the guilty to the police administration while it has requested the government to immediately initiate action against them. *Compiled from reports*

Over Two Dozen Agencies Join Hands To Ensure Toilet Access

Thirty agencies in the country have agreed to work together to ensure toilet access for all. "In order to ensure that by 2017 no person in Nepal is without access

to toilets, 30 agencies have agreed to work together," says a press release by UNICEF. The 30 agencies will be working to establish a mechanism to coordinate sanitation program, to revise sanitation policies for impact at the local level as well as a master plan of operation to reach the goal. "The government, donor agencies and NGOs have expressed commitment to increase financial support so that sanitation activities and facilities can reach the remotest parts of Nepal," the release says. On Wednesday (Nov 21), the UN officially launched the International Year of Sanitation in New York to accelerate progress for 2.6 billion people world wide who are without proper sanitation facilities. The UN has said that every year inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene contribute to the deaths of 1.5 million children. *Compiled from reports*

India To Waive Duty On Nepali Imports From Jan

India will waive customs duty on more than 4,500 items entering India from the four least developed countries — Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives and Bhutan — in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) from January, India's State Minister for Commerce Jairam Ramesh said Wednesday. Speaking at a conclave of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries here, Minister Ramesh said, "Under the terms of SAFTA, the government has decided to waive customs duty on 4,536 items imported from Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives and Bhutan. Agro items and textiles among others will be exempt from customs duty from January." He added that Afghanistan would also be included on the waiver list soon and that it would get the facility after it becomes a SAFTA member in February. He had also said the list of sensitive items would be scaled down to boost bilateral and multilateral trade in the SAARC region. Under the Nepal-India trade treaty, except for a few sensitive ones customs duty has already been waived on certain items. Nepal exports vanaspati ghee, toothpaste, jute, jute products, polyester, acrylic, animal hides, leather products, medicinal herbs,

cardamom, rice, oil, noodles, ginger and other items to India. Minister Ramesh also informed that the government is planning to review the list of 744 sensitive agro items and textiles. *The Himalayan Times daily reports*

Nepalis Held Over Convoy Shooting In Iraq

Iraqi troops detained nine Nepalis travelling in a convoy run by a US-contracted firm after an Iraqi woman was wounded in a shooting involving their vehicles in Baghdad. The Iraqi military accused them of travelling on the wrong side of the road, firing randomly, and trying to kill a female citizen. According to US officials, the convoy belonged to Almco, an international company based in Dubai, which has contracts with US-led forces to provide food, water and other life support functions to military transition teams, as well as the construction of a justice compound. A US military officer said coalition forces were dispatched to stay with the detained to ensure they receive proper treatment. Besides the Nepalis, two Fijian guards, along with 21 people from Sri Lanka, 10 Iraqis and one Indian, were being held at an Iraqi army headquarters. Brig Gen Qassim al-Moussawi, the chief Iraqi military spokesman in Baghdad, said the convoy was driving on the wrong side of the road in the central Baghdad neighborhood of Karradah when the woman was wounded in a shooting that took place about midday. *Leading dailies report*

82 Killed In Six Months In Terai

A report by a human rights monitoring organization has revealed that 82 persons have been killed and 75 abducted in the last six months in eastern and central Terai region. According to the report by the central regional office of HimRights, a rights monitoring body, in Hetauda, between Jeshtha (May/June) and Kartik (October/November) 20 vehicles and 35 individuals were looted, and there were 32 incidents of bomb blast. Prem Dahal, a human rights worker of the organization, said that during this period maximum number of

killings occurred in Bara district where 23 persons were killed. The report covers incidents in ten districts — Bara, Parsa, Dhanusha, Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Rautahat, Sunsari and Morang. The report adds that three were killed by Maoists; 30 by different factions of Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM); 12 by unknown groups; 11 by state forces; four by a group called Gorkhaland; three by Madhesi Mukti Tiger; and two died in bomb blast. *Compiled from reports*

IMA Invite For General Katawal

Indian Military Academy (IMA) at Dehradun has extended an invitation to the Chief of Army Staff of Nepal Army, General Rookmangud Katawal, to attend its platinum jubilee celebration scheduled for December 9-10. This is the first time the general has been invited by the Indian Army since his appointment on September 8, 2006. "The IMA has formally sent an invitation to the general for the platinum jubilee celebration. But it is yet to be confirmed by the Nepal government," Gopal Baglay, Counsellor, press, information and culture, at the Indian Embassy in Nepal, confirmed. Although NA has not disclosed anything in this regard, it is learnt that the general met the Defense Ministry officials today, a Ministry source said. "The proposal will be



forwarded by the Ministry to the cabinet soon for its formal approval," the source said. Besides, there is also a tradition of conferring the title of honorary general on CoAS of both the countries. The decision to go ahead with the investiture is yet to be finalized by the two sides. General Katawal is also an IMA alumnus. *The Himalayan Times daily reports* ■



Sikh community celebrating their festival in Kathmandu

THE OHCHR-NEPAL HAS SAID it is concerned about the growing number of reports from various districts that the Maoists and associated organizations have coerced or forced persons who were under 18 years old at the time of their recruitment to return to cantonment sites of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) after they had voluntarily left the camps. "Forcing or pressuring young people under 18 to return to cantonment sites violates the rights of children, as well as the commitment made by the CPN-M, and the Government of Nepal, in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to immediately release minors who had been associated with a fighting force, and to provide necessary and proper cooperation for their rehabilitation and reintegration," states a press release by the OHCHR. "In one of the cases documented by OHCHR-Nepal, two minors who left a cantonment site in Chitwan in May and returned to their homes in Makwanpur District were pursued by CPN-M cadres in order to force them to return. As a result of intervention by local NGOs and OHCHR, the girls were not returned to the cantonment." In other cases reported to OHCHR-Nepal, pressure on minors to return to cantonments has also coincided with verification exercises, it said. OHCHR-Nepal is also concerned that CPN-M cadres have threatened human rights defenders and others working to reintegrate into society minors formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups. The Nepal Police have displayed an unwillingness to compel the CPN-M to respect the law, despite OHCHR's intervention with officers at the district and regional levels. "OHCHR-Nepal calls on the CPN-M to abide by its CPA commitments, respect the rights of minors who have voluntarily started the reintegration process and not force them to return to cantonments. The CPN-M must also speed up the process of formally releasing all minors still inside the cantonments so they can return to their families and civilian life," said OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett. "It is also essential that the Nepal Police fulfill its obligation to protect minors who have voluntarily started the process of reintegrating into society, and to ensure security for organizations and persons working to assist the reintegration of these minors."

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS of the current fiscal year 2064/65 (2007/08), the revenue collection has increased by 13 percent while spending has increased by 36 percent. In the previous fiscal year, the revenue growth had reached to 20.3 percent. At a press meet, Thursday (Nov 22), Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat informed that till mid-November revenue totaling Rs 24.35 billion were collected. He said recurrent expenditure of Rs 244.1 million; capital expenditure of Rs 3.36 billion; and expenditure on debt/interest servicing of Rs 4.39 billion were incurred during the period. Dr. Mahat said that though revenue collection is at par with the target, the expenditures have increased because of employees' salaries, increased expense on security side, and spending made on preparation of election. He said Rs 982 million were spent on preparing for the Constituent Assembly election. Finance

Minister added that the government was not in a position to provide subsidy on petroleum products.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET on Wednesday (Nov 21) finalized the placement of 27 senior bureaucrats who were appointed as secretaries on October 11. The agreement on their placement came on Wednesday at a meeting of the committee. However, the decision will go into effect only after the cabinet approves it in the next meeting. As per the decision Shankar Koirala will be placed at Ministry of Water Resources, Yuvraj Pandey at Ministry of Information and Communication, Govind Kusum at Ministry of General Administration, Ram Hari Aryal at Ministry of General Administration (Royal Palace) and Madhav Ghimire at the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. While Ram Chandra Man Singh will be sent to the Reserve Pool, Lilamani Paudel will be placed at Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation; Purushottam Ojha and Ram Prasad Joshi at Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies; Punya Prasad Kadariya and Uma Kant Jha at Ministry of Physical Planning; Shankar Pandey at Ministry of Education and Sport; Baman Prasad Neupane at Ministry of Defense and Baburam Acharya at Ministry of Land Reforms and Management. Likewise, Shyam Prasad Mainali will get the job at Ministry of Labor and Transport Management, Gyan Chandra Acharya at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Punya Prasad Sapkota at the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ram Kumar Shrestha at Ministry of Local Development, Tana Gautam and Brinda Hada at PMO, Tek Bahadur Thapa at Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Dr Nirakar Man Shrestha at Ministry of Health and Population, Uday Raj Sharma at Nepal Trust, Chabi Raj Pant at Central Vigilance Commission and Bhagwati Kumar Kafle at CIAA. While Sushil Jung Rana will be posted at the EC, Ram Sarovar Dube will be posted at CVC, Braj Kishore at Ministry of General Administration and Narayan Silwal at Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment. ■

“We had visited Indian Embassy seven times. But we were ambushed (by the media exposure) in the last visit.”

Prachanda, Maoist chairman, replying to a query, in Pokhara.

“(It will be appropriate if) overwhelming majority of parties declare through the interim parliament that republic will be established and will be effective when Constituent Assembly is convened.”

Jimmy Carter, former US president, giving his suggestion to end the political deadlock, at a press meet in Kathmandu.

