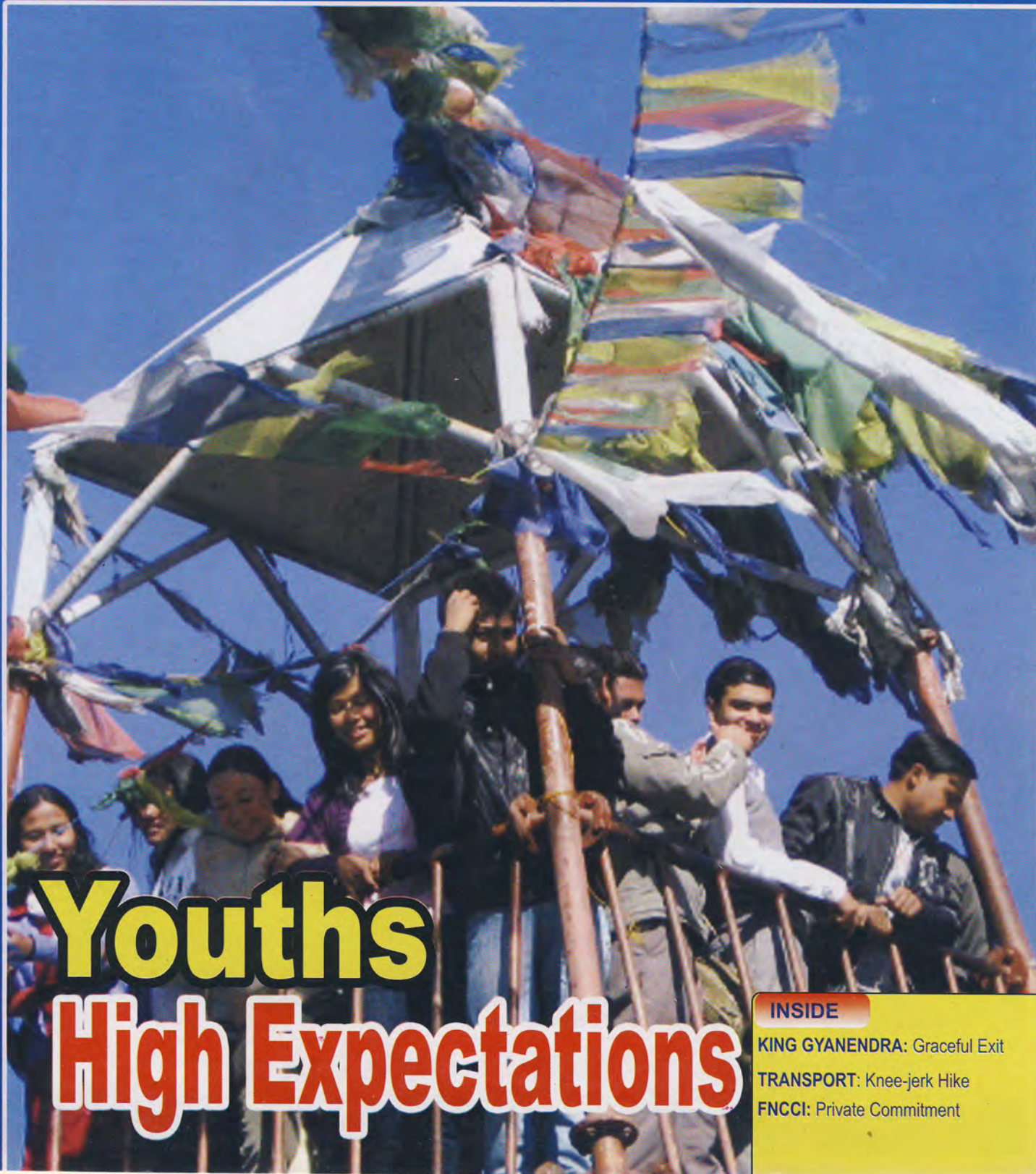


June 20-26, 2008

SPOTLIGHT



Youths High Expectations

INSIDE

- KING GYANENDRA: Graceful Exit
- TRANSPORT: Knee-jerk Hike
- FNCCI: Private Commitment

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Come together with **San Miguel**

My journey into music and recently into acting, has been one that has been both exciting and fulfilling for me. I know that this journey has been as smooth as it has only because of the trust and support of my friends and listeners – and I am grateful for this.

In my personal as well as professional life I seek smoothness – like **San Miguel**, a drink that reminds me of friendship.

- **Nima Rumba**
Singer/Actor



San Miguel BEER

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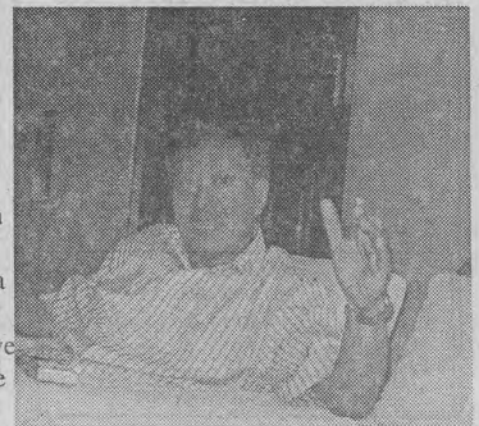
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Saphalya Amatya

Culture expert

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SPOTLIGHT

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

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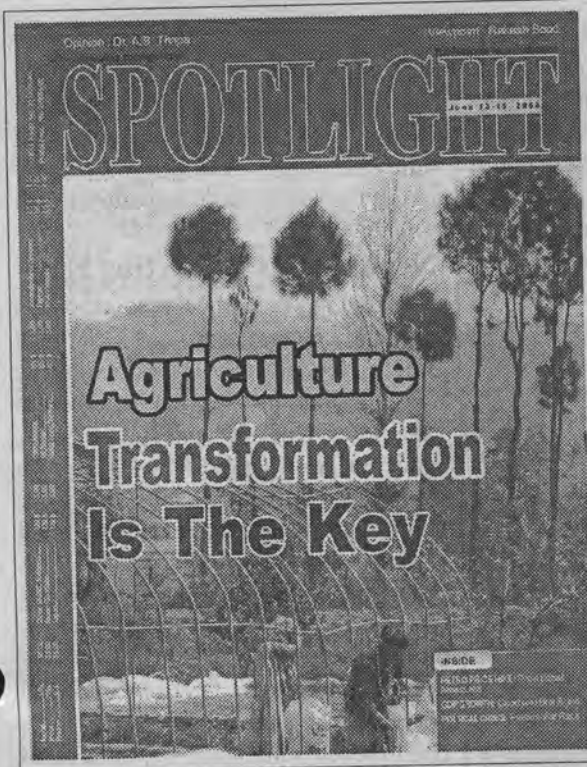
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The failure of the three major parties to reach a consensus (till the time of going to the press) will not only create problems for the nation but also deprive them of the good will of their own countrymen. Their unending brawls are only widening the field for foreigners to nakedly interfere in Nepal's internal affairs. It also reaffirms the charges against them that they are more interested to safeguard their personal and partisan interests rather than their nation's interests. If they were really honest and patriotic, they would have no differences at all, as the nation's interests are not divisible. Now, it has become crystal clear that these politicians have forfeited their right to rule the country. That's why we have been emphasizing on the total change of political leadership. That's why we have even broached the idea of counter-revolution to rid the country of these anti-national politicians. Our country, at the moment, needs he-men not pawns. Our continued exhortation to our poor but patriotic countrymen to rise and unite to safeguard the integrity of our country has become even more paramount and indispensable in the present circumstances. We must not forget that right action at the right time can only help us get over our problems. Else, we will keep on lamenting for the rest of our life.

Sitaram Yechuri, the communist leader of India, does not believe in subterfuge or subtlety. He likes to hit it straight and hard. If it is the best strategy for him, it does help his targets too. It provides them with ample time to make necessary preparations to defend themselves. Besides, it not only generates indelible resentment against such uncalled for bravado, but also strengthens the determination to resist the domineering behavior of the Indian statesmen and politicians. It is most unfortunate that statesmen like Yechuri lose sight of the fact that Nepal is, perhaps, the only country friendly to India amongst her immediate neighbors. Why is he so bent on in antagonizing the millions of friendly Nepalis? By winning over a handful of pliant politicians, Yechuri must understand, he has not won the hearts of millions of poor Nepalis. While his own country is facing myriad of problems with possible disintegrations, adding up more serious problem is neither advisable nor good statesmanship. Nepalis are very peace loving people. With the Prince of Peace, the Great Gautam Buddha, as their perpetual guide, they will always desist the aggressive role. But, history is witness, Nepal's sons are always prepared to sacrifice their lives in defense of their country. If the impotent and selfish politicians do take such insults lying down, the millions of proud Nepalis will not. We trust our good Indian friends will treat us with the respect we deserve and command as a sovereign independent neighbor, with centuries of traditional friendship

Madhav Kumar Rimal
Madhav K. Rimal
Chief Editor & Publisher



Agro Economy

The cover story Agriculture Commercialization is the Key (June 13-19) is very interesting and timely. At a time when Nepal has been facing a major food crisis, there is a need to encourage the farmers to produce more food stuffs. The past experiences have shown that it is impossible to increase the production without transforming the agriculture from subsistence oriented to commercialization. For this the government needs to take some drastic steps.

Krishna Parajuli
Pokhara Via-email

government. That is what is the mandate of the people. Nobody has the right to undermine this mandate. The entire revolutionaries around the world are eagerly waiting to welcome revolutionary government led by Maoist in Nepal.

Diwakar Rai
Paris via email

No Safeguard

With the abolition of monarchy, Nepal has entered into a new phase of political instability. As long as there is a traditional institution like monarchy, Nepal could withstand all kinds of extremism. At a time when all kinds of extremists are flourishing in the country and monarchy is a history now, Nepal will have to face very severe consequences. It will also affect the situation of the whole region.

Sabita Limbu
Via-email, Janakpur

A Sacrilegious Act

Nothing could be more shocking than the news that the Dilli Raman Regmi Foundation has decided to award this year's peace prize to who else but Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prchanda who is responsible to the killing of more than 13,000 innocent human beings. Peace is the only underlying idea behind this award and Dahal's dictionary does not contain this word. Even after twelve years of inhuman and brutal murders, Dahal's men are still involve in killings, lootings and arsons. Poor Dilli Raman Regmi, if he were buried, would definitely have turned in his grave. Thank god, he even his ashes won't have any knowledge of this sacrilege. We know this is just a simple manifestation of the traditional Nepali way of "Chakari." The foundation members must be congratulated.

Subash Shrestha
Via email

Mistakes Galore

I find it very frustrating to read Spotlight with so many mistakes. Even in the issue of June 13-19, there was a major blunder. Actually, Kanwal Sibal was the former foreign secretary of India not Kapil Sibal.