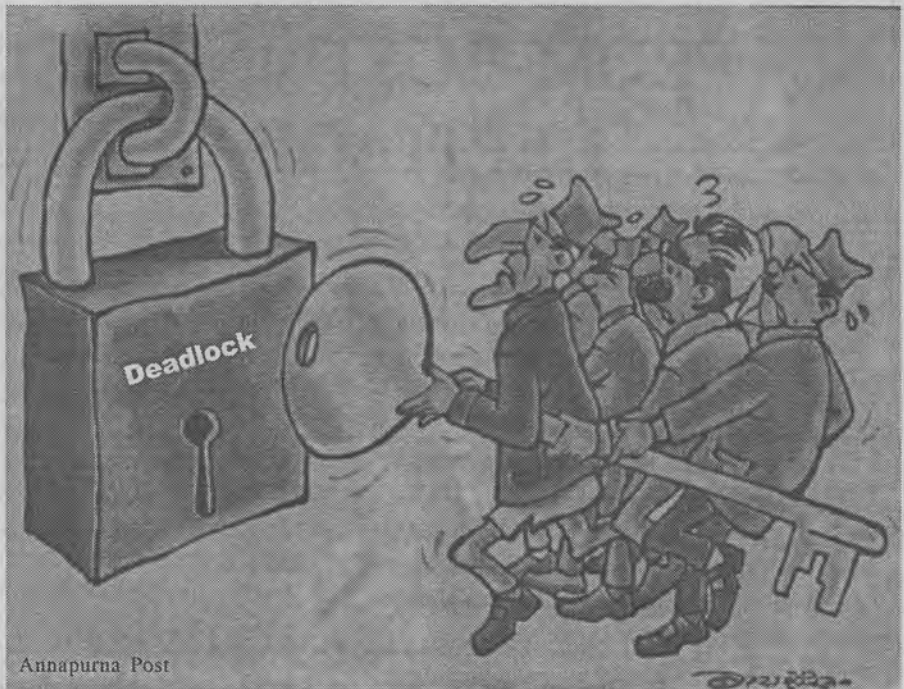
“Congress will not agree to declare republic from the parliament. We are not obliged to take suggestions from foreigners.”

Arjun Narsingh KC, Nepali Congress spokesperson, at Reporters' Club.

“If the position of Prime Minister is in Prachanda's pocket, let him become PM himself.”

KPOLi, senior UML leader, trashing Prachanda's offer to UML to lead the government, in Nepal Samacharpatra daily.

“Our PLA in the cantonment are



Annapurna Post

being treated worse than Bhutanese refugees.”

Hisila Yami, Maoist leader and former minister, in BBC Nepali Service.

“It is an unfortunate incident from my side, I would like to request you to publish my apology for public knowledge.”

Chandra Bahadur Thapa aka Sagar, YCL's valley-in-charge, expressing public apology for being 'mised' while abducting and

torturing doctors of Nobel Medical College.

“OHCHR-Nepal calls on the CPN-M to abide by its CPA commitments, respect the rights of minors who have voluntarily started the reintegration process and not force them to return to cantonments. The CPN-M must also speed up the process of formally releasing all minors still inside the cantonments so they can return to their families and civilian life.”

Richard Bennett, OHCHR-Nepal Representative, in a press statement.

TRANSITION

D i e d : Narayandutta Ranabhat, Nepali Congress worker and father of former speaker of House of



Representatives and NC leader Taranath Ranabhat at the age of 94.

ELECTED: Kailash Sirohiya, managing director of Kantipur

Publication, as president of Media Society Nepal.

LEFT: Jimmy Carter, former US president, after completing his four-day visit to Nepal.

RETURNED: Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), after completing his four-day visit to Tehran, Iran, where he attended the international conference of political parties.

ADJOURNED: The winter session of the parliament, for ten days. The session will resume on November 29.

RESIGNED: Citing insecurity and extortion, secretaries of Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Rautahat and Bara district have resigned en masse.

Appointed: Shyam Dotel as a spokesperson of Ministry of Home Affairs.

AWARDED: Dr. Dharma Sharan Manandhar Science and Technology award with one lakh cash and Dr. Prem Prasad Poudel, Dr. Diwakar Sharma and Dr. Bijaya Jaishi, Dr. Niranjana Parajuli, Dr. Balkrishna Joshi, with Science and Technology Youth Award with Rs. 30,000 each by NAST.

FROM BUSTLING BRISTOL TO HERITAGE CITY BATH

• *By Laxmi Thapa*

Bristol is a lively and dynamic city. We find here a unique mix of award winning attractions, big events and festivals. There are enticing shops and markets.

It is said that many visitors find Bristol the perfect choice for a day trip or short visit.

We dropped into Bristol on our return journey by car to London after a two day visit to Cornwall. We wanted to see the famous World Heritage City Bath also before returning back to London on that same day.

Bristol city on the Lower Avon River, at its confluence with the Frome River, is a major manufacturing center and an important shipping point for the products of the industrialized West Midlands region. Its harbor, on the Severn estuary, is accessible to large oceangoing vessels. The well-equipped port has facilities for the storage and transshipment of grain and petroleum - two leading imports. Much local industry is based on the processing of such imports as zinc ore, cocoa, timber, and tea. The city is a major aircraft manufacturing center; other products include chemicals and footwear.

Wealth from Slave Trade

In the 18th century Bristol prospered from the slave trade, the West Indies trade, and newly established industries, primarily the manufacture of metals. In the early 19th century, because of the abolition of slavery and competition from the growing port of Liverpool, Bristol experienced an economic decline.

Bristol was at the centre of slave trade. Many of the city's historic sites have stories to tell about this period in Bristol's past. Many of the Bristol's architectural heritage were built by using the wealth earned from the slave trade. It is reported that the states such as Ashton Court Maison were built on the profits of such trade.

It is reported that this year Bristol city is programming a series of events commemorating the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807. It is, however, said that the slave trade continued almost up to the middle of nineteenth century.

Decline and Revival of Bristol

By the 19th century abolition of slave trade, and the rise of the Lancashire cotton industry together with the limitation on shipping imposed by the Avon Gorge below Clifton led to the loss of much of Bristol's trade to Liverpool. The decline continued until the advent of the railroads.

Trade revived after the arrival of the railroad here in 1841. With the expansion of its port facilities in the late 19th century,

the city again became one of England's leading seaports. During World War II (1939-1945) Bristol was severely bombed by the German air force. The port has undergone extensive reconstruction and improvement in the post-World War II period.

Entering into the City.

We had arrived in Bristol well ahead of lunch time. We had enough time to drive across the Bristol city to glance at the marvel of the city and also to visit Bath city before returning back to London on that same day. We left behind the motorway and took a side road. Suddenly we found ourselves next to the harbour. Big oceangoing ships were lined up next to the wharfs.

The harbour was improved in 1247 by diverting the Frome to the west and building a stone bridge at the point of its former confluence with the Avon. During the reign of Edward III (1327-77). By the 16th century Bristol had become a major port, a manufacturing town, and a distribution centre for both overseas and inland trade. The city also played a notable part in maritime history: from its port John Cabot sailed in 1497 on his voyage to North America. In 1809 tidal waters of the Avon and the Frome were diverted to create a floating, or tideless, harbour with a constant depth of water.

The Royal Portbury Dock has been added to the port complex, whose imports now include refined petroleum products, animal foodstuffs, and forest products. Bristol's exports consist mainly of manufactured goods from the West Midlands, notably automobiles, tractors, and machinery. Local industries include the refining of sugar, cocoa and chocolate making, wine bottling, and the making of fine glass (Bristol "blue"), porcelain, and pottery.

The harbour was improved in 1247 by diverting the Frome to the west and building a stone bridge at the point of its former confluence with the Avon. During the reign of Edward III (1327-77). By the 16th century Bristol had become a major port, a manufacturing town, and a distribution centre for both overseas and inland trade.

Downtown Bristol.

Bristol is a big city. It was not easy to find the exact location of the places that attract visitors solely based on a map while all the time hurriedly driving in a car. However, we succeeded to see outwardly few renowned places of the Bristol city within a very short period we had at our disposal. Many of us might be surprised to learn that there are few Nepalese running restaurants in downtown Bristol. We saw signboard of one of such Nepalese restaurants while we were driving on a busy road.

It is acknowledged that the most striking ecclesiastical building in Bristol is the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, a 14th-century structure whose grandeur of proportion and majestic Perpendicular Gothic design have made it one of the most celebrated parish churches in England. Bristol's cathedral church, which originated as the abbey church of St. Augustine (founded 1142), is famous for its Norman chapter house and gateway. Other notable buildings in Bristol that survived

World War II air attack are St. Mark's, or the Lord Mayor's Chapel; a Dominican priory associated with William Penn and the early history of the Society of Friends (Quakers). Unfortunately we were unable to spare time to visit these cathedrals.

The places we saw were the Bristol University, Clifton Suspension Bridge, city centre etc. Of course for us the most interesting was the Clifton Bridge which is accepted as the symbol of Bristol.

Clifton Suspension Bridge

Clifton Suspension Bridge has been built for crossing the Avon river gorge. This bridge was designed by the famous engineer Isambard Brunel in 1864. Among the civil engineers and architects Ismbard Brunel is as famous as his other compatriots Sir. Christopher Wren, who designed and build in 1710 universally known landmark of London city, cathedral Saint Paul, or the present day architect Sir Norman Foster who designed Hongkong Airport, London's Gerkhin Tower and Berlin's renovated Reichstadt building. It is said that the Brunel's world-famous Clifton Suspension Bridge is the symbol of Bristol. The bridge is next to Clifton village.