Subodha Singh
Birgunj, Via-email

(It, indeed, was Kanwal Sibal. We would like to express our regret for the inadvertent mistake - Editor)

Plight Of Rural Area

Of course, every farmer wants to increase the agriculture production. The experiences of Ghanashyam Kharel, Krishna Ram Rijal and Seti Tamang show that the market oriented agriculture production helps increase the production and changes the life of rural population. However, people living in remote parts of the country do not have such opportunities. First of all, the government needs to spend more money to expand infrastructures like road, electricity and irrigation. Your analysis is incomplete in the sense that you have not attempted to look at the plights of the farmers of remote parts of Nepal. I don't agree that the commercialization is the only solution to solve all the problems related to agriculture.

Binaya Lama
Via email

No Winners

Although they have already abolished the monarchy, Nepalese politicians still want to do politics by criticizing and accusing the monarchy. You have rightly pointed out that nobody was the winner in the Nepal's politics. Nepal's liberal democratic forces like Nepali Congress and all other rightists' parties are out of competition. Even India -which was the sole external

player in Nepali politics - has to compete with other powers now. There is nothing to celebrate after the removal of monarchy. Nepal has lost a major safeguard against extremism. Now Nepalese people will have to fight with all the extremists.

Jitendra Shakya
Via email

Accept The Reality

I don't understand what has prompted Spotlight to become a pro-monarchist and anti-republican. You must accept the reality. You cannot reverse back the decision of the people. It is useless to write views in favor of the monarchy. I hope Spotlight will also change its mindset. As all of us know that monarchy is a feudal institution and it is the victory of 26 million people. Long live Republic Nepal.

Jasuda Khanal
Via email

Government-less Country

Nepal is without a legitimate government for the last two months. Although the Maoists secured absolute mandate from the people to form the government, Nepali Congress leader Girija Prasad Koirala and CPN-UML leader Jhalnath Khanal have been conspiring against them. I hope Maoists will be given a chance to form the



Maoist Ministers' Resignation Will Not Be Forwarded To PM

The Maoist leadership has decided not to forward the resignations by the Maoist ministers to the Prime Minister for the time being. The Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has decided to keep their resignation letters with himself as he believes that the understanding with the parties is being evolved. On Thursday, ministers representing the party had handed over their resignation from the Koirala-led government to Prachanda. The Maoists have five ministers and two state ministers in the government. *Compiled from reports*

Prachanda To Visit Mao-Land For 'More Inspiration'

While the contentious issue of power sharing continues to vex Nepali politics, leading many to fear a new round of political turmoil in the country, Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has expressed his eagerness to soon visit China where he wished to visit the village of "the great helmsman", Chairman Mao, and "get some more inspiration". In an interview to a correspondent of China Daily at his residence in Buddhanagar Thursday (June 12), the Maoist chairman said he hoped to visit China soon. "When our communication minister was there (in China) he was instructed to prepare for my visit. I hope I will soon be in Beijing," Dahal told the daily, referring to Maoist senior leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara's visit to Beijing earlier this month. "I want to go to Chairman Mao's village and home to get some

more inspiration by seeing and feeling." Furthermore, he said Nepal will maintain "equidistance" between China and India, while expressing cautious optimism on relations with the US, which still has the Maoist group on its "group of concern" list. "Equidistance means not siding with one country against another. My exact meaning of equidistance is to have good relations

with both the neighbors," the daily quoted him as saying. He also said the new government which is likely to be headed by his party will take "strong measures" against any anti-China activities in Nepal. "We will not tolerate anti-China activities on our soil and we will take strong administrative measures to control these activities," Dahal said.

Compiled from reports

Indian Parties Back Maoists; Form Pressure Group To Propel Them To Power

Some parties belonging to the ruling United Progressive Alliance of India have come together to back the Maoists and press for the formation of a government led by its chairman in Nepal, reports Kantipur daily. Constituents of Nepal Democratic Movement Solidarity Committee – which had backed the democratic agitation in the country – held a meeting, Thursday, in New Delhi where they expressed dissatisfaction at Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala for 'staying in power against people's mandate.' "Koirala should clear the way for the formation of the government led by Maoist chief, as the chairman of the largest party. We are sad that he has not resigned yet," an Indian leader who participated in the meeting told Kantipur. The meeting also formed a pressure group including Sitaram Yechury, politburo member of Communist Party of India (Marxist); DP Tripathy, general secretary of Nationalist Congress; and D Raja, national secretary of CPI. The daily reports that the pressure group will

press the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh not to support Koirala. "We demand that the Indian government does not support Koirala. We will meet with PM Singh on Saturday in this regard," the leader said. *nepalnews.com reports*

Nepal Starts Exporting Eggs

Nepal has recently started exporting eggs and chicken to Bhutan. "National Breeder has recently started exporting eggs to Bhutan," said Guna Chandra Bista, president of Nepal Hatchery Association (NHA) and executive chairman of Avinash Group of Poultry Industries that is the first hatchery of Nepal. Nepal is self-dependent on chicken and egg. Since the domestic production exceeds the consumption, it is started to be exported also. "Nepal had been self-dependent on eggs and chicken since last 10 years," he said, adding that it saves five to seven billion rupees. But he complained that they are forced to cut down the production to 60 percent due to rumors of bird flu. "The industry that has an investment of around Rs 13 billion needs a strong Poultry Policy. It is also one of the sectors that contributes handsomely to the GDP," he said. Government needs to bring a clear national policy to promote this business. "Due to unclear policy growth of the sector has stalled," he added. "We do not have Avian Policy and 20 to 30 percent of investment in the poultry farm is on live avian so there is no safety of our investment," an Osho disciple-turned-entrepreneur Bista, who is also known as Swami Krishnananda Bharati said. Nepal used to consume Rs 17 billion worth chicken in 2001. But it is reduced to around Rs 12.75 billion at present, he said adding, 'still domestic demand is around 0.2 million to 0.25 million chicken per day.' "The demand of egg is rising by two percent every year," he said, adding that the broiler chicken market is expanding by 10 to 12 percent. "It can expand more, if we have slaughter house," he added. Valley cold store is planning a slaughter-house that may help increase productivity and at the same time decrease price of chicken. He thinks that the business has more potential to increase as it is affordable and considered nutrition for the poor. The hatchery in-

dustry employs around 80,000 people directly and around three times more indirectly. "But it needs the government backing for sustainability," he added. Out of the total 80,000 people involved in the business 35 percent are in Chitwan only. Chitwan has 55 percent contribution in poultry business, whereas in hatchery Chitwan contributes 45 percent. Nepal is self-dependent on chicken feed also. "Not only that, Nepal exports chicken feed worth Rs 300 million to Rs 350 million," said Anada Bagaria, director of Pro Bio-Tech Industries, the largest Nepali chicken feed producer under Shakti brand. Nepal has many feed manufacturing units that have capacity up to 50,000 metric tons of production. *The Himalayan Times daily reports*

'Indian Envoy's Remarks Against Diplomatic Norms'

Stating that the recent remarks and activities of Indian Ambassador to Nepal Rakesh Sood were against the diplomatic norms, Democratic National Youth Federation (DNYF), the youth wing of CPN (UML), Tuesday (June 10), submitted a memo to the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu. Ajamber Kangbang Rai, the president of the youth organization, said they have asked Ambassador Sood to refrain from making unnecessary remarks on Nepal's internal affairs and "crossing the boundary of diplomatic norms". Ambassador Sood has of late been facing criticism from various quarters due to his regular meetings with Prime Ministers and top leaders of various political parties and often frank remarks on Nepal's politics. Sood, like his predecessors, intensified high-profile parleys with top leaders including Prime Minister Koirala, Maoist chairman Prachanda, Madheshi leader Upendra Yadav soon after coming to Kathmandu as the Indian envoy. On Monday, Sood had again called on Prachanda at his residence in Nayabazaar and discussed the thorny issue of power sharing among top political parties, although Maoist leaders themselves are against Kathmandu based ambassadors getting easy access to Prime Minister and top government ministers and political party leaders and openly making their views public on

Nepal's internal matters. *Compiled from reports*

Panel Hits A Snag Over The Issue Of Integration Of Maoist Combatants

The three-party taskforce has hit a snag over the issue of integration of Maoist combatants, among others, and



have decided to refer the issue for the consideration of top leaders. The taskforce comprising representatives of Nepali Congress (NC), Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) and Maoists were to finalize the draft of understanding on constitution amendment and power sharing. But they could not agree on the issue of army integration, formation of security council, constitutional council and so on. "There are issues like management of Maoist combatants, their integration, the return of seized properties and formation of constitutional and security council, which have not been resolved yet," said Radheshyam Adhikari, a member of the taskforce and a leader of Nepali Congress (NC). Reports say that the Maoists have demanded 'collective' entry of UNMIN-verified Maoist combatants in the country's security force including the national army whereas other parties have said that such entry should be based on capability and qualification of individuals. The parties are also yet to decide on who would be the president and who would chair the CA. The government has also not nominated 26 CA members yet. *Compiled from reports*

NEA And Bhotekosi Reach Settlement

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and Bhotekosi Power Project have reached a settlement regarding the payment of excess power. After seven years of dispute, the two sides reached the agreement whereby the NEA has accepted to buy excess 9 MW of power generated by the project (in excess of its initial capacity of 36 MW) and the project will drop its demands for payment of Rs 610 million. The NEA will buy the excess power at the rate of Rs 1.62 per unit. Rest of the regular power will be purchased at Rs 8 (current rate) per unit. The agree-

ment will take effect once the project renews its Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with NEA. *Kantipur daily reports*

Civil Society Up In Arms Over Govt Decision To Give Nagarjun To Ex King

Activists of civil society have decried the government for providing Nagarjuna palace to ex-King Gyanendra and a bungalow within Narayanhiti palace to his mother Ratna. Addressing a protest gathering in Maitighar Mandala, Monday (June 9), Shyam Shrestha said the decision was against the spirit of people's movement and Constituent Assembly's decision. "The palace has been given for indefinite period. This is against the spirit of people's mandate," he said. Nanda Krishna Joshi said the decision had saddened republican people. The activists warned of agitation against the decision. Meanwhile, a team of government officials as well as media led by Home Minister Krishna Sitaula and Information Minister Krishna Mahara inspected Nagarjuna palace on Monday evening. "It doesn't look like a palace. It is an ordinary house," Sitaula told reporters after inspecting the palace. *Leading dailies report* ■



Ex-royal couple Gyanendra and Komal leave Narayanhity palace *Kantipur*

THE GOVERNMENT MARKED THE END of the 240-year-old monarchy by hoisting the national flag during a grand function on Sunday (June 15) at the Narayanhity palace. The flag hoisting ceremony was inaugurated by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala at the palace, which has been vacated by the ex-King Gyanendra. The ex-King left the palace on Wednesday honoring the decision taken by the Constituent Assembly to abolish monarchy and declare the country a republic. After hoisting of the national flag by Prime Minister Koirala, a tea reception was held at the palace, which is now under government control. All members of the Constituent Assembly, senior government officials, politicians, diplomats, journalists and other distinguished people were invited to attend the ceremony.

EX-KING GYANENDRA LEFT NARAYANHITI PALACE at around 8:30 pm, Wednesday (June 11) evening. He was accompanied by ex-Queen Komal as his motor escorted by security personnel left for Nagarjuna palace located in the north-western part of the capital valley. A huge crowd of journalists as well as general public had gathered in front of western gate of the Narayanhiti palace when the ex-King left for Nagarjuna. A group of people had also chanted slogans against monarchy as he left the place. He had earlier addressed a press meet asserting that he has accepted the political course the nation has chosen. The May 28 meeting of the Constituent Assembly had implemented republic and asked the ex-King to leave the palace within fifteen days.

DUE TO LACK OF UNDERSTANDING among the top parties on power-sharing, the third meeting of the Constituent Assembly (CA) also turned out to be a flop show like its second meeting. A few members protested the hike in price petroleum products as well as the government's decision to give Nagarjuna palace to ex-King Gyanendra, and allow Gyanendra's mother Ratna and his relative Sarala to live inside Narayanhiti palace. Then the CA chair announced the formation of advisory committee for working procedures. And it was suspended till June 19.

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH has called on the political parties of Nepal to forge consensus to deal with the major political issues. During a meeting with

Nepalese ambassador Dr. Durgesh Man Singh in New Delhi, Monday (June 9), the Indian prime minister expressed satisfaction over the way political issues have been sorted out in the country. "India is happy that Nepal's parties are moving ahead constructively," he is said to have told the Nepalese envoy. "The parties should make every effort to build an inclusive Nepal," the envoy quoted the Indian PM as saying. The Indian PM is also said to have inquired about the economic situation, particularly the inflation rate in Nepal, say reports.

TWO PERSONS HAVE BEEN KILLED and thirteen others injured when a bomb exploded at a bus park in Chandranigahapur, Rautahat district, Saturday (June 14) evening. The two died when

undergoing treatment at Narayani hospital in Birgunj. Those injured include four children. A 'time bomb' had exploded at the passenger waiting section of the bus park when there was a crowd of people taking shelter from the rain, reports said. An underground organization calling itself Terai Army has owned up responsibility for the blasts.

THE 20 MW STRONG BALEPHI HYDROPOWER project is to be built with the help of domestic and international private investment. Welcome Energy, a group established jointly by Nepali and British investors, has started conducting a study for the project. The chief of the group has said that they could start generating power from the project within two and a half years. They are planning to start construction from January of 2009. The total cost of the project, which will be located at Balephi river of Sindhupalchowk district, is said to be around US\$ 32 million.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING TO INTRODUCE a separate act to market the agriculture products. According to Tek Bahadur Thapa, Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, in view of rising agriculture production, the government is preparing to introduce the legislation to expand investment in agriculture sector, among others. Speaking at the Fifth Horticulture Show in Kathmandu, he said the government also felt the need for horticulture policy. ■



Former Prime Minister of Fiji, Sitiveni L. Rabuka, OBE being briefed about Nepalese Businesses and Economy by Rajendra Khetan, President of Young Entrepreneur's Council at Laxmi Complex in Kathmandu. Fiji's former prime minister Rabuka is in Kathmandu for a short trip as a tourist.

CHINA REVOLUTIONIZES DAM DESIGN ENGINEERING

•Dr. AB Thapa

Sedimentation of storage reservoir has ever since been a big problem in development of water resources. Usefulness of the storage reservoir is almost totally diminished once the storage reservoir is filled up with sediments. Thus, we talk about the life of a reservoir or its half life which virtually means the life of the project. Now Chinese experts have revolutionized the concept of the life of a storage reservoir by boldly applying it in the design of the "Three Gorges Project" which is the world's largest hydropower. They are saying that the life of the storage reservoir could be extended virtually in perpetuity if the dam is properly designed.

In future Nepal would be facing serious sedimentation problems if our storage dam projects are not properly designed. Certainly

Chinese experience would prove to be immensely valuable to our country.

Finite Life of a Reservoir

Dr. A.N. Khosla, the then

Chairman, Central Water Commission of the Government of India, who was a renowned scientist in the field of Hydraulic Engineering, had reviewed the work of reservoir sedimentation in Fifties based on data available for 200 reservoirs all over the world including the USA, China and Africa. He had developed curves for annual sedimentation rate for major as well as minor catchments. He has concluded that silting is taking place in both types of reservoirs with slight variations. It was evident that after a certain period those reservoir would be filled up with sediments.

Dr. K.L. Rao, Minister of Water Resources of the India's Central Government has written in his book *India's Water Wealth* to caution that the useful life of a storage reservoir could be considerably shortened "Silting of reservoirs reduces their useful capacity. The deposition of silt in Nizamsagar, in the course of the last 40 years, has reduced the live capacity of the reservoir from 725 million cu.m. to practically half."

What Chinese Scientists are Now Saying.

The following is the conclusion of an article published by Jiahua Fan et al in the *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering* of the American Society of Civil Engineers:

Experience in China has shown that reservoir sedimentation is neither an irreversible nor uncontrollable process.

Various design, operational, and reconstruction strategies can be used to balance sediment inflow and outflow across impounded river reaches, thereby protecting a significant amount of useful storage against sedimentation. The provision of properly sized low-level sluices is the key structural element for sediment management in reservoirs. The next major step



in the development of this technology is the refinement of generalized computer simulation techniques for analyzing sediment management problems in reservoirs, and the test-

ing of these techniques against field data from reservoirs where sediment management is being practiced.

It is reported that the problem of reservoir sedimentation in China had been particularly

acute in the Yellow River basin which drains an extensive area of highly erodible soils.

Sediment concentrations of as much as 941 kg/cum have been measured on the main stem of the Yellow River, and as much as 1,500 kg/cum on tributaries. The sediments are predominantly silt. Without control methods, reservoirs fill quickly with sediments in this environment. These conditions have necessitated to conduct for more than 30 years research works in China on stabilization of reservoir capacity.

Research on Sedimentation

The total capacity of the TGP reservoir amounts to 39.3 billion m³, only accounting for 8.7 % of the yearly runoff at the dam site, and its effective capacity 16.5 billion m³, accounting for 3.6 %. Therefore, the reservoir is of a seasonal regulation one with low run-off regulation capability.

Sediment is one of the major technical problems of the Three Gorges Project(TGP) to be tackled. Since 1950's, many research institutes and experts at home have conducted extensive studies on this issue. The successful experience gained from the Gezhouba Project on the sediment management has laid solid foundation for the sediment study of the Three Gorges Project.

Comprehensive research methods, such as prototype

observation, mathematical model computation, physical model tests, and analogue analysis on existing projects have been adopted for TGP's sediment study. The results show that the sediment problem of TGP is resolvable based on the examinations and authentication organized by sediment experts at home and abroad.

Sediment Load - Based on the 40 plus years' observation at the Yichang Hydrologic Station, the sediment discharge of suspended load averages about 526 million tons per year, with a median diameter of 0.033 mm. The annual bed load including 0.76 million tons of cobbles is about 8.6 million tons, which takes up only a small proportion of the total sediment load.

The water discharge at TGP's dam site is large, amounting to 451 billion m³ annually with an average sediment concentration of only about 1.2 kg/m³, whereas the sediment discharge at

Sanmenxia Project on the Yellow River is 1.6 billion tons annually with an average sediment concentration of 37 kg/m³. The water discharge at TGP dam site is 10 times that at the

Sanmenxia Project, while the annual sediment load is only one third of it. The sediment problem of the Yangtze River, therefore, is quite different in nature from that of the Yellow River.

In recent years, some experts deem that the sediment yield in the Yangtze River is in a tendency of increase based on the data of the early 1980's. However, it is not true. According to the long term observation and the checking results therefrom, the sediment load in the Yangtze River changes periodically below or above the average level on a random basis, and there is no obvious tendency of increase. The amount of sediment load at the dam site was far below the average for several times in the late 1980's and early 1990's. This is an evident proof.

Physical Sediment Modelling -Owing to the complexity concerning hydraulics and sediment deposition problems in the dam area and in the fluctuating backwater region, which makes the computation of mathematical model almost impossible, 14 physical sediment models (5 for dam area and 9 for different sections in the fluctuating backwater region) have been established for detailed study.

A great progress had been made in the physical sediment modeling in China during the construction of Gezhouba Project. Now Gezhouba Reservoir has been in operation for 16 years, comparisons have been made on field observation vs. model testing results and these comparisons, generally speaking, are quite consistent. The physical sediment mod-

elling of TGP has adopted basically the same methods for the Gezhouba Project with a model scale generally of 1 by 100 to 1 by 300.

Permanent Use of the Reservoir

The Yangtze River is abundant in runoff. The Three Gorges Dam is to be equipped with 23 large bottom discharge outlets at low elevation (90 m). Meanwhile, the reservoir level in the flood season will be maintained at a fairly low elevation (145 m). These two characteristics allow the application of a new strategy of reservoir operation Summed up in China as "discharging the turbid and impounding the clean". During the flood season from June to September, when the river carries 84% of the annual sediment load and 61 % of the annual runoff, the reservoir draws down to a low level(145 m) that creates a condition in favour of sediment sluicing, allowing a large discharge of sediment out of the reservoir from the bottom outlets. At the end of the flood season (October) when

there is less sediment content in water, the reservoir will be impounded to NPL (175 m) for enhancement of power generation and navigation. In this operation manner, most of the sediment will be discharged, the large part of sediment deposited will remain in the

dead storage of the reservoir, and most part of the effective storage can be preserved permanently.

The length of the TGP reservoir is over 600 km and its average width is only about 1, 100 m, looking like a ribbon in the plain. So it is still a river-like, rather than a lake-like reservoir. The whole reservoir is quite uniform in width and for the most part less than 1, 000 m, only one seventh of the reservoir is about 1, 000 to 1, 700 m wide. The morphology of the reservoir is favorable for the removal of sediment. Since the estimated width of the equilibrium channel is 1, 300 m corresponding to the hydrological conditions of the TGP reservoir, little flood plain is expected to be formed along the main channel in the TGP reservoir. Thus, large percentage of effective storage can be preserved permanently.

In Conclusion

The silt deposition in the TGP reservoir has been analyzed numerically by mathematical modeling. According to the calculation results, after a century operation when the reservoir sedimentation already comes to the balanced state, the reservoir's effective storage capacity could still remain at 86—92%.

It is believed that the conclusions are reliable, not only because the mathematical model is developed based on a large amount of research and observation and verified by many experts at home and abroad, but also because it is based on several successful engineering practices. ■

POLITICS

Diplomacy Rules

Diplomacy is pushing politics to the backseat in shaping the course of events in the republican Nepal

By SUSHIL SHARMA

When the Maoist chief Prachanda spoke about the right to self-determination in some of the areas in Nepal's neighborhood, it went beyond headlines.

In an interview then, he defended the right to self-determination in Kashmir and the troubled North-East. But not in Tibet.

He told this correspondent later that the remarks created a *hungama* (stir) in Delhi. He did not regret it. Instead, he was happy.

Much water has flowed in Hwang Ho and Bramhaputra since then.

A recent interview to *China Daily* appeared to have re-created the *hungama*.

In the interview, the prime minister-in-the-waiting advocated "equi-distance" in relations with the two big neighbors. Eulogized Mao. Expressed interest in visiting the late thespian's birthplace to "seek inspiration".