World Heritage City Bath

We left Bristol in a great hurry. We had planned to visit the famous Bath city before returning back to London on that same day. There are many interesting places to look around there too. Thus we were very hard pressed for time though the Bath city is only 12 miles away from Bristol.

The road to Bath passes through the Avon valley. We were greatly impressed by the scenic splendours of the valley. It did not take long time to arrive in the Bath city.

Bath lies along the River Avon in a natural amphitheatre of steep hills. Built of local limestone, it is one of the most elegant and architecturally distinguished of British cities. Its 16th-century abbey church of St. Peter and St. Paul is noted for its windows, but it is the wealth of classical Georgian buildings mounting the steep valley sides that gives Bath its distinction.

Jane Austin

Austen, Jane (1775-1817), English novelist, noted for her witty studies of early-19th-century English society had lived with her family at the height of her carrier from 1801 to 1805 in Bath. It is reported that the Jane Austen Centre in Bath offers glimpse of life of this great writer and explores how living in the magnificent Bath city affected her life and writing.

Craze for Rudolf Nureyev

We found that the people of Bath City have craze for Rudolf Nurev, who is the famous Russian ballet dancer. A museum in Bath was displaying the costume of Rudolf Nureyev.

The visitors are able to try on a reproduction corset of the ballet dancer during the 2007 exhibition.

Ancient Roman Baths

Our visit to the museum housing the finest religious spa in Northern Europe, built 2000 years ago around the country's only hot springs provided us a glimpse of the culture of Roman people of those days. Excellent arrangements have been made in the museum to satisfy the query of visitors. Audioguides and computer animations help to provide in depth information to visitors.

End of the Visit

We departed from the Bath after taking light refreshment. The sun had already sank before we were even halfway between Bath city and the main 6 lane motorway connecting Bristol with London. Evening darkness slowly settled over the Avon valley. We were speeding ahead towards the main motorway penetrating through the gradually thickening darkness.

At last we reached the main motorway. There is always a lot of traffic even at that time of the day. We were lucky that on that day the traffic was light. We arrived in London before it was too late. Thus ended our three days visit to Cornwall, Bristol and Bath. ■

The sun had already sank before we were even halfway between Bath city and the main 6 lane motorway connecting Bristol with London. Evening darkness slowly settled over the Avon valley.

POLITICAL STALEMATE

Uncertain Course

Even if ideology-based seven political parties settle their disputes, regional and ethnic groups may lead another phase of political uncertainty

By KESHAB POUDEL

Prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who has seen various stages of political instability, is confident that announcement of new elections date for Constituent Assembly will chart the course for political stability.

Similarly, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda believes that if seven parties agree to remove monarchy accepting proportional representative system for CA, Nepal will transform completely within two years as a stable and prosperous nation.

Like the two political leaders, CPN-UML general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal, holds the view that conducting polls before April is panacea to bring political stability in the country.

Some regional parties based in terai and ethnic groups from hills, too, view that federalism on the basis of language, geographic region and ethnicity will be a permanent solution to bring stability and prosperity in New Nepal.

From prime minister Koirala to Maoist leader Prachanda and ethnic and regional leaders, all have their own prescriptions to end Nepal's prolonged political instability. Looking at Nepal's problem through her geo-strategic reality, one can easily draw the conclusion that there is no easy way out as Nepal's politicians and other groups want to see.

If history is any indication, it shows that Nepal has been passing through political instability since its unification by King Prithvi Narayan Shaha nearly 238 years ago. Power centers and rulers have changed from time to time but the nature of Nepal's political course remains similar.

Koirala, Prachanda and Nepal and other leaders may wish to bring political stability but their mere wish cannot change the ground reality of Nepal. Sandwiched between Asia's two juggernauts, India and China, Nepal's political course is determined by external factors.

"To Kathmandu, the current potentialities of external domination and subversion are not very different in kind though they may be in degree- from those with which Nepali governments have had to contend for at least two centuries," writes renowned American scholar Leo E. Rose in his book *Nepal Strategy for Survival*. "And if the problems are not particularly new, neither is the repertory of responses devised by the Kathmandu authorities."

Prolonged political instability is neither created by political leaders nor anybody else but it is the result of Nepal's hard reality. Till a couple of years ago, common people believed that once King Gyanendra's regime was overthrown and Maoists brought into political mainstream, the country will have a long lasting peace. However, just a month after signing the comprehensive peace agreement, the new upsurge of violence erupted in terai, which even swept away Maoists from the region.

In 1990, Nepal's political forces believed that ushering of multi-party democracy will solve all problems. This euphoria did not last for long as Maoists raised arms in 1996 against the established system of multi-party democracy.

Since the revolution of 1951, Nepal has seen several series of political



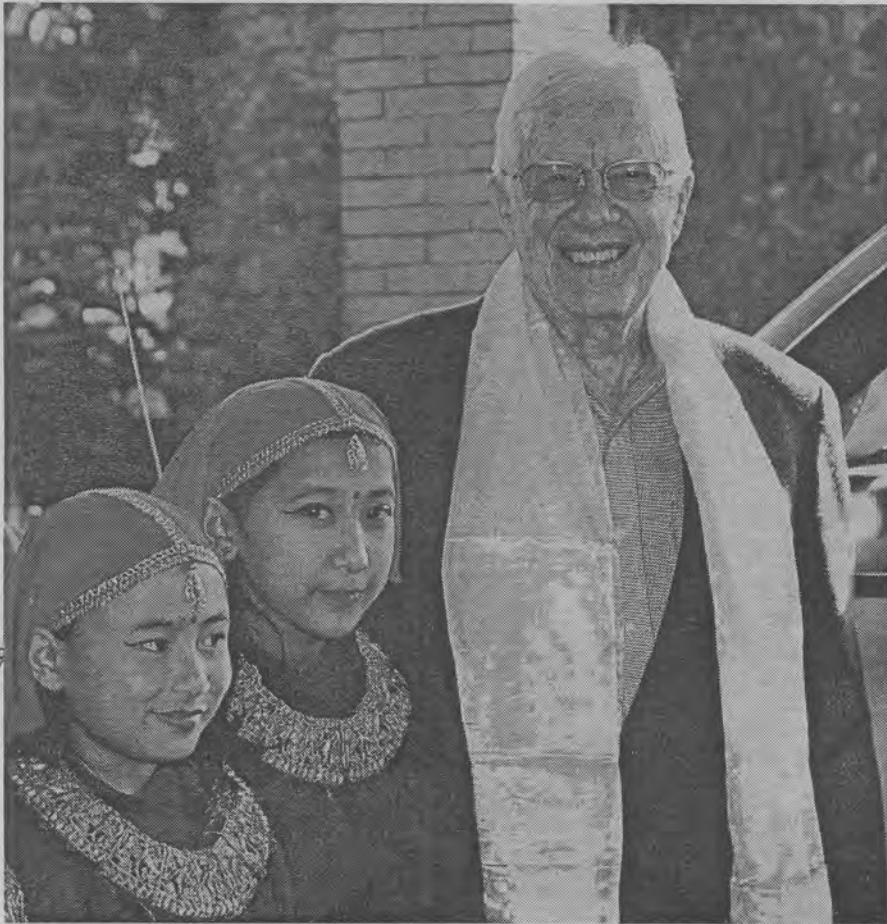
Pritihivi Narayan Shah: Reminding Nepal's hard reality

instability and dozens of insurgencies led by Nepali Congress, CPN-ML, Janbadi Mukti Morcha, Maoists and now regional based groups.

Even if there is an agreement for proportional representative, republic, federalism or any other issue; any unknown group can create trouble like the major upsurge in terai in February 2007.

"Nepali people must understand that the current political crisis was created not to make prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala as president and Prachanda as vice president. Nepal's whole instability is linked with security of the regional powers. Nepal remains as an independent and sovereign not because prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala is patriotic. Nepal's reality does not permit a leader to be a quisling," said a political analyst.

In a process of the great game of regional security arrangement and rearrangements, Nepal has yet to see a series of political instability and rise and fall of many political leaders of various kinds. Maoists kicked their movement for destabilization projecting themselves as a messiah of poor championing the slogans of regional, ethnical and cast discrimination. However, newer groups have now emerged to lead the next round of battle for political destabilization. Whatever political leaders say, the course of Nepal's political uncertainty has no way out any time soon. ■



Carter in town: Focus on election

CARTER'S VISIT President's Prescriptions

The former US president provides prescriptions for ending the political deadlock

By A CORRESPONDENT

Although his prescriptions do not constitute a new idea, the advice by former US president Jimmy Carter does generate debates in the political circle.

Wrapping up his four-day visit to Nepal on November 24, Carter gave his suggestions on the issue of republic declaration as well as the adoption of new election system.

On republic declaration, Carter suggested that the overwhelming majority of parties in the interim parliament declare republic, which should then be endorsed by the elected Constituent Assembly (CA).

He said it will be appropriate if

“overwhelming majority of parties declare through the interim parliament that republic will be established and will be effective when Constituent Assembly is convened.”

Likewise, on the issue of PR election system, Carter advised to adopt PR in 70 percent and First-Past-The-Post in 30 percent of the seats. The issue of increasing PR seats, too, had been debated by the parties in recent past but could not move ahead due to lack of consensus.

In his second visit to Nepal in the last four months, Carter met with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala twice. He also met with Maoist chairman

Prachanda, political leaders, election commission officials, India's ambassador to Nepal and other officials.

Addressing the press meet, Carter listed following issues, which he said merit review and full implementation:

- The government has promised to pay former combatants who have now been in the cantonments for a year, provide decent living conditions, and make arrangements to assist those discharged to assume normal life. This commitment has not been adequately fulfilled.

- The Maoists have agreed to account for the funds received for the cantonments and to immediately discharge all minors. This has also not been fulfilled.

- Additionally, the Maoists have agreed to return all land seized during the conflict. This commitment has not been respected and there are reports that they have recently begun seizing new land. I encourage the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) to create immediately a land commission to oversee the return of property and determine compensation as appropriate.

- The Maoists have also committed to cease violence and maintain peace around the country. However, Carter Center observers have received frequent reports of violence, harassment and extortion by Maoist cadres and members of the Young Communist League. Such violence is unacceptable and is damaging the image of Maoists at home and abroad. These activities must cease immediately. No other single action would so swiftly indicate to the Nepali people and the international community the Maoists' commitment to genuine participation in the democratic process.

- The status of people who disappeared during the war is still not known, and compensation for war victims' families is long overdue. I was encouraged to read this morning that the government intends to introduce a bill to make public the status of the disappeared.

- The momentous agreements signed with the Madheshis, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups have yet to be implemented.

- There has been no promised reform of the Nepal Army, and the committee for the integration and rehabilitation of the combatants of the Maoist army has been inactive.

SOARING STOCKS

Shaky

Run

The values of shares in the Nepal Stock Exchange (Nepse) have been soaring rapidly in the last one and a half year. Investors wanting to make quick returns have trained their focus on the stock market due to lack of opportunities of investment in other areas due to economic slowdown. But the increasingly speculative nature of the investment in shares is bound to create a problem, according to officials. They say that since share investors are not giving enough attention on financial foundations of the companies in which they are investing, the resultant boom is not realistic.

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

These days, the Nepse building in Bhadrakali Plaza, Singh Durbar witnesses a crowd of noisy investors on transaction days.

A couple of hundred investors visit the premises to check the pulse of Nepse index through the electronic board put outside the office building.

Ananta Nath Poudel is one such investor. He says that due to lack of other economic opportunities, a small investor

like him has been attracted by the quick returns from the stock market.

"There are only few investment options available for us. Either invest in real estate or in stocks. For us small investors, real estate is way too pricey. So, we are attracted to the stock market," Poudel said.

Another investor Chudamani Parajuli says that since there is wide expectation of bonus shares and

dividends from commercial banks, he has found it safe to invest in their shares. "By 2010, our bank market will be opened to the international players due to our WTO obligations. Besides, owing to central bank directives, our banks need to increase their capital base. Hence their shares are doing well," he said.

Both Poudel and Parajuli expressed hope that stock market will continue to perform well. "In any business, there will



Investors at Nepse: Increasing interest

always be certain amount of risk involved. I am prepared for that," Poudel said.

Soaring Stocks

As many of the 800,000 share investors in the country are sharing that enthusiasm, the Nepse has been witnessing tremendous growth.

In the last one and a half year, the Nepse index has broken a number of record and even briefly crossed 900 points last month. The rapidity of its increase started from June/July of 2006 when the index stood at around 386 points. From then on it took only one year for the Nepse index to double to 690 points and in the last six months, it has reached nearly 900 points.

The Nepse index started with the baseline of 100 in 1994 when the market capitalization value stood at Rs 14 billion. This value soared to Rs 96 billion

in June/July of 2006 and has currently reached Rs 270 billion.

"The index, which started rising slowly after the 2006 movement, has been rapidly increasing of late. It appears that this rapidity of increase is not based on actual economic fundamentals," said Rewat Bahadur Karki, general manager of Nepse.

"The supporting factors like country's economy, companies' net worth and their performance are not at par with the increasing trend of their share values," Karki said.

Agrees Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal, chairman of the Securities Board of Nepal (SEBON). "The market is moving based on whims rather than on real factors," he said.

Both government officials have said that the increase of share market has also been triggered by speculative drive.

"There are also problems with the

policy of the central bank. Its monetary policy should give proper attention to create a sustainable capital market rather than invite instability," said Karki.

The central bank has directed the commercial banks to double the amount of paid-up capital of commercial banks from existing Rs 1 billion to Rs 2 billion within fiscal year 2069/70 (2012). Likewise, it has directed development banks to double their paid-up capital value from Rs 320 million to Rs 640 million and the finance companies to double theirs from Rs 100 million to Rs 200 million within that period. This has created a situation whereby banks and finance companies are compelled to issue rights share, bonus shares and so on. This, in turn, has propelled the investors into thinking that buying of banks' share is going to be lucrative.

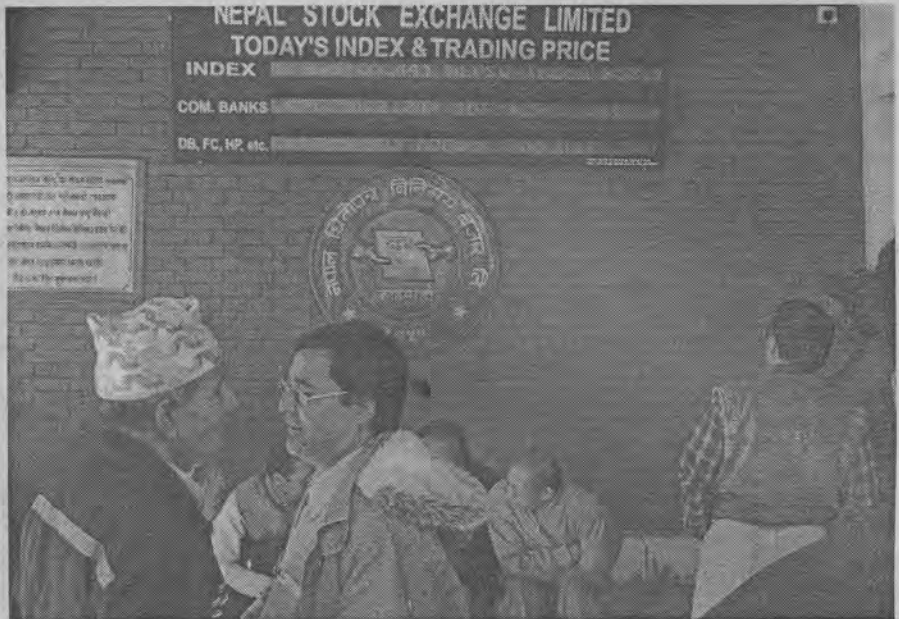
Subsequently, even the values of shares of some of the banks and financial

institutions who have negative net worth have been increasing.

"Besides, in our country since almost 75 percent of the shares of these banks and finance companies are cornered by their promoters, there is only few shares available in the market for transaction. And in such situation, it is easier to manipulate the share values," added Karki.

Both Karki and Dr. Nepal said that small investors are most vulnerable in this situation. "We can recall how our share market collapsed back in 2057/58, when the Nepse index fell from 545 to less than 200. It took us more than five years to recover that loss. It was only in the month of Magh in 2063 that we again could reach 545 points," said Karki.

Dr. Nepal added that the SEBON, which is the regulatory authority, is carefully watching the market trend and was mindful of its responsibility to protect shareholders. "We must see that while the shares of the banks and



Nepse's electronic board: Easy to monitor stock movements

companies have grown, we cannot see where these banks and companies are investing their money. We haven't seen

their investment going into lucrative manufacturing or hydropower sector and so on. Therefore, we can say that this growth is not realistic," said Dr. Nepal.

They say that at a time when the national economic growth rate is hovering around 2 percent, it is out of ordinary to find share market booming at over 200 percent rate.

Futuristic Outlook

Even as officials are expressing concern over what they call as 'unnatural' growth of share market, the share brokers have a different perspective.

Navaraj Pokharel, the president of Share Brokers Association of Nepal, says that the investors are investing in shares with the anticipation of better days in future.

"They are not investing in today's companies. Rather they are investing in future companies at future anticipated prices," he said.

Pokharel called upon authorities to broaden their outlook and give attention to the developments in neighboring India and China. "We must become bridge between the two. We cannot remain as a non performing economy between these well performing neighbors," he said.

Cautioning the authorities against taking any rash decision, Pokharel said that no one can raise barrier against expectations. "Our mindset should be expanded. We must not think we are landlocked," he said.

He said that investors were aware of the trend in share market. "Investors will not always base their decision on current situation. They have their own expectations for future," he said.

As the country is in the dire need of capital investment to carry out the reconstruction and infrastructure development, the healthy development of share market could provide opportunity to mobilize internal resources. Likewise, the share market can also become a medium for distributing the economic gains to the common people if the latter become convinced about its economic gains. At present, there are only 800,000 shareholders in the country. ■



Stock exchange: Renewed enthusiasm

AI REPORT

Note Of Caution

The Amnesty International has issued a note of caution that the peace process could be in danger without delivering on transitional promises

By A CORRESPONDENT



Govt and Maoist negotiators: Clinching a deal (File photo)

The London-based international human rights watchdog has issued a note of caution to mark the first anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) by the government and the Maoists.