He also vowed to crush pro-Tibetan demonstrations in Kathmandu. "We will be different and this situation will change," he said on a question on the daily show of arresting the demonstrators in the morning and releasing them in the evening.

The comments have reportedly raised eyebrows in key power centers that the Maoists desperately need to please to, first, ride to power and, then, cling to it.

No surprise that the wait for the single largest party in the Constituent Assembly to set up a new government is getting longer by the day.

As of writing this, the marathon meetings of the big three parties on clearing the way for the Maoists had not ended.

On the sideline, diplomatic spats over Nepal affairs have continued.

First, the Indian ambassador called for a national unity government led by the Maoists and rejected a constitutional amendment. (This was long before Prachanda's *China Daily* interview)

Then came the rejoinder from the Chinese envoy. "Nepalese are capable of resolving their problems themselves."

As closed-door diplomacy increasingly overtook open-politics in shaping the course of events, a military coup veteran from the Pacific nation of Fiji came a visiting the Himalayan nation.

Though on a private visit at the invitation of a Nepal-based westerner friend, General Rabouka met all the major political actors. From the incumbent prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala to the prime minister-in-waiting, Prachanda.

A vernacular weekly on Wednesday even reported that Rabouka met former king Gyanendra at Nagarjun and held talks for an hour.

The ethnic general who ruled Fiji for several years before a leader of the Indian origin took over addressed the Nepalese reporters before ending the



Rabouka: Interesting visit week-long visit.

The coup veteran cautioned against such a move in the present day Nepal. "It can not work here, because there are multiple political parties."

Why did he see the need to issue such a warning is subject to speculation.

But, knowledgeable sources said, the warning reminded one of a similar advice by a senior US state department official in his meeting with the Nepalese generals last month.

The intriguing question is: what led him to give such an advice? Was it because there had been other diplomatic pressures on the army to the contrary?

Well, it's anybody's guess. And the guessing game goes on.

RAMARAJA PRASAD SINGH *Suit And Suite*

By SUSHIL SHARMA

What is the first thing a presidential aspirant would do?

Get a new suit ready. That is what Ram Raja Prasad Singh did last week.

The Maoist candidate for the first citizen of the world's youngest republic was spotted at a Srijani



tailors at New Road, with two escorts. To order a new suit. Apparently confident that he would land up in the yet-to-be decided presidential suite.

With a stubborn Girija Prasad Koirala in no mood to give in to the Maoist favourite, Singh's source of confidence must have puzzled a long-time lawyer friend who was also spotted at the same tailoring shop.

A visiting customer could not make out what went on in the conversation the ailing lawyer-turned firebrand leader of the Seventies had had with the soft-spoken lawyer-friend and a former attorney general.

He was just amazed at the excitement of the presidential aspirant who .

No less amazing, quipped an analyst, is the combination of a rightwing Madhesi rajput leader and the extreme leftwing party of the proletariat for the country's top office in the post-monarchy era. ■



Army Chief: 'NA is defender of democracy'

NA

Making Peace

The Nepali Army (NA) marks the golden jubilee celebration of its participation at the UN Peacekeeping missions all over the world

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

In the last fifty years of NA's participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping missions, it has lost 58 soldiers.

"Our participation in the UN Peacekeeping operation spans a period of 50 years covering 40 UN Missions. The security forces have contributed outstanding Force Commanders, elite military contingents, impartial military observers, CIVPOLs, paramilitary forces and dedicated staff officers," said General Rookmangud Katawal, chief of army staff, NA, at a function held to mark the golden jubilee at Panchkhal in Kavre district.

Currently, of the total 120 countries providing around 110,000 uniformed and civilian peacekeepers deployed in 20 UN missions around the globe, the largest contributors remain Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal, which together provide more than 45 percent of the blue berets. The NA is the fifth largest contributor.

In a statement issued on the occasion of 50th anniversary of the UN's

peace keeping mission, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala said that Nepal remains fully committed to continue to work with the United Nations and contribute in whatever way it can to the cause of intentional peace and security in the days ahead in spite of the highly challenging and increasingly complex nature of peacekeeping operations these days. He said this is the reflection of clear commitment to Nepal's foreign policy objectives.

"It gives me immense pleasure to recall that 50 years ago today Nepal for the first time took part in the United Nations peacekeeping mission as the UN Observer Group in Lebanon," he added.

Likewise, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in his message has praised Nepal for its contribution in missions. In the last half a century, Nepal has contributed over 60,000 peacekeepers in some 40 peacekeeping missions under UN. "Over these six decades, more than two thousand and four men and women have died serving the cause of peace—including more than 60 from Nepal. Each

one is a hero. Today, we recommit ourselves to ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten, and the vital work of the blue helmets continues as long as they are needed," Ban said.

He further said, "On this anniversary, I am honored to send my congratulations and thanks to the government and people of Nepal, and above all, to every Nepalese peacekeeper, past and present. May your shining example lead the way for Nepal's continued leadership and participation in peacekeeping around the world."

Defender Of Democracy

Addressing the golden jubilee function General Katawal has said that the NA will remain the key promoter and defender of the democracy and could be the only centripetal force for Nepal.

"That is why we strongly believe that in the name of democratization the army's purity, sanctity and integrity should never be compromised," he said. His remarks have come at a time when three major parties are divided on the issue of integration of Maoist combatants into the Nepali Army.

"We have always obeyed the orders of the legitimate government mandated by the people, but the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation should never be compromised," he said.

Referring to misgivings raised in some quarters about the lack of inclusiveness in the NA, the chief said, "The army has always been an inclusive institution. Any Nepalese citizen that sits in an open competition and qualifies in the minimum standard stipulated is considered a probable candidate to join the army. NA takes pride in stating that it always belonged to the Nepalese people and will continue to serve the interests of the people. It will stand as bedrock upon which the nascent democracy can take roots and flourish in the days ahead."

He also said that the NA is committed to being the defender of human rights. "Hence, we have adopted a zero tolerance policy," he said adding that since the army has taken many measures to institutionalize human rights, "there has not been a single incident of human rights abuse by the NA after the commencement of the peace process." ■



Transport fare hike: Lack of proportional rise

TRANSPORT

Knee-jerk Hike

Transport entrepreneurs master the art of seizing the moment

By A CORRESPONDENT

No sooner had the state-owned Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) hiked the price of fuel by around 20 percent, the transport entrepreneurs seized the moment and, unilaterally, hiked the transport fares by up to 40 percent.

After the government declared that the unilateral hike was not acceptable,

they resorted to strike forcing the government to back-pedal.

After a few round of talks, the transporters called off their indefinite strike but not before forcing the Transport Fare Fixing Committee to recommend 25 to 35 percent increase in transport fares.

According to Khagendra Mani Pokharel, director general of the

Department of Transport Management, the fare fixing committee will recommend the new increase to the Ministry.

Their strike on Sunday had affected the movement of commuters in Bagmati zone including the capital valley.

The government's softened stance is a turnaround after it had earlier stated in clear terms that the move by transport entrepreneurs to unilaterally raise their fares won't be acceptable. Stating that the fares were increased massively without first seeking its approval, the government had also asked the commuters not to pay the increased charges.

"The transport entrepreneurs have raised the fares unilaterally and it won't be acceptable to the government," Uddhav Baskota, spokesperson at the Ministry of Labor and

Transport Management had told reporters, adding that it was done without giving time to the government to adjust fares.

Citing hike in prices of petroleum products and soaring cost of vehicles and their spare parts, the Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs (FNTTE) had on Tuesday decided to increase the charges by 30 to 40 percent depending on the distance.

A statement issued by FNTTE said long-route bus/microbus fares have been increased by 30 percent while short-route fares including that of taxi have been increased by 35 percent. Likewise, travel by LPG-operated vehicles and tourist buses will cost 35 percent and 40 percent costlier, respectively.

Earlier, with the government's permission, the NOC had announced POL price hike. The price of petrol has been increased to Rs 100 per liter from Rs 80 while the prices of diesel and kerosene have been fixed at Rs 70 and Rs 65 per liter, respectively. The price of cooking gas per cylinder has been increased from Rs 1100 to Rs 1200 (for Kathmandu valley) and Rs 1180 (for outside Kathmandu).

All in all, the round one of this tug-of-war between the government and the transporters has gone in favor of the transporters. At the end, it is the consumers who have been left high and dry. ■

Youth Unemployment

Huge

Expectations

With the number of young population entering into the job market reaching 300,000 a year, a high economic growth rate is needed to generate employment opportunities for them. As the country's major political parties are busy grappling with the unending series of political deadlocks, economic development is yet to be their primary concern. As long as this large number of youth are given proper employment opportunity, they will remain a constant threat to political and social stability. At a time when the culture of consumerism is pervading the lives of youths, their expectations are rising. As the country does not have programs to generate employment, growing number of involvement of youths in criminal and other political activities have already indicated that the human time bomb is ticking

By KESHAB POUDEL

Like all other youths with high expectations, Bimal Tiwari, 18, a high school drop out and a resident of Bahuabbhitha Village Development Committee of Parsa District, 150 miles south of Kathmandu- had a dream to buy a motorbike and mobile phone.

A son of primary school teacher, Tiwari was searching ways and means to fulfill his aspiration. As various armed and criminal groups are in search of such desperate youths, he

came into contact with Mohar Kumar Chaudhari Sahani, who is said to be a member of armed outfit Terai Janatantrick Mukti Morcha.

Tiwari settled the matter with Chaudhari and agreed to shoot a renowned industrialist Om Chachan of Birgunj, a southern commercial border town, 200 miles south of capital Kathmandu. According to Superintendent of Police Rom Khami, Tiwari was also involved in killing of an

employee of Nepal Electricity Authority and shooting at a homeopathic doctor.

"I agreed to shoot businessman Chachan after Sahani offered me to provide money and a brand new motorbike," confessed Tiwari to police. "I was given a week long training on how to use the gun."

This is not a unique case. Recently, after a month long investigation, Nepal Police with the support from Maiti Nepal, an NGO working against girl



Young population: Eye on sky

trafficking, arrested five youths under the charge of trafficking eight Nepalese girls to Indian brothel.

Among the five arrested persons, three of them were found to have sold even their kidneys. "We joined the girl trafficking racket to make more money," said Krishna Giri Nepali, Hari Nepali Pariyar and Krishna Nepali. "We used to get Rs. 30,000 (US\$ 700) by selling a girl to Indian brothel."

Similarly, Police arrested twenty two years old Roshan Mishra and Ram Manish Sahani, resident of Madhepura village of Mahottari district 250 miles south east of capital on the charges of criminal activities.

Likewise, three former Maoist cadres Manuman Lama, 25, Sunder Singh Lama, 27, and Tirtha Bahadur Yonjon, 25, were arrested recently on charges of exploding bombs at a Maoist public meeting in Kathmandu, and Pindeshwor Sanskrit College in Dharan.

"We learned the technique of detonating explosive when we were with Maoists five years ago. Now, we have been using this technique to make money," said Lama.