The AI has said that it will launch 60 days of action to hold both the Government and the Maoists accountable for commitments made in the CPA. "The first anniversary offers an opportunity for the Nepali Government to renew its commitment to the promises of justice, security, social, cultural and economic equality and inclusion and set in motion the mechanisms in the CPA for the realization of these values," states a press release by AI.

The international human rights watchdog AI has said that it believes that

without delivering on the promises of justice, security and inclusion in the CPA, there is a real danger of Nepal's recent tragic history repeating itself. "Anything less would be a gross betrayal of the victims of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including hundreds of families still anxiously awaiting news of their missing relatives," it said.

"The Nepalese are hungry for justice after a war in which at least 13,000 people died, among them thousands of civilians killed by the security forces. At least 900 people disappeared after they were detained by the security forces. The CPN (Maoist) is responsible for several hundreds of killings, abductions and torture of people seen as opposed to their cause. Around 200 remain unaccounted for in CPN (Maoist) detention."

The AI has also reminded the

promises of four transitional justice mechanisms - Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC); National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC); High-Level Inquiry Commission on Disappeared Citizens (Disappearances Commission); and a High-Level State Restructuring Recommendation Commission (SRRC).

According to the AI, the peace which Nepal has so far achieved is temporary, incomplete and extremely precarious. "While the CPA does include an acknowledgement that it is necessary to address past violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, the implementation of these provisions has been extremely problematic to date."

The AI has emphasized on the ending of impunity to deal with perpetrators of gross human rights violations.

"Given the fragile peace process, some analysts highlight the need to balance justice and security. What has been learned from other conflicts is that if impunity remains embedded it often fuels further conflict. Those responsible for human rights violations often continue to perpetrate abuses if they think their actions will continue to go unpunished. Today, perpetrators of torture, enforced disappearances and unlawful killings openly walk the streets of Nepal while victims continue to face threats and harassment," the AI states.

It also expressed concerned over "the ongoing abuses by the CPN (Maoist) and the Young Communist League (YCL). The YCL have reportedly committed a number of human rights abuses including abductions and ill-treatment in captivity, attacks on physical and mental integrity, and the violent disruption of political activities. The CPN (Maoist) did admit public responsibility for the abduction and killing of journalist Birendra Kumar Sah on 5 October 2007 in the Bara district in the South. However instead of condemning increasing attacks on press freedom by Maoist affiliated trade union groups, the CPN (Maoist) said that 'individualistic' and 'anarchist' nature of lower-rung party cadres had caused the incident." ■

“ It Was A Political Mistake To Replace The Constitution Of 1990 By Present Interim Constitution.”

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala

With the Maoist exerting pressure to announce the republic from present parliament, the country is facing a major political crisis. Although Prime minister GIRIJA PRASAD KOIRALA claims that he brought Maoists to the mainstream, some of his critics charge him for destroying democratic ideals and values including his party's ideals on national reconciliation by pushing the country into prolonged course of instability. The 85-year-old prime minister, who has spent more than six decades in politics, spoke exclusively to KESHAB POUDEL at his official residence in Baluwatar. Excerpts:

The monarchy Vs republic is no more a major political issue as we all agree that the first meeting of Constituent Assembly will decide the issue on the basis of simple majority. Interim parliament cannot take such a major decision of far-reaching consequences.

How soon can the current political stalemate come to an end?

After agreement on the new election date for Constituent Assembly, the present political stalemate will come to an end. As all the leaders of seven party alliance want to hold the election, I am confident that we will announce the new election date very soon.

But Maoists say they will oppose any move till their two key demands of declaration of republic from interim parliament and proportional representative system of elections are met? How do you look at it?

The monarchy Vs republic is no more a major political issue as we all agree that the first meeting of Constituent Assembly will decide the issue on the basis of simple majority. Interim parliament cannot take such a major decision of far-reaching consequences.

Do you think monarchy is still a major threat as Maoists are saying?

Monarchy is no more a threat and it is in no position to make any influence on the election as the King has already been stripped off his powers and prerogatives. I don't understand the rationale behind Maoist demand. As country's all major political parties have turned themselves into republicans, nobody can stop Nepal from turning into a republic now.

If that is so, why don't you accept

Maoist demand and declare Nepal as a republic right away?

We need to take certain legitimate course. The CA election is a legitimate way to decide the fate of monarchy. If CA removes monarchy, the chapter of monarchy will end forever.

On what basis will your party contest the election?

We will draft our manifesto in accordance with the decision of General Assembly (Mahasamiti).

At a time when all major parties have declared that they will contest the election on the basis of republic and Maoists and student organizations of other parties have declared that they will not allow monarchists to contest the elections, what is there to go for election to decide on monarchy? Where can the monarchists vote, anyway?

The election will be free and fair and voters will be allowed to cast their votes without intimidation. All will get opportunity to go for polls.

What about the proportional representative system?

We have already agreed to go for mixed election system because complete proportional representative system is against the spirit of individual freedom. Proportional representative system denies the right of citizens to choose their own representatives. In the first-post-past system, there is also a provision of proportional representatives system. If I stand for elections from terai under the mixed system, I have to choose some local people for the candidate. This system guarantees the right of individual to choose their own representatives as well as choose representatives on the basis of proportional representative basis. The people will elect their representatives from Terai, Pahad and Himal along with various ethnic groups.

When UML, Maoists and other regional and ethnic groups have supported PR system, why are you opposed to it?

If we decide to go for proportional representative system at this final juncture, we can never hold the election for CA. Once we agree on proportional representative system, other groups will press for national census to know the

population structure, linguistic and ethnic presence. We need to spend another three to four year on census and its result. Even after the census results, there will be debates on its credibility. Amid such a cycle, there is never going to be election. Our society will go for fragmentation. Ultimately, the process of national disintegration will then begin.

Then, why are the UML and Maoist supporting it?

I don't know why they agreed on this common agenda.

Do you see any possibility to find amicable solution till the next meeting of parliament scheduled for November 29?

We have been making efforts to find out solution. We are discussing on some alternatives. We don't have any option other than to announce the election date. After fixing election date, we can discuss on other accommodations.

You have recently publicly revealed that it was your mistake to scrap the constitution of Kingdom of Nepal 1990 and issue the interim constitution. Do you see any possibility of revival of 1990 constitution?

Had we amended the Constitution of Kingdom of Nepal 1990 by scrapping powers and privileges of the King, we could have held the election a long time ago and we would not have to face the political crisis like the current one. From the very beginning, I was in favor of amending the constitution of 1990. Even Prachanda had given a nod to this proposal. Reactivating the constitution of 1990 through the restoration of dissolved house and holding the election for CA was the mandate of popular movement.

Then, who had proposed the idea of interim constitution and scrapping the old constitution?

Under pressure from those persons in political parties, civil society who were in a race of populism to prove themselves as revolutionaries, the proposal for interim constitution entered. I pleaded my argument till last minute that we could curtail the power of king through amendment and turn it into interim constitution. Had my argument prevailed, we would not have been trapped in the present mess and everything could have been settled peacefully.

Don't you think it was your mistake not to cling on to your original stand?

I told you that it was a political mistake to replace the constitution of 1990 by present interim constitution. This interim constitution is now like a camel.

Didn't you make enough efforts to push



through your idea at that time?

I had put my proposal strongly in the meetings. As a politician, I don't have constitutional knowledge like former justice Laxman Aryal whose strong legal and constitutional opinion finally prevailed over my argument. His arguments were so revolutionary and populist, no one dared to challenge his views, which were very close to opinions of street. Proposal for amending the previous constitution was taken as a regressive idea. Former president of Nepal Bar Association Sambhu Thapa was the only one who supported me. During my consultation, former chief justice Bishownathji also opposed the idea of scrapping the constitution of 1990.

You were the supreme and all powerful leader of post-Janandolan. How could you be challenged by Laxman Aryal?

I don't know from where the wind was blowing to him but he did not budge even an inch from his idea. When I failed to convince him, I requested former chief justice Bishwonathji to convince Laxmanji hoping that since he had worked as a second man of Bishwonathji in constitution drafting committee in 1990 and supreme court, Laxmanji might listen to his suggestion.

What was the reaction of former chief justice Bishwonathji?

Bishwonathji told me that Laxmanji was more revolutionary and he failed to convince him.

As you have been saying that Nepal's sovereignty is in danger, what danger do you envisage?

I cannot speak this issue with you now and I know who inspired you to pose this question.

I pleaded my argument till last minute that we could curtail the power of king through amendment and turn it into interim constitution. Had my argument prevailed, we would not have been trapped in the present mess and everything could have been settled peacefully.



Nepal is in deep crisis. With the promulgation of new interim constitution, institutions and institutional values have been devastated and deteriorated. How do you justify your role in the last eighteen months?

Since Nepal is located in strategically important place, we need to make balanced relation between our two neighbors. We have to put them in good humor.

What I have been doing is for the betterment of the country by protecting its national integrity and sovereignty. I am opposing proportional representative system to stop fragmentation of country and society.

We cannot antagonize any of the two. Thus, I have been following this same policy.

How much support are you receiving from Nepal's two neighbors?

I have been receiving good support from both the neighbors India and China. Since Nepal is located in strategically important place, we need to make balanced relation between our two neighbors. We have to put them in good humor. We cannot antagonize any of the two. Thus, I have been following this same policy. Our two neighbors have shown good gesture towards Nepal and Nepalese people.