According to Nepal Police, the number of youths involved in criminal

activities has significantly increased in the last few years. Illiterate and unskilled, the rural youths come to city in search of better life. However, many youths get trapped in wrong place. As consumerism increases their demands, these youths are ready to carry out any kind of work.

As numbers of organized armed groups, political and criminal, continue to increase in all parts of Nepal, such youths are vulnerable to fall prey in the process.

During the twelve years long Maoist insurgency, many youths joined the insurgent group. As Maoists have entered into the mainstream politics, the left-out former guerillas, who had acquired skills of bomb making, have already started to create trouble in various parts of the country.

"When youth population rises above 16 percent of the total in any country, it could be problematic, as the nation will have a tough time to cater to their rising expectations," said Dr. Shiva Sharma, a consultant who led a taskforce to formulate the National Action Plan for Youth Employment (2008-1015).

As the political instability and uncertainty continues to rule Nepalese politics, there is no immediate solution

and development package to engage the number of youths coming to the job market.

Nobody's Baby

At a time when all political parties are concentrating their efforts to form the new government and write a new constitution, the problems of unemployed youth seem to be nobody's agenda. For shorter gains, parties are recruiting the youths for political purposes. From illiterate to literate, they mobilize youths to build pressure on their opponents.

All the major political parties are recruiting the youths in their party forum but they don't have any economic program to engage them productively. Giving a populist slogan they are attracting them in their party organization.

"Our organization would create job opportunities for a large number of youths and we have plan and program also," said Ganesh Man Pun, president of Maoist-affiliated Young Communist League (YCL).

Other political parties have accused YCL for using the youth force to terrorize and threaten opposition political parties. Pun rejected the charges saying that this is politically biased comment against the organization.

Along with CPN-Maoists, Nepali Congress and CPN-UML also have youth organizations. CPN-UML leader Bamdev Gautam even declared that his party will form full time party workers recruiting the youths.

Even as the country's economic growth is around four to five percent, youth wings of political parties will exploit the youth resources not to help the economy but to create trouble for opponents.

"Given the current capacity of the government and slow growth of the economy, the government is less likely to manage the expectations of youths unless advanced planning and serious efforts are made to increase employment opportunities among others," said Dr. Shiva Sharma.

Population of Youth

According to Nepal's Population Report 2008, over 55 percent of population are aged between 10-44 years and people between 10-29 years of age occupy 36 percent (of total population). The youths between 15-29 years of age is 24.7 percent of total population. In global context, all people aged between 15 to 24 years of all age fall under the category of youth. According to this definition, over 18 percent of Nepal's population consists of youth.

The study has shown that over fifty percent of the children aged between 10-14 years of age have dropped out from the schools and entered into labor force. This trend indicates a gloomy picture.

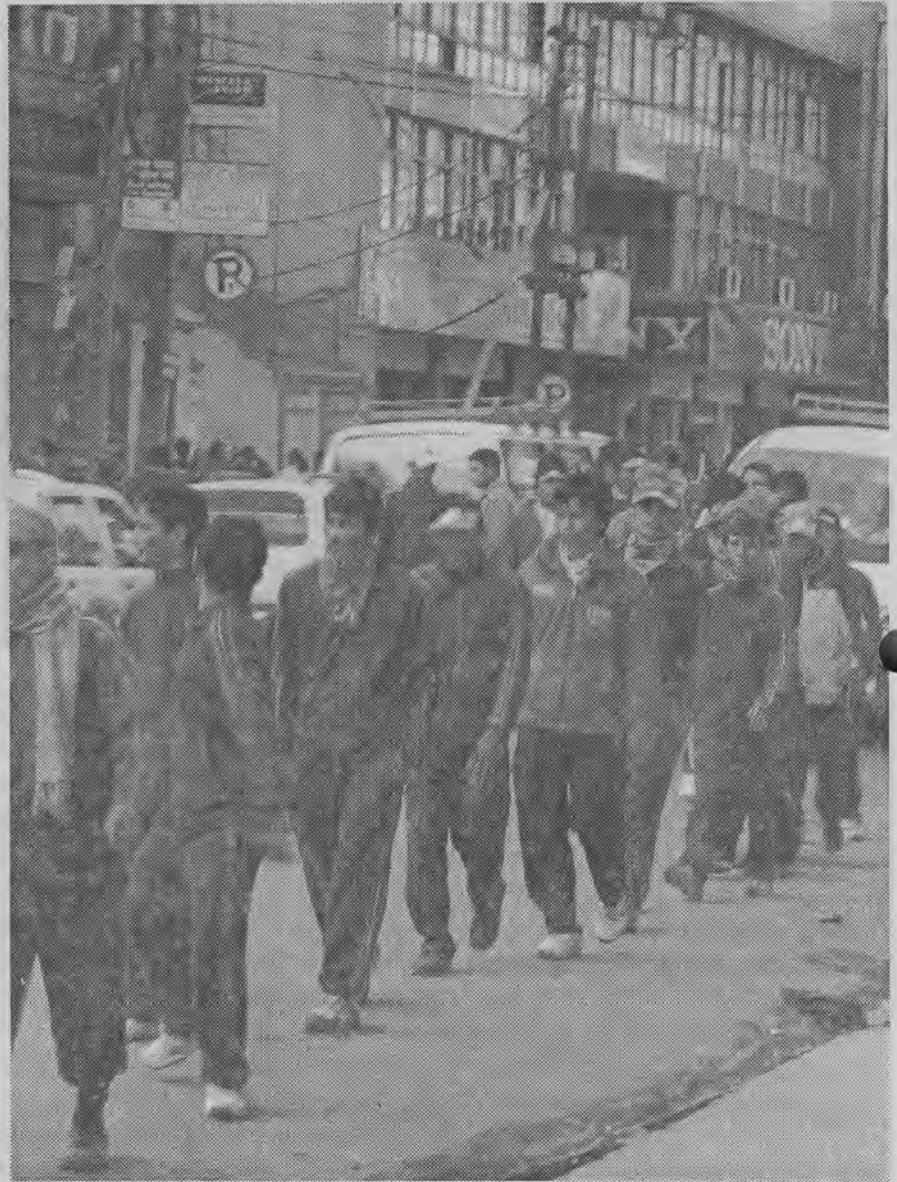
"Our population composes of young population that means this is a demographic bonus. We have to use them as a bonus. Although we need to use them, somebody else is using them through migrant laborers as we could not tap their resource. We failed to use them in development. Whenever there is a majority of young population, many countries have seen political change. This is also what happened in Nepal. Young population has always high expectation, which a country like Nepal cannot meet because of limited resources," Dr. Ramhari Aryal, Secretary at the Ministry of General Administration and Nepal's renowned demographer.

Studies have shown that if the proportion of youth population crosses beyond the one-sixth of the total population, it creates destabilization in the economy unless their expectations are addressed.

Challenges for Future

As the political uncertainty continues to discourage private investors from investing in big projects and industries, the employment opportunity is yet to open up.

Others, too, agree that youth unemployment is going to be major challenge for future. "Youth unemployment has been a burning



Youth cadres of political parties: Political use

problem in Nepal. Due to low investments in non-agricultural sector and limited diversification and commercialization of agriculture, the domestic employment market is growing at a much lower rate than the rise in number of new job-seekers. Many youths, therefore, seek foreign employment," said finance minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat. "But due to skill deficiencies, they mostly find menial and low-paying jobs in the most insecure environment. The problem of unemployment is further exacerbated by rampant under-employment in agriculture sector."

At a time when there is less

opportunity in rural areas, more and more youths have been migrating to urban areas thus contributing to the problem for the authorities in managing them.

"We have included 26 various programs for youth in interim planning but the budget allocation for the program is insufficient," said Dependra Bahadur Kshetry, a member of National Planning Commission (NPC).

Labor Force

Nepal's youth population remains a major labor force and their participation is high in agriculture and non-agriculture sector. The labor force participation rate is almost 75 percent even in 16-19 years groups. This is due to early dropout from

schools.

According to Nepal Living Standard Survey, total labor force (15 years plus age) in 2004 included 5.6 million male and 5.5 million female compared to 4.8 million male and 4.5 million female in 1995/96.

Another big problem for Nepal is underemployment. 47 percent of the population is underemployed (working for less than 40 percent of the time in a year).

Policymakers are concerned about the need to recognize political urgency of responding to the threat of youth unemployment as a precondition for poverty eradication, sustainable development and lasting peace.

Urban areas are much more affected by unemployment compared to their rural counterparts. According to NLSS II 2004, the male unemployment rate is 7 percent in urban areas compared to 4 percent in rural areas.

However, the underemployment is more widespread in rural areas and among females. "Underemployment and rural poverty can be addressed only by



Youths in cities: Scarce opportunities

commercialization of agriculture. We will, therefore, increase investment for market access improvement and market information system in rural areas," said finance minister Dr. Mahat.

According to a study, majority of all

workers in Nepal are engaged in the self-employed agriculture activities. According to NLSS II, overall 58 percent of employed males and 82 percent of employed females were engaged in this sector in 2003-04. In urban areas, self-employment in agricultural activities accounted for 20 percent of employed men and 52 percent of employed women in 2003-04. Employment shares in professional wage employment have increased for urban males (from 9 to 13 percent).

As the long term and short term growth and development process hinges on achieving lasting peace and stability, there is no immediate visible sign for the improvement in the employment opportunity to the youth. Overseas employment has come up as an option for many but majority of youths like Tiwari are still living in a vulnerable situation with high chances of falling prey of untoward elements.

Failure to manage the growing population of youth may trigger political and social unrest turning Nepal into a breeding ground for violent youths. This issues, therefore deserves to be the number one priority of all the political parties and other stakeholders. ■



Youths involved in agriculture: Only seasonal employment

“This Is Very Power Centric And Self Centric Society”

-Dr. Saphalya Amatya

Dr. SAPHALYA AMATYA, who completed his Ph. D from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi in 1975, is a renowned historian and expert on Nepalese culture. Having served more than three decades in government service Dr. Amatya has extensive knowledge on Nepal's arts and culture. Dr. Amatya spoke to KESHAB POUDEL on various cultural issues following the abolition of monarchy. Excerpts:

How do you see the current change in the history of Nepal?

In the history, there were many occasions when the roles of monarchs had been overshadowed. Even in Lichhivi period, there were dual power centers. Anshuverma was not a king, he was just a Mahasamanta of Bishnu Gupta and Jishnu Gupta. He took over power overshadowing them. Even during the Malla period, there were many occasions when some people enjoyed de facto power making the monarch just a de jure head. For instance, the six Pradhan of Patan who even replaced the king on their own will.

Was it a tradition?

There is a tradition in our country to rule through de facto power centers. Even in the Shah period this continued. After the death of Prithivi Narayan Shah, the Thar and Ghar ruled the country as de facto rulers. During the reign of Pratap Singh Shah, Swarup Singh Karki was the most powerful person. Swarup Singh was more powerful than then king. Similarly, Bhimsen Thapa ruthlessly ruled the country. Jung Bahadur even established his own dynasty. In this way, rulers of Nepal's Shah Dynasty were in fear psychology. One must read the history where powerful persons overshadowed almost all Shah Kings. That may be the reason why king Tribhuwan had shown his political ambition by making himself active in power after the political change of 1950.

How long is the history of monarchy in Nepal?

Monarchy remained the integral part of Kathmandu Valley which was originally known as Nepal. Before Prithivi Narayan Shah unified Nepal, Kathmandu valley was known as Nepal. According to scripture by king Jayabardhan of Handigaun, the monarchy was here in 2 AD. Lichhivi rulers came here in around second century. The history shows that monarchy in Nepal is about two thousand years old.

How many dynasties changed during this period?

Major dynasties include Lichhivi, Thakuri,

Malla and Shah.

After the abolition of monarchy, what will be the state of culture, religion and festivals in Nepal?

In every country, the festivals and cultures are tied up with the rulers. They will flourish under the protection of rulers. Nepal's culture and religion will continue to exist as history and culture are dynamic things. Of course, monarchy has been abolished but the culture and festivals are identity of the country and they will be there. If any culture cannot transform, it will lose its utility in the long run. Culture continued even after changes of several dynasties in the past and it will continue without Shah Dynasty also.

Who will perform religious and cultural roles, which till now the monarchs were performing?

President or prime minister will perform the role. In the last one year, prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala has been performing the role, which traditionally monarchs had been performing. There will be somebody who will perform the role as a head of the state. That will be his duty to fulfill the wishes of the people. If such ruler does not fulfill the cultural wishes of the people, country's identity will collapse. They should not neglect it.

After the abolition of monarchy, do you think the modern institutions will be able to keep intact Nepal as a unified nation?

Of course, it will be difficult to cope with new situation. If we want to live as an independent and unified nation, we don't have any alternative other than to live together as in the past. Like in our family, when our father or head of family dies, the new leader of family will lead it. Similarly, in the past, we were living under the protection of king and now we have to live under a new system.

Monarchy remained unifying factor for Nepal throughout its history. What will be the situation now?

Monarchy was necessary in 17th, 18th and 19th century to unify the nation because the country had not taken the shape. Now our country has taken a shape. One of the crucial things is that our state has already been built and strengthened. Nepal will be there in the geography as long as the world exists. Nepal will lose its identity only when the person likes Hitler is born again. The world's map has already taken a shape and Nepal is there as an independent and sovereign nation. Now, there is no historic necessity for monarchy as a unifying factor. Had it continued, it would definitely have provided some advantages for Nepal. Whether one

Monarchy remained the integral part of Kathmandu Valley which was originally known as Nepal. Before Prithivi Narayan Shah unified Nepal, Kathmandu valley was known as Nepal.

likes it or not, now the political leaders have to fill the vacuum of political necessities. Prime minister and president will have to fulfill the role as a unifying factor.

As a scholar of history, how do you see the possibility of revival of monarchy in Nepal as similar things had happened in many countries around the world?

We had seen restoration of monarchy in many parts of the world. Not only in the old history of England, even in recent history there are cases of revival of monarchy. Monarchy was restored in Spain and monarchy was revived in Cambodia and Laos. Interestingly, Cambodia is a communist country. It will depend on the person of ruling dynasty and its contribution. If political leaders fail and are unable to settle the political issues, the monarchy can revive.

In all the phases of history, the people in Kathmandu have obeyed the person in power denouncing their past. What kind of culture is that?

Our system is feudal and people were uneducated, thus, barbaric. Not only in Malla period, even in Shah period there were many instance of barbarism. Sher Bahadur Shahi assassinated his brother king Rana Bahadur Shah.

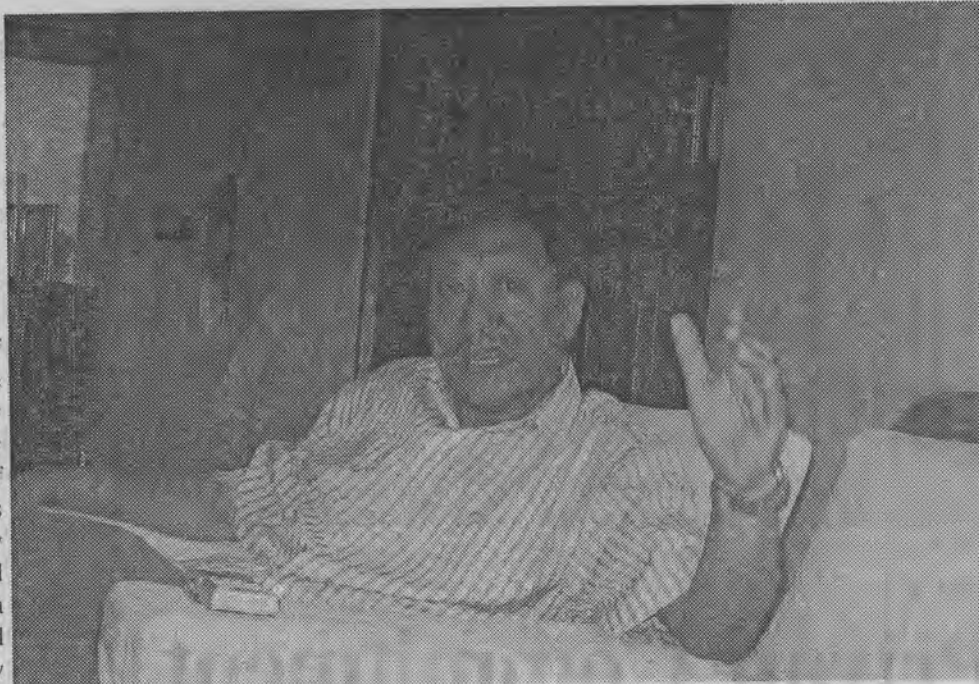
Don't you think the society of Kathmandu is power-oriented?

Nepali society is highly power-oriented society. Look at our culture, festival and religion, we always worship power. Whether it is Dashain festival, Durga puja or Ganesh Puja, we worship power. Once Girija Prasad Koirala is out of power, there will be no one behind him. He has a large number of follower now because he is in power. Prachandaji will also have to face similar situation. This is very power centric and self centric society. There is no morality among educated people. A friend can easily turn into a foe. Every one knows one needs power and money to be respected. Every one wants power to make money. We always see minus points once he or she is out of power.

Some people have been saying that abolition of monarchy ends feudalism?

It is very difficult to define feudalism. Monarchy is not just a part of feudalism. Feudalism is related to land. There are many feudal. I don't think feudalism will be uprooted just by the abolition of monarchy.

How do you see the rise of family dynasties in



South Asian politics? Don't you think it is the continuation of feudalism?

Not only in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, Nepal too has Koirala dynasty. Koirala family has political influence since 1950. King Tribhuvan appointed Matrika Prasad Koirala as a prime minister. B.P. Koirala was first elected prime minister and G.P. Koirala brother of B.P and Matrika Prasad Koirala was longest serving prime minister. In Koirala family, there is a person who wants to maintain legacy like in Nehru family in India, Bhutto family in Pakistan and two former prime ministers of Bangladesh. There is a legacy factor in South Asia. Since we live in a monarchical system there is a legacy and mentality to worship powerful families. Why did Prakash Man Singh emerge after the death of Ganeshman? There is a human weakness as one cannot generalize this. Why Rajiv Gandhi was brought into politics after the death of Indira Gandhi? And, again after his death, Sonia became a leader and now her son, too, is going to be a leader. This is human weakness.

Is there any case in Nepal where the monarchy was revived through foreign intervention?

There were incidents in the past. The Lichhivi king Narendra Dev was brought back by Chinese. In recent case, Rana Bahadur Shah came to Nepal with the backing of East India company. Similarly, Tribhuvan was brought back with support from India. After king Tribhuvan took asylum in Indian embassy, India started to involve in internal politics of Nepal. This is the weakness of our leaders. Those who want to do politics on his own are also termed as anti-Indians. Even B.P. Koirala was termed anti-Indian. ■

There is a legacy factor in South Asia. Since we live in a monarchical system there is a legacy and mentality to worship powerful families. Why did Prakash Man Singh emerge after the death of Ganeshman? There is a human weakness as one cannot generalize this.



FNCCI: Private Commitment

FNCCI

Private Commitment

The umbrella body of private sector comes up with its vision for economic development

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

At a time when politicians are only talking about new Nepal without explaining their plans on economic development to achieve the new Nepal, the private sector has come up with its vision.

Held two weeks after the establishment of republic, the special convention of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), passed a 20-year vision forwarded by the private sector.

The vision document has been forwarded amid claims by some parties to attain prosperity equal to the status of developed countries within two decades.

The FNCCI has adopted strategies to attain 20 percent GDP growth rate. During the special annual general meeting held in Pokhara, Saturday (June 14), its president Kush Kumar Joshi demanded leading role for the private sector for economic revolution.

The 20-year vision developed by the FNCCI states that 10,000 MW hydroelectricity can be generated within the next 15 years and another 10,000 MW in next five years. This is in line with the agenda

raised by the Maoists during the Constituent Assembly election campaign.

Similarly, the private sector has also vowed to provide employment to half a million people within the next five years and raise the per capita income to US\$ 1,500. The vision paper also expects to achieve 15 percent growth in the export sector and to increase private sector investments by 45 percent during that period.

The FNCCI proposed the concept of build-operate-own and transfer and public-private partnerships in construction of physical infrastructures for electricity, education, roads, health, and fast track projects among others.

The FNCCI has, however, called on the government and the political parties to pay heed to their repeated calls for according priority to economic agenda; ensure security and create business-friendly atmosphere.

They have urged the concerned parties and groups to cease organising bandhs and strikes and guarantee the safety of their properties and investment.

Among others, the federation has

also recommended expanding the tax net rather than tax rate. It has suggested dividing the existing VAT into three categories.

The FNCCI, as per the demands of its district chambers and local businessman, has also strongly demanded scrapping of Kabadi tax.

It has warned the authorities of strike if the Kabadi tax is not scrapped within two weeks.

Even as he unveiled grandiose vision and plans for economic development, FNCCI president Joshi reiterated that their immediate and most important concern is very basic – related to security of the businessmen.

“The businessmen have been threatened and displaced. In Terai areas like in Birgunj, they are compelled to change mobile numbers every so often due to fear of calls of extortion. No one can conduct business in such an environment of fear and terror,” said Joshi.

The federation has also called for flexible labor policies and safeguard of their rights in the new constitution.

Inaugurating the assembly, Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat had said that it is high time the political parties give more importance to development works by putting the economic agenda of the country on their priority list.

Dr. Mahat said expressed concern over the “atrocities and highhandedness” of the radical leftist groups in the country, saying that their “extreme activities” are pushing industries and businesses to the brink of a collapse. “There are parties that are keeping the businessman and industrialists in great illusion promising that they would develop capitalism in the country,” Minister Mahat claimed, referring to the Maoists regular meetings with the business community in the country.

He also cautioned the political parties that if they fail to turn around the country with rapid economic development even now then they will not be able to get away with it by laying all blames on the king like they have been doing in the past.