What is your observation on recent visit by former US president Jimmy Carter to Nepal?

He visited Nepal when there is a political stalemate. After meeting with us he forwarded a proposal to end the stalemate. I appreciate his concern for the need to hold the election.

How do you see his proposals?

Since all our focus is on to hold the election on mixed system, we cannot hold the election by changing procedures which we have agreed a long time back. We need his support to hold the election in free and fair manner.

What is your priority now?

I have often said that my priority is to hold the election for CA. If we fix the date for election, we can settle all the problems. If we spend time on other issues including the amendment of interim constitution, the question of election will be in shadow. Thus, election should be our focal points.

With the rise of various armed groups, terai has been burning. Do you believe that you can hold the election without solving it?

The problems of terai can be solved. If we fix the election date, there are ways to solve terai's problems.

You have said recently that Nepal needs Indian cooperation to solve the problem in Terai. What kind of cooperation do you want?

I have been, time and again, stressing that there is a need for a joint cooperation between Nepal and India to solve the present violence in terai. We need to tighten border on both the sides.

What is happening now?

Police and security personnel of both sides are now discussing ways to control the border. I hope that the situation will improve in terai.

What do you want to say about the present situation?

I want to say that all of us have to work together with Nepal's interest as the first priority. The country's interest is more important than party's interest.

How do you rate the overall political crisis in Nepal?

I don't think it will go out of control. We also need to do something to improve law and order situation. In the last one year, we have made tremendous progress. We have signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; Maoist rebels were put in cantonments and United Nations Political Mission to Nepal was invited. Young Communist League (YCL) has been creating some problems with some criminal activities. I want to see Maoists as an established political party like Nepali Congress and CPN-UML in parliament. If they stand as an established party, it will be good for the future of Nepal.

What about the tenure extension of UNMIN?

The government and seven parties will agree to extend the tenure of UNMIN for another six months.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION

Challenges For All

Although a lot of efforts have been made to provide sanitation to all, Nepal is still far away from meeting Millennium Development Goals

By A CORRESPONDENT

Following the construction of a toilet, the family of Sitaram, a dalit of Kaptangunj Village of Sunsari district, has seen drastic change in his family life. When they have open swere and open toilet, Sitaram's family used to go to hospital. But, now they rarely visit hospital as most of water born disease vanished from the villages.

"Sanitation has made a major changes in our life," said Sitaram. I don't have to take my family members to the hospitals and dispensary now. All the villagers have similar situation.

As the United Nations officially launched the International Year of Sanitation to accelerate progress for 2.6 billion people world wide who are without proper sanitation facilities, there generates hope in Nepal also where many people still live in unhygienic conditions and most children die due to water born disease like diaharria. Every year inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene contribute to the deaths of 1.5 million children.

Water-Aid Nepal, an INGO, has been supporting Nepal government to provide sanitation to the poor and under privileged people. From rural parts of Sunsari to places with poor concentration in capital Kathmandu, one can see Water-Aid Nepal working at the grass root.

"Access to sanitation is deeply connected to virtually all the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those involving the environment, education, gender equality and the reduction of child mortality and poverty," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "An estimated 42,000 people die every week from diseases related to low water quality and an absence of adequate sanitation. This situation is unacceptable."

The International Year of Sanitation,

2008, is a theme year set by the UN General Assembly in December 2006 to help put this global crisis at the forefront of the international agenda.

Though more than 1.2 billion people worldwide have gained access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2004, an estimated 2.6 billion people - including 980 million children - have lagged behind. The world needs to accelerate progress in order to meet the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, such as simple latrines, by 2015.

If current trends continue, there will be 2.4 billion people without basic sanitation in 2015, with children continuing to pay the price in lost lives, missed schooling, in disease, malnutrition and poverty.

"Clean, safe and dignified toilet and hand-washing facilities in schools help ensure that girls get the education they need and deserve," said Ann M. Veneman, UNICEF Executive Director.

The year will include major regional conferences on sanitation as part of capacity building initiatives, including one that will focus on school sanitation. It will also encourage public and private partnerships, to help tap into the comparative strengths of each sector to accelerate progress, advocate and raise awareness on sanitation, leverage

additional funding, and develop country-level road maps.

It is estimated that improved sanitation facilities could reduce diarrhoea-related deaths in young children by more than one-third. If hygiene promotion is added, such as teaching proper hand washing, deaths could be reduced by two thirds. It would also help accelerate economic and social development in countries where poor sanitation is a major cause of lost



Lack of sanitation: Cause of many sicknesses

work and school days because of illness.

Progress requires broad cooperation through public and private partnerships, community involvement and public awareness. Investing approximately \$10 billion per year can halve the proportion of people without basic sanitation by 2015.

The launch of the theme year, which runs through 2008, was organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in collaboration with the UN-Water Task Force on Sanitation. The event was attended by UN Member States, NGOs, citizen groups, academics and the private sector as well as members of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board. ■

“We Want To Compete In Multi-Party System But It Does Not Mean That We Have Accepted Parliamentary Democracy”

Prachanda

As the country is struggling with a severe political crisis, political forces are trying to find a compromised settlement. Amid this exercise, last week, Maoist chairman **PUSHPA KAMAL DAHAL** aka **PRACHANDA** spoke with Nepalese audience in Pokhara in a program organized by BBC Nepali Service and BBC World Trust Service. Excerpts of his interaction with the audience, which was broadcast by BBC Nepali Service:

Why was the Constituent Assembly election not held in November?

The CA was postponed with the same reason that contributed to postpone it in June. As seven political parties had not shown any interest to analyze the reason behind the initial postponement, the same forces conspired to postpone the election.

But many people believe that Maoists are responsible for this. As a revolutionary communist party, do you know any country in the world where revolutionary communist party has won the election?

Wherever communists are now in power, all of them have contested the elections. Whether it was in China or in former Soviet Union, or Vietnam. I want to make it clear that our party had also contested the parliamentary elections of 1993 and became third largest party. We were in the parliament as well at the local level. The accusation that we are responsible to postpone CA election is baseless.

You mean you can contest the election which is conducted by your party?

We have never said that. What we want is that the election of CA should neither be like a parliamentary election nor like an election of Rastriya Panchayat. Only once in the history of any country, can one see CA so there must be participation of all ethnic, linguistic and regional groups. There

must be an election where all can participate. It is not a question of whether we will win or lose the election.

In your own interview you have said that Maoist party adheres to the multi-party competition but not parliamentary system? What kind of democracy are you talking about?

What you have said is correct. We want to compete in multi-party system but it does not mean that we have accepted parliamentary democracy. We have been even saying that there will be place for multi-party election even after establishment of socialist system. We don't have any faith in parliamentary system. There are differences between parliamentary system and multi-party system.

Is it true that such multi-party system exist in China, Cuba and North Korea?

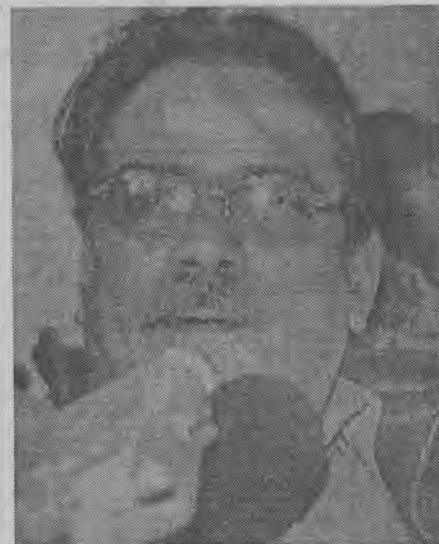
So far as I know there is no competition in China and Cuba. Our central party meeting took a decision six years ago that from now on, communist movement has to accept multi-party competition. Our kind of multi-party system and China's and Cuba's multi-party system will be completely different.

If so, why did your party pull out from the government calling to postpone the elections?

Election is one of the major parts of peace process. But, if one does not try to solve other issues like disappearance, cantonment and so on and if one only talks about the election then that will not help. The problems related to peace process are more acute. Girija Prasad Koirala's recent activities are not at par with his earlier activities. Without addressing the peace process, you cannot create conducive environment for election.

In the name of conducive environment, you have been adding demands one after another.

We demanded proportional



representative system and declaration of republic from the interim parliament just after postponement of elections in June. During the meeting in seven party, I made it clear that we would not take part in election without adopting proportional representative system and declaring Nepal as republic. We believe that peace process is not going on smoothly and cabinet needs to be reshuffled and there is a need to change the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction into a high level commission for Peace and Reconstruction.

In your interview two years ago, you had said that the Maoists would accept the verdict of the people - if people voted for absolute monarchy, Maoists would accept it. Now, why are you in doubts?

If conducive environment is created for holding free and fair election, it is not our concern who will win. But, to create conducive environment for election, one needs to address the issues of peace agreement.

You are a champion at changing your stands. You said you want to remove monarchy now. Is it not contradictory to your earlier stand?

All the agreements we have signed were aimed at holding the election by

June 2007. When we conducted a study on why the election was not held in June, our party found that monarchy is creating trouble.

You have been claiming that you have support of 90 percent of people. Then, why are you still scared by monarchy and feudal elements who have lost their base?

This is completely wrong and this is based on wrong analysis. What we have seen is that the elements of palace have billions of rupees. There is possibility of misusing these properties to create disturbance in the process of holding election.

Do you mean money is greater than the will of people?