Around 450 FNCCI delegates from across the country took part in the special assembly that was held on June 13 and 14 in Pokhara. ■

The Statement By Ex-King Gyanendra

Dear Nepalese brothers and sisters,

This country which came into being 240 years back as a garden of four castes and thirty-six sub castes as imagined and established by our ancestor His Majesty, the Great King Prithvi Narayan Shah, is going through a period of very serious and sensitive upheaval. It is well known that the Nepalese Monarchy which has always been activated for people's prosperity and progress has always been working together and cooperating with the happiness and woes of Nepali people. Burning examples of that are unification, preservation of nationalism, democratisation and modernisation through the united effort of the king and national integrity as equivalent to the value of our lives. Our committed energised feelings towards these values and standards have remained constant from the past and are equally strong in the present and will remain so in the future.

I would like to inform everybody concerned that when seven years back because of an unnatural, unexpected and tragic incident while shouldering the responsibility of the Head of the State according to the national heritage and ages of old monarchical traditions, I had no other interests except considerations for the sovereignty, independence, national pride, territorial integrity, peace and the institutional development of democracy, and overall progress of all the citizens. In the then Hindu kingdom of Nepal, the birth place of Buddha the efforts started, with the best of intention trying to ensure the peace and prosperity in the country were not successful overtime, which I have already accepted earlier. The chain of events and ensuing results are obvious to everybody like an open book.

I would like to express, with God as my witness, certain things which I couldn't express earlier because of my official responsibilities but which was troubling my inner heart all the time, through you dear journalist friends to my Nepalese brothers and sisters and the international community. May be we should call it destiny that when I was innocent child, I had neither any wish nor desire nor any possibility of having a distinct role except the compulsion to have to quietly accept the crown. Likewise, for the second time when an unimaginable and horrifying event took place on the night of Jestha 19th, 2058, I could not express through word my internal pain when I was compelled and

tied up by the chains of tradition and duty without being even able to shed tears over the mortal remains of those respected and beloved family members and lighten the burden of pain at the gruesome destruction of my close relatives. Even at that time some people blamed and accused me and my family with great indiscretion and cruelty but we had no alternative but to tolerate that too, nor were there people who spoke on our behalf. Being prejudiced against me and my family members the efforts which were continuously started through different means by taking advantage of those circumstances and events, have been very painful to us and are still so. Other members of the Royal Family who were wounded but survived the incident in the Royal Palace are still alive. They are also witness to it. The bullet fragments which couldn't be taken out for technical reasons are still in the body of my wife who was also wounded and survived. The detailed facts had also come out from the medical doctors involved in their treatment. The high level Royal Investigation Commission had already made public the detailed report about the incident. When all the Nepalese people and the Royal Family were overwhelmed with grief, at that time, to level accusations and blame in this way seems to be a strategy to damage the goodwill of the Nepalese people towards the institution of Monarchy and to spread ill will, which was also not compatible with human suffering.

Likewise, I have also heard false rumours about allegations that I have property abroad. All my property is in Nepal. I have no movable or immovable property in foreign lands. The property which had been bequeathed to me from my ancestors, according to Nepalese laws is also not in my name and I have institutionalised it maintaining that property and have only conserved it. During the last seven years neither have I added any property nor have I taken any action by which the traditional property has been reduced. I have not also usurped the right to property of any member of the Royal Family. I believe that I would also have rights to maintain private property according to the prevalent laws of Nepal.

Respecting Constitutional Assembly elections and the decision taken by the constituent assembly meeting on Jestha 15th, I am cooperating in every way towards the

successful implementation of that decision. I have also not thought of leaving the country. I would like to live in my own Motherland and contribute in whatever way possible to greater good of the country and peace in this land. I believe that there will be support for this from all sectors.

I pledge to be completely dedicated to the independence and territorial integrity of the nation of Nepal which was formed and has remained independent and sovereign because of the blood, sweat and sacrifice of the great ancestors of us Nepalese, wherever and whatever circumstances I may be in. I love the independence of this nation. My feelings and sentiments are that of sanctity, indivisibility and original values of this independent nation should always be preserved. My heartfelt good wishes are for the overall welfare of the self-respecting common Nepalese people.

Today, on this date, I have handed over the Crown and Sceptre used by the Kings of Shah dynasty and which has remained as heirloom in this dynasty to the Government of Nepal for safekeeping and protection for ages to come.

Finally, on behalf of my family members and myself, I would like to express my sorrow, if anybody has been inadvertently hurt by actions of my own or of the members of my family while I was working as head of State for the welfare of Nepal and the Nepalese. I would like to express gratitude to all citizens, constitutional organs, judicial sector, security organisations, civil servants, teachers, professors, students, farmers, labourers, industrialists, businessmen, intellectual youths, religious organisations, journalists, civil society, personnel working in the Royal Palace service and all others from different walks of life and all the other associated Nepalese inside and outside Nepal who extended their cooperation to me. I would also like to thank the friendly neighbouring countries who have always wished well for Nepal, the international community and representative of diplomatic corps. I would also like to thank the members of the Committees for Security and management recently deputed by the government of Nepal. I would like to thank the government of Nepal for all the help and cooperation extended to me. I also hope that like now, I would keep on getting the same level of necessary cooperation from the Government of Nepal in the future too.

May Lord Pashupatinath bless us all. Jaya Nepal
Date: June 11, 2008



KING GYANENDRA

Graceful Exit

After addressing a big press conference, King Gyanendra leaves Narayanhity Royal Palace gracefully to live his life as a commoner

By KESHAB POUDEL

It was neither a moment of joy nor celebration for the overwhelming silent majority in Nepal, who are yet to find any rationale for abolition of monarchy. Likewise, it also did not turn out to be a moment of opposition among staunch republicans. When king Gyanendra left Royal Palace on Wednesday (June 11) gracefully, there was only a silent cry.

Even amid such a rude group of stage-managed demonstrators – a handful of whom chanted anti-King slogans as he was departing from the palace – a middle-aged woman showed guts to penetrate the police cordon at the western gate of Narayanhity Royal Palace and cried in support of monarchy. Many others joined her cries but silently.

As in a historic period described by Ludwig F. Stiller, S.J, a renowned Nepali historian in his book *Silent Cry* between 1916-39, all officials, politicians and army,

police and silent majority followed the path hoping for survival as an independent nation. In the private conversation each political leaders is expressing their regret for voting to abolish monarchy.

Though it was in a light vein, even the Maoist leader Prachanda has offered king Gyanendra to join his party.

King Gyanendra, too, seems sobered with patriotic posture as shown by his forefathers and left the palace as per the decision of the Constituent Assembly – though the decision itself is questionable.

In a jam-packed Kaski Baithak meeting hall in Narayanhity Royal Palace, King Gyanendra addressed a press conference ignoring the unruly behavior of the media personnel around him. At the last day of his stay in the palace, he seemed relax and calm as he shifted his burden to the new rulers.

“His last statement was emotional

coming from his heart and balanced mind. In a nutshell, he described the beginning and end of the monarchy of the modern Nepal, which was unified by his ancestor the great king Prithvi Narayan Shah,” said a political analyst.

“Although the decision of abolition of monarchy was taken by the meeting of CA, what was done was not the reflection of public opinion of the country. Technically it was endorsed by a big house of 601 members who were not allowed to express their opinion before joining the voice vote,” said the analyst.

This was the only task which the CA accomplished. In subsequent weeks, it has failed to perform its main task related to the formation of government and initiate the process of making a new constitution. Abiding by his previous commitment, king left the Royal Palace within the given time. Before leaving the palace he had decided to express his views and feelings.

Throughout his presence before the press, he was not deterred by unbecoming behaviors of some ill-motivated unruly journalists. “In fact, that kind of hostile audience tested his mettle and he proved himself much superior in his performance than any of the politicians in power,” said the analyst.

When he left the place, he must have felt relieved. Even arch enemy of monarchy and Maoist leader Prachanda and Baburam Bhattarai hailed his exit as graceful. “Gyanendra has helped us to implement the republican order,” said Prachanda.

“Former king Gyanendra Shah’s peaceful departure from Palace was a positive step towards peaceful political transition. Nepali people will forgive him for whatever mistakes he committed in the past if he chooses to cooperate with the changed situation and spend a normal life,” said Dr. Bhattarai.

Prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala and CPN-UML leaders also hailed king Gyanendra’s peaceful exit. “Gyanendra has cooperated us to peacefully transform Nepal from monarchy to republic,” said Koirala.



A Woman : Silent cry

"We appreciate his way of leaving the palace cooperating to implement the republic," said Jhalnath Khanal, CPN-UML general secretary.

Everybody had almost the same impression that the king was very much graceful, confident and dignified in his posture.

In his last speech, king Gyanendra said there was nobody to speak for him. In fact, this was not the appropriate opinion. There were overwhelming majority of people who were expressing their pain with each other.

Whenever there is a situation of terror either from the state or organized forces people are seen in a mood of silent cry. One is reminded of Ludwig F. Stiller, S.J; a renowned Nepali historian who in his book *Silent Cry* depicted the history of Nepal between 1916-39. "It remains to be seen whether we will have the courage to walk the last stage towards that unity in which the lot of a Nepali anywhere is a matter of grave personal concern to each of us. The cry of village Nepal is still echoing around us. The modalities have changed and the content has changed, but the cry is still there," writes Stiller.

"The silent cry from the vast majority of the people must have encouraged the king to open his mind regarding the role of monarchy from the beginning to end in his short speech," said the political analyst.

In the span of two major events which finally abolished monarchy, Girija Koirala led the country as a prime minister. "It is an irony that Girija Prasad Koirala was the prime minister at the time of Royal Palace massacre. And he is again the prime minister leading the CA which abolished the monarchy. And for no reason, he was presiding the flag hosting ceremony on the occasion of converting the Royal palace into one of the national museums," said the analyst.

From declaring Nepal to republic and converting the Nayanhity Royal Palace to museum, there is surprising promptness among the political leaders. "The leaders who have not been able to form the government as per the new mandate since last two months were so prompt to convert the Royal Palace into museum in less than a week after it was vacated by the king. These are the things brewing in the minds of the people at the moment of silent cry but the power has its own arrogant effect," said the analyst.

"All in all, he maintained the patriotic role of Shah dynasty. The whole speech was charged with high patriotic feelings highlighting the concerns for the integrity and independence of Nepal, which had been protected and preserved under the royal regime of Shah dynasty. His promise to stay in the county as a commoner reflects his patriotic feeling. He proved himself true to his legacy and, particularly, of his father king Mahendra. All is well that ends well. So far as his last performance at the press conference is concerned, he will ever be remembered for his composed views and graceful posture," said the analyst. ■

HeNN SCALES EVEREST

Having reached to great heights through its humanitarian and welfare activities, the Help Nepal Network (HeNN) literally climbed the highest peak of the world this season. A veteran mountaineer Mingma Sherpa climbed the Mount Everest this year and along he took the banner of HeNN to the peak.

"I was very happy to have taken with me a banner of Help Nepal Network (HeNN) atop the Everest. It gave me cause to celebrate," said Sherpa who has scaled Mt Everest for 13 times. He is also the first Nepalese to have climbed Mt K2, the second highest mountain in the world.