This is also not true. People are supreme and that is why we are appealing to the people.

You said many countries conspired against your party. Despite all these conspiracies, your party signed 12-point agreement, entered into interim parliament, joined the government, and now when things are not happening as you would like, you have started blaming foreign elements. Is it not your failure?

This is not true. We achieved all these successes because we were more flexible. We pulled out from the government after the efforts were made to tie us down.

How do you look back at the Madi ambush by the Maoists?

We were deeply shocked and feel guilty. We have regretted the incident of Bandarmude. After that incident, I even did not eat food and wept. We plan to visit the place. Recently, also we were to visit there but it could not take place because of conspiracy.

You have been fighting with big forces to wipe out monarchy. Why are you so afraid of facing the people of Madi?

I am not afraid of facing the people of Madi but some conspiring elements of Madi said they will block my visit to Madi. Even they threatened to kill me.

It means you are afraid of your life?

No, I am not afraid of my life. It is not my life but to avert another unimaginable situation.

It is reported that your party workers are collecting donation by threat?

Our party does not have any policy to collect donation by intimidation. If some people want to pay willingly, we will accept it.

You have said that you are going to be president of Nepal within two years...

Personally, I have no intention to become a president of Nepal. If I am given the responsibility, I will accept that.

Your statement is also similar with all other leaders who say they are not interested to hold the position but would not shy away if given the responsibility...

It is same with all the leaders whether they are revolutionary or parliamentarian.

What role will the Maoists play to protect the nationalism?

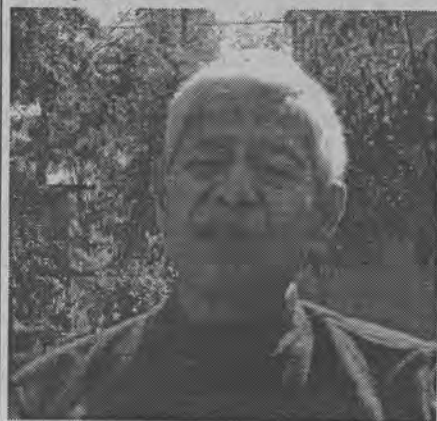
In case of nationalism, we have a strong commitment and there is no question of compromise. If it is necessary, we will also prepare to start tunnel war. You might have noticed two years ago when our party had declared that we are ready to fight tunnel war against India if it intervenes in Nepal.

While you have been talking about tunnel war against India, you paid secret visit to the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu recently. Is it a part of your tunnel war?

The question is immaterial regarding the visit. Important question is whether one can take stand on nationalism or not. Actually, what happened was when I was going to prime minister's official residence at 5:30 pm, the Indian ambassador sought appointment with me for informal discussion requesting to visit my place. I simply told him that since I was going to prime minister's residence at 5:30 pm, I would pay visit to you on the way. What happened was that when I was coming out from embassy, I saw a big gathering of media persons. I had visited the embassy to meet Indian ambassador seven times. But, nothing had happened. That day, someone might have laid ambush against me.

RPP-Nepal's Comment

RPP-Nepal leader Rabindra Nath Sharma in his recently issued statement criticized former US president Jimmy Carter remarks on the political situation in Nepal.



"We are of the opinion that Mr Carter's utterances have been irresponsible, pugnacious and lacking in sensitivity on grave issues, besides being utterly intrusive and invasive on the sovereign rights of our people. Moreover, his controversial and highly objectionable remarks come at a time and in a manner which further aggravates the already fraught situation. This does more to hamper and vitiate the peace efforts rather than help them," said Shama

"This is most unfortunate because it overlooks and undermines Nepal's competence and sovereign rights to effectively consummate its political process," said Sharma in his statement. RPP president Sharma further said that his remarks evidently made to play to a limited gallery (SPA) is totally out of his depths and beyond his brief. His utterance betrays his ignorance of the underlying political realities and crisis peculiar to Nepal," Sharma added.

Meanwhile RPP-Nepal president Shrama also condemned UNMIN's Nepal Chief Mr. Ian Martin recent engagement with the Maoists in the jungles of Chitwan. Sharma argued that it not only violates (UN) his briefs but also has cast grave doubts upon his already dubious role and intention in carrying out the peace missions. ■

NEPAL'S FOREIGN POLICY

UNBALANCING IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

BY SACHETAK

During discussions on the topic of Nepal's foreign policy with prominent personalities including journalists, one interesting bottom line given by almost all of them is "it (foreign policy) is not that simple". But personally I feel that all those complexities aired by even prominent foreign-policy experts could be simplified to a great extent. Of course, no expert on any field would like to be told by a non-expert that he is knowingly or unknowingly making life difficult by unnecessarily deviating from the main issue and trying to complicate simple matters.

Basically, in Nepal's case, foreign policy zooms to relation with three countries- two powerful neighbors India and China, and world's most powerful nation USA. And our foreign policy experts are making mistake of using the word "balancing" of relations with those three countries, especially with India and China. On the contrary, the challenge is to "unbalance" the relation with those countries to gain maximum advantage to our country and the people. My personal opinion is that out of foreign policy "cake" of 10 Kg, our southern neighbor should be given about 4Kg portion, China about 3Kg, USA about 1Kg and 2Kg to rest of the world. The job of our foreign policy experts including Ministry of Foreign Affairs should then be focused on ways and means with historical, geographic, economical, political and social facts and figures to convince New Delhi, Beijing and Washington about our compulsion in "unbalancing" the relation with them.

Now, let us recall few opinions and comments usually put forth by intellectuals including foreign policy experts, politicians and journalists with regards to our foreign policy matters: all major political events are engineered by foreign powers especially India, there is too much interference in our internal affairs by India, we must play "China card" against India, USA will never allow too much Chinese influence, USA does not give much importance to Nepal

as we have no oil or mineral resources, China will not keep quite if India makes big problem to Nepal, India never wants to see a prosperous Nepal, India may be trying to make Nepal either Sikkim or Bhutan, all our political leaders go to New Delhi for "ashirbads", we must do something about 1950 treaty, bring petroleum products from China to teach India a lesson, Americans should have adopted their own independent policy towards Nepal instead of looking through

Time has come for the Government of Nepal to boldly and bluntly tell those three powerful countries that from now on we will be playing only one card of highly "selfishness" in dealing with them and never play one card against other.

eyes of India and so on. The most interesting aspect about almost all of the above "cocktail gossips" is the fact that those comments/observations are somehow linked to "self-interest" of three foreign powers India, China and USA. Moreover discussions on foreign affairs mostly focus on party interest and personal interest of political leaders and rarely focus on our national interests.

Time has come for the Government of Nepal to boldly and bluntly tell those three powerful countries that from now on we will be playing only one card of highly "selfishness" in dealing with them and never play one card against other. Time has come for leaders, who are supposed to run the country, to get rid of the mentality of "foreign power dominated politics".

Economy, trade and industry have become the main focus even in embassies of most of the developed countries all over the world. But unfortunately, politicians and all past governments in the last four decades are making this issue as a purely political matter, which is a blunder. In case Foreign Ministry officials and other concerned experts/

officials do not have enough expertise to negotiate with interested nations or multinational companies or foreign investors in technical, legal and economic issues, competent/reputed foreign consultants could always be hired to make them negotiate on our behalf. One distinct advantage of hiring "expensive" world consultants will be their professional approach without influence from national and international politics.

The present state of affairs in the country clearly indicates that we don't have a single sector or development activity, about which we can claim that we are doing fairly well and where we don't need any kind of financial or technical assistance. Hence, our self-interest is to grab any kind of help offered by any donor country or agency in any sector or any project. Totally non-sense policy of dictating our priorities to donor countries must be discarded on immediate basis. It may be appropriate for National Planning Commission and Finance Ministry to fix priorities in case of spending our tax-payers' money. But it makes no sense for a junior officer in the government to tell a donor country that first he wants to build public toilets in cities, and then only will take help for e-government project or airport project or tunnel-road project.

Finally, it is high time that we make a big paradigm shift with regards to our foreign policy. Let us start to "unbalance" the relations with big friendly countries, based on the average ratio of 4:3:1:2 (India:China:USA:Rest of the World). Let us focus more and more on economics rather than totally useless principles and theories while discussing foreign policy matters. Let us not complicate simple matters. Let us simplify so called complexities created by so-called foreign affairs experts. Let us relate foreign policy to infrastructure building, generation and sale of hydropower, tourism development, employment generation, trade and industry, foreign investment and overall economy of the country. ■

Trekking Trail

Although Gauri Shankar trekking area is one of the most fascinating mountain regions, it is not yet widely known

By A CORRESPONDENT

With the existence of places with natural beauty and cultural diversity, Nepal can gain a lot of benefits from tourism as it can be important component for the community development activities.

However, it is still confined to few areas and community is yet to get enormous benefits. Tourism not only generates employment but also contributes to enhance economic condition of the rural people.

With an objective to exploit the benefit of tourism, Eco-Himal, the society for Ecological Co-operation Alps-Himalayan, has been working with local grass-roots organizations on a range of social, ecological and cultural development projects aimed at bringing long-term benefits to the people of the Himalayan region.

Within the framework of promoting sustainable tourism and training, in 1996, Eco-Himal set up the Rolwaling Eco-tourism Project in the little visited areas of the holy mountain of Gauri Shankar.