The HeNN has been raising funds from among Nepalese living and working overseas. "We started the campaign from Nepal and the United Kingdom urging people to donate one pound a month. In last few years, we have been able to build over a dozen schools, and health posts across the county. We are building a school-cum-hostel in Dhulikhel for conflict-hit children," said Rabindra Mishra, one of the founders of the network.

The HeNN has been motivating Nepalese living in different parts of the world to come together for a noble cause of helping their countrymen. "Nepalese living in different parts of the world are always concerned by the situation in their homeland. They want to do something but they do not have the proper forum to make their contributions. The HeNN was established to act as such vehicle," said Mishra.

Arun Singh Basnet, who looks after the HeNN office in Kathmandu, added that though the network started in 2000 from Nepal and the United Kingdom, it has now spread to 12 countries around the world. The details about the network are available in www.helpnepal.net. ■

MEMOIR

History of Communism

Veteran communist leader late Sambhu Ram Shrestha narrates the history of communist movement in Nepal

By A CORRESPONDENT

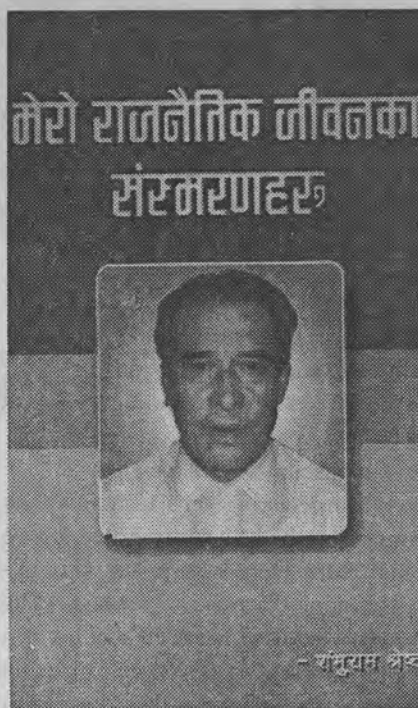
At a time when communist intellectuals and some communist leaders including the CPN-Maoist chairman Prachanda have been talking about the need to forge the communist unity, veteran communist leader late Sambhu Ram Shrestha's memoir gives some interesting insights on the history of communism in Nepal.

From the role of founder of Communist Party of Nepal, Pushpa Lal Shrestha to his wife Sahana Pradhan and CPN-UML leader Bharat Mohan Adhikary to president of Nepal Peasant and Worker's Party Narayan Man Bijukchhe, Shrestha reveals many interesting things about the communist movement and its leaders in Nepal.

Written during his last days of life, Shrestha's memoir is full of communist history and persons involved in it. From founding of communist party to present day, he traces the five decades long history of communist movement in Nepal.

When he joined the communist movement, there were hardly any communist followers in the valley. However, the overall position of communist changed following the change of 1990. When he died, the communists were in the position to form the government in Nepal.

An episode in the book narrating late Manmohan Adhikary's meeting with King Birendra and his reluctance about the meeting with King Birendra is very interesting. Although Manmohanji was directed to meet the king to protect the national interest, he agreed with king Birendra to work against Nepali Congress, the book narrates. According



**Mero Rajnaitik Jeeven
Sansmaranharu
Memories of My
Political Life**

**By:
Senior Communist
Leader Sambhuram
Shrestha**

**Published by:
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Sambhuram Shrestha
Kriti Publication**

Committee

**Price:
Rs. 200.00**

to Shrestha, Adhikary had a weak personality.

After meeting with king Birendra, Shrestha himself was very much impressed. Contradictory to public remarks, king Birendra was a very interactive person with capability to give impression to others, he found.

According to Shrestha, Indian prime minister late Indira Gandhi threatened to spilt terai to king Birendra in 1975 after his proposal to declare Nepal as a Zone of Peace. Late Indira Gandhi said that India can easily play terai card as more than 40 percent of population there are of Indian origin.

Late Shrestha had very bitter experience of working with leaders of Indian communist parties. According to late Shrestha, when they opposed Indian military intervention in East Pakistan, senior communist leaders of India criticized them for taking decision without consulting them.

Comrade Shrestha had also seen how widow of Pushpa Lal Shrestha, Sahana Pradhan completed her PhD in New Delhi University under a recommendation of former Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar.

Had Sambhuram Shrestha survived, he would have seen a country turning to a left majority. In the recently concluded election, communists secured more than 60 percent of total seats and are in a position to form the government.

Although comrade Sambhuram Shrestha's quest to bring the communist to majority had never materialized in his life time, a year after his death the communist forces in Nepal are in the dominant position.

Established five decades ago, Nepalese communists had gone through several stages. From staying in exile in India to bearing the division in the communist party, they were unable to show their strength in the popular politics for a long time.

Thanks to democratic leader Girija Prasad Koirala, the communists are now in the decisive position. ■

“We will not tolerate anti-China activities on our soil and we will take strong administrative measures to control these activities.”

Maoist chairman Prachanda, in an interview with China Daily.

“The ex-King has talked about his innocence. It is important to conduct the probe if only to establish his innocence.”

Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, a senior Maoist leader, saying that a new probe should be conducted to investigate 2001 palace killings, speaking at an interaction held by Reporters Club.

“We cannot hug them in the parliament when they are assaulting us in the streets.”

Jhalnath Khanal, general secretary of the Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), saying that the Maoist workers must improve their behavior to ensure politics of cooperation.

“There has not been any understanding to back Girija Prasad Koirala for the position of president.”

Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal, a senior Maoist leader, ruling out news reports of understanding.



“There are parties that are keeping the businessman and industrialists in great illusion promising that they would develop capitalism in the country.”

Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Finance Minister, speaking at the special assembly of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

“We strongly believe that in the name of democratization the army’s purity, sanctity and integrity should never be compromised.”

General Rookmangud Katawal, Chief of Army Staff,

Nepali Army (NA), addressing a function held in Paanchkhal of Kavre district to mark the golden jubilee of NA’s participation in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

“Over these six decades, more than two thousand and four men and women have died serving the cause of peace—including more than 60 from Nepal. Each one is a hero.”

Ban ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General, in a message he delivered on the occasion of golden jubilee of Nepal’s participation in peacekeeping.

TRANSITION

LEFT: Ex-King Gyanendra and ex-Queen Komal, the Narayanhity royal palace – the seat of Shah dynasty’s rulers for the last 120 years.

HOISTED: The national flag, by the Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, at the Narayanhity palace, to mark

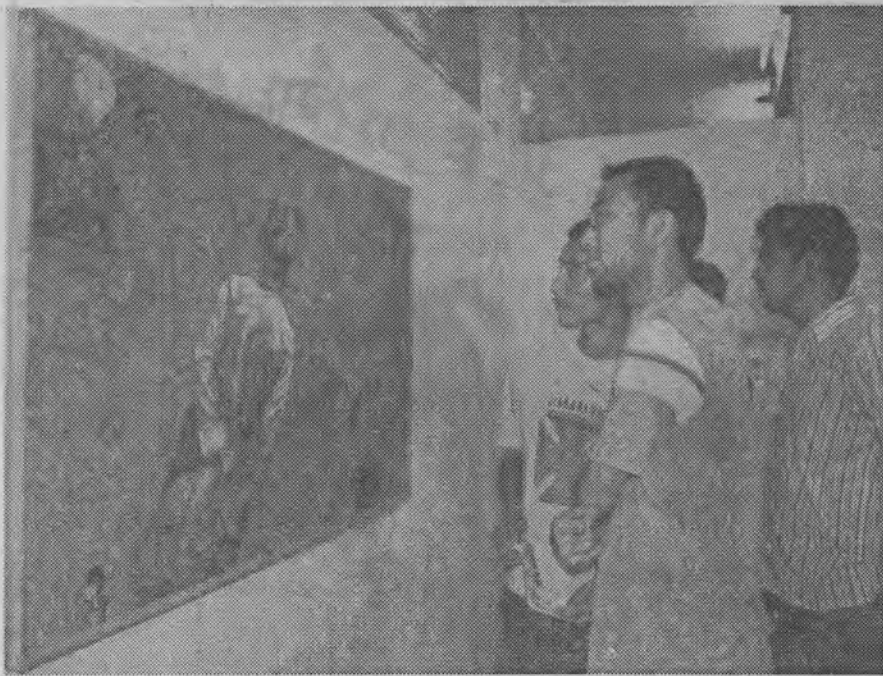
the establishment of republic.

MARKED: The golden jubilee of Nepal’s participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions across the world.

RESIGNED: The Maoist ministers submitted their resignation to party chairman Prachanda.

HANDED OVER: The Crown, the Scepter, and the Mace, by ex-King Gyanendra, to the government panel collecting the record of palace properties.

HELD: A special annual meeting of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), in Pokhara.



EXHIBITION

Four Artists And A Canvas

Artists from Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan have attempted to express their feelings about Kathmandu

By A CORRESPONDENT

From religious sites to festivals and diversity of people and complexity of politics, Nepal's capital Kathmandu has every thing to boast. Surrounded by big mountains, the valley also offers the panoramic view of the Himalayas to its north.

As the population grew, the city is gradually becoming overcrowded and the increased human activities have turned this city into a melting pot. With the higher degree of air pollution and stinking garbage, the centuries-old city is now losing its identity.

This is what South Asian artists have tried to project. A recent graduate of Indian University Badoda,

Indian artist Ranjan Kumar Ghosh came to Nepal five weeks ago to take part in a seminar. In his seminar, Ghosh painted very interesting art of Kathmandu.

Pasted in the wall of Nepal Art Council Gallery in Babarmahal, Ghosh's painting is an abstract one showing how politicians are politicizing the unmanaged urbanization of Kathmandu. He draws a picture of Hanuman (monkey god) who is trying to preserve the greenery of Kathmandu but airplane is overtaking him. Similarly, roots are fighting in the street of Kathmandu.

Unaware of all these activities, people of Kathmandu are walking freely without noticing anything

around them. "Urbanites are so busy that they cannot perceive what has been happening around them," said artist Ghosh.

Similarly, Sheher Navid, an artist from Pakistan, has different things to tell about Kathmandu. In her painting, she draws narrow lanes and alleys of Kathmandu. The map of the city shows how unorganized and unmanageable the city is.

"This map shows the complexities of human life and structures of the state," said Navid.

"This is a reflection of myth and contradiction," added Navid who uses colors of different kinds to express her feelings.

Another artist from Bangladesh Nagman Nahar seemed to be more interested in the political events taking place in Nepal in the last five weeks. From declaration of republic to election for CA and rise of red flag, Bangladeshi artist is captivated by the events.

"We have encountered major political upheavals during our five weeks stay in Nepal. They were very unique and historic for me. This is the reason my whole theme confined to that events," said Nahar.

"Look at an old man who is watching the change in the society and his political system. In my picture, I draw a picture of old man who is searching where the Republic is. He is yet to find it," said the artist. In her canvas, she also adds local cloth known as Dhaka.

Manju Syaula, Jayashanker and Sun Shrestha took part in the show from Nepal. Manju Syaula painted on a theme of religion and desires of human being. However, Jayashanker painted the world. ■

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