Written by prominent scholars from foreign countries, this is a first book which focuses within the frame work of Eco-Himal's Rolwaling Project. This book highlights important areas and opportunities available in the Rolwaling region. Along with discussing the issues of natural conservation, five authors, Patricia East, Susan Voivik, Max Petrik, Sara Shneiderman and Mark Turin, all of them who lived Nepal for several years doing their research, discuss all important components regarding the trekking potential of the region.

Although Rolwaling is one of the most beautiful trekking routes of eastern Nepal adjoining Mt. Everest, it is yet to be popular destination for trekkers. Currently about 1500 tourists visit the

Gauri Shankar area each year. According to the authors, most come here as organized tour groups which adhere to the 'take noting but photographs, leave nothing but footprints' principle of minimal impact.

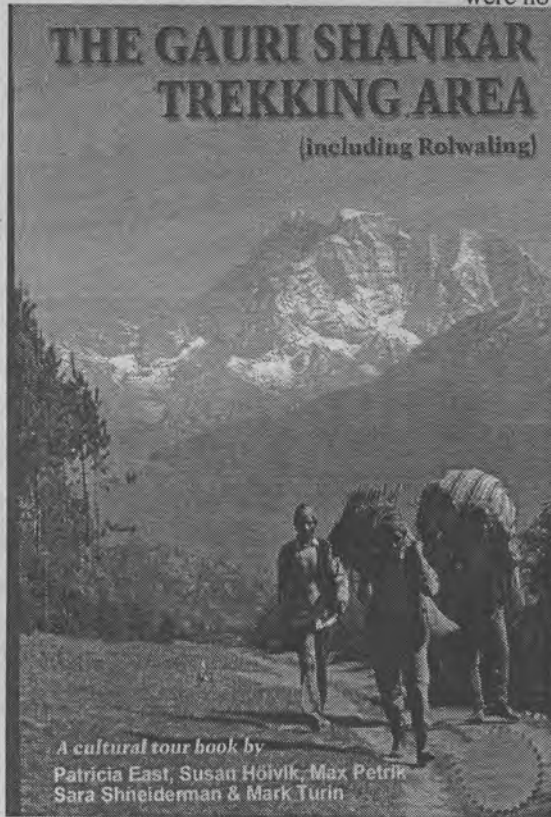
Thanks to the implementation of Rolwaling Ecotourism Project by Eco-Himal, one can see the changes. For the individual tourist, it was virtually impossible to trek there earlier as there were no hotels and restaurants along the trekking route. Now the situation has completely changed. Eco-Himal's project not only trained local population on hotel management and lodge management but also opened the trekking routes where tourists can enjoy local culture and nature.

After opening up Nepal for the foreigners five decades ago, millions of tourists from different parts of the world have already visited Nepal's various trekking zones and climbed numerous mountain peaks.

But, there are still some interesting and adventitious areas which are yet to be seen by many. Faced with increasing impoverishment, many people are forced to seek employment elsewhere, usually as unskilled laborers. Income from tourism could help improve living conditions and reduce rural out-migration.

For those who want to visit the Rolwaling area, this book provides detailed information on trekking routes as well as an in-depth introduction to its rich culture and history. This book is very important for those who want to know about eco-tourism.

As a country known for its mountain peaks as well as cultural and bio-diversity, we must promote the experts who make important contribution by writing about different aspects of Nepal.



The Gauri Shankar Trekking Area (Including Rolwaling)

An Eco-Himal Publication

Financed by:

Eco Himal with partial support from the
Austrian Development
Co-operation

By:

Patricia East, Susan Hoivik, Max Petrik,
Sara Shneiderman and Mark Turin

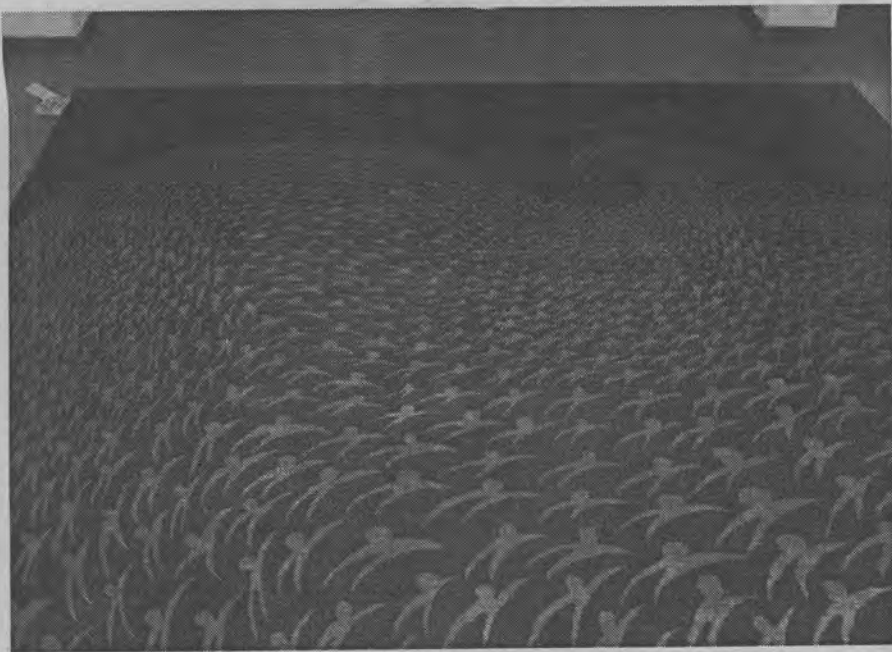
Published by:

Mandala Book Point, Kantipath,
Kathmandu, Nepal

Pages: 124

Price:

Price undisclosed



EXPOSITION

Show of Talent

For Italian artist Giovanni Battista Ambrosini, wind is the protagonist

By A CORRESPONDENT

For the artists and poets, everything matters. Artists explain their feelings and link them using perfection and mastery in that particular area. For some artists, blue sea is a source of inspiration and for others red sun symbolizes revolution. Every material has some meaning.

For the Italian artist Giovanni Ambrosini the wind has several meanings. One cannot see wind but feel it. However, artists like Ambrosini feel and see the wind. In his 13 paintings displayed at Siddhartha Art Gallery, artist Giovanni has enjoyed playing with the wind.

In all cultures and societies, wind is regarded as symbol of happiness and fear. Artist Ambrosini, too, surrenders to the sentiment of the wind. Wind is an element of vindication and liberty. Ambrosini perceived such

characteristics within the wind and has chosen it as a metaphoric element of movement across the canvas and in space.

He uses various media like mixed, metallic color and plywood acrylic color, canvas and stone relief works. Artist Giovanni's art works perfectly grasp the various moods of winds.

"In his last installation, winds become a concrete element, since it is only thanks to its dynamicity that the painting reveals itself and the art form becomes legible as the work of the wind itself. Indeed, the canvas he painted for his installation of Kathmandu are hung around the Buddhist Mhaipi monastery, raised like the flags which characteristically flutter around tantric Buddhist temples on a cord which reminds one of the washing which used to be hung out to dry between Italian buildings," writes

Enrico Mascelloni, an Italian art critic.

During his stay in Nepal, artist Giovanni searched out the olive trees of his own land and found the wind which in those lands blows from the East, almost as if to demonstrate that you cannot escape your destiny, even in a land so culturally different from your own. In reality, he had absolutely no intention of trying to escape his destiny as an artist. "The word destiny itself, used with such a sense of drama in our part of the world, seemed to dissolve in the soft lights of the tantric temples and disappear altogether in the labyrinths of Mandala where even the meaning of origin is just murmur-which fills space," writes the critic.

"The wind is the protagonist of many of Giovanni Ambrosini's works. His city, Viterbo, is often swept by a



wind which whistles down the alleyways causing the washing, hung up to dry, to flutter like lines of flags. In the old towns of central Italian cities, the wind can take you by surprise as you pass in front each alleyway-angrily in cold winters and sweetly in hot summer days," said art critic Enrico Mascelloni.

Artist Giovanni Ambrosini's paintings are full of wind movement as he explains his memory in canvas. Living in a monastery in Nepal, Artist Giovanni Ambrosini imagined the winds.

SPOTLIGHT

The News
Magazine
Packaged
with
Up-To-Date

News
Views
&
Analyses
Our Readers
Deserve The Best



SPOTLIGHT

The National News Magazine

BALUWATAR, GPO BOX: 7256

TELEPHONE: (977-1) 4423127, FAX: (977-1) 4417845

Email : spot@mail.com.np



The Star is in Your Favor.

Choose Your Lucky Casino!



CASINO NEPAL
Soalte Compound
Tahachal, Kathmandu
Tel: 4280588
Fax: 9771 4271244
rdt@mos.com.np



CASINO ANNA
Hotel de L' Annapurna
Durbarmarg, Kathmandu
Tel: 4228650
Fax: 9771 4225228
casanna@mos.com.np



CASINO EVEREST
Hotel Everest
New Baneshwor, Kathmandu
Tel: 4780925
Fax: 9771 4782284
everest@mos.com.np



CASINO ROYALE
Hotel Yak & Yeti
Durbarmarg, Kathmandu
Tel: 4438619
Fax: 9771 4223933
royal_royale@hotmail.com



CASINO RAD
Radisson Hotel
Lazimpat, Kathmandu
Tel: 4420311
Fax: 9771 4445525
casinorad@mail.com.np



CASINO TARA
Hyatt Regency
Boudha, Kathmandu
Tel: 4482517
Fax: 9771 4470722
casinotara@mos.com.np