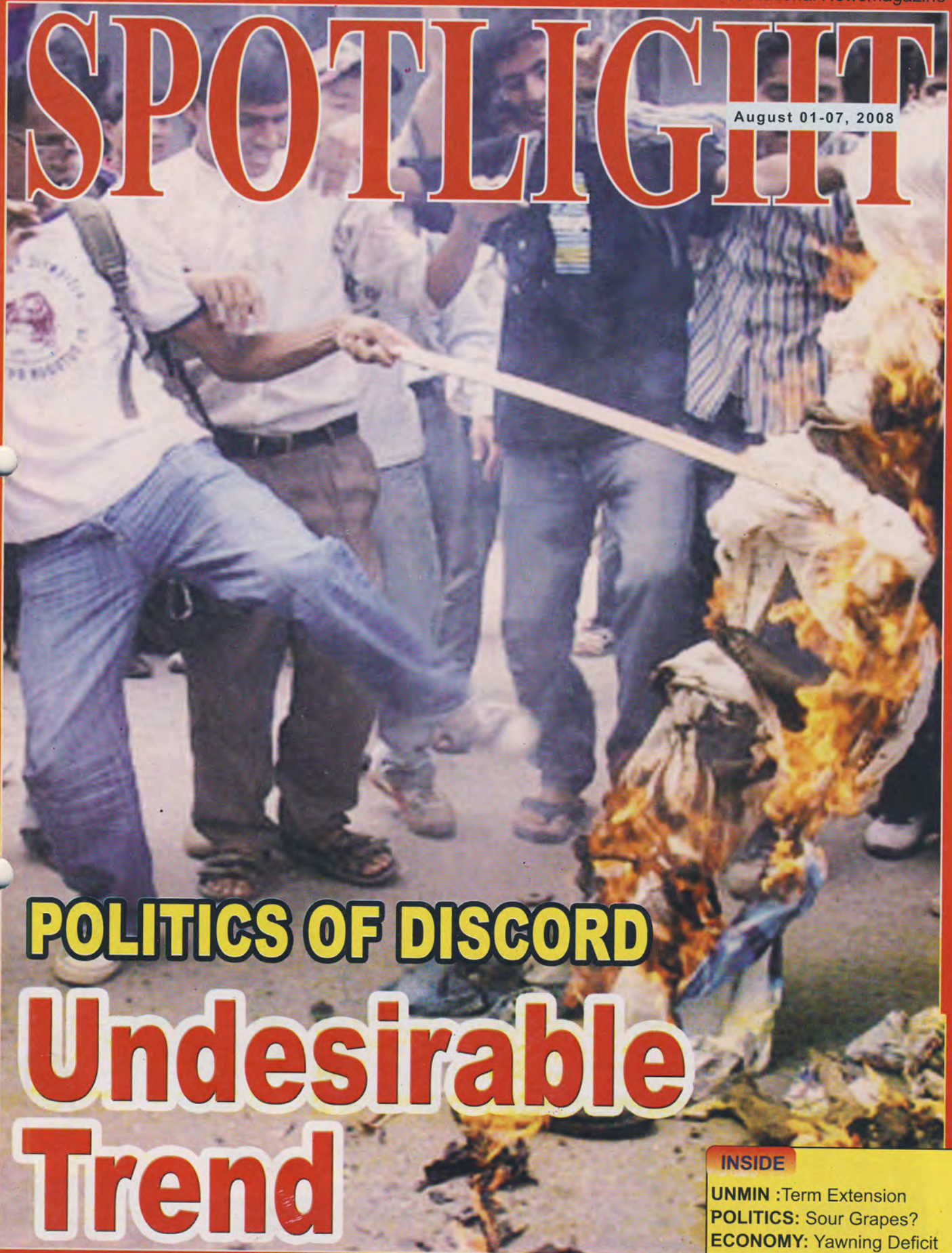


SPOTLIGHT

August 01-07, 2008



POLITICS OF DISCORD

Undesirable Trend

INSIDE

UNMIN :Term Extension
POLITICS: Sour Grapes?
ECONOMY: Yawning Deficit

C.D.O. Regd. No. 151/039-40
Postal Regd. No. 20/064-65
US \$ 1.00
US \$ 2.00
US \$ 2.00
Australia/New Zealand.....
Europe.....
USA/Canada.....
1.00
1.00
1.00
US \$
US \$
US \$
China/Korea.....
ME/Israel.....
Hong Kong/Taiwan.....
1.00
1.00
1.00
US \$
US \$
US \$
Other SAARC Nations.....
Asean Countries.....
Japan.....
30.00
25.00
25.00
Nepal.....NRS.
India.....IRS.
Bhutan.....NU.



Come together with San Miguel

I need to be able to communicate and relate to my audience in a manner that keeps them entertained. For this I find that sincerity and commitment makes for a smooth working relationship with my audience. The same standards apply for me when it comes to real friendships too.

For me, **San Miguel** is the drink that best represents my ideals of friendship and fun – its a drink as smooth as my friendships!

- Suraj Singh Thakuri
TV Personality/Director

Ad. Media SMIGLOB



San Miguel BEER

CONTENTS

	Page
LETTERS	3
NEWS NOTES	4
BRIEFS	6
● OPINION : Dr. A.B. Thapa	7
POLITICS Sour Grapes?	9
NEPAL-INDIA Sharing Of Ideas	11
VIEWPOINT : Tatsuo MIZUNO	18
● UNMIN : Term Extension	19
REVIEW: The Post American World	20
ARTICLE: Aashis Lamsal	21
QUOTE UNQUOTE/TRANSITION	23
ART	24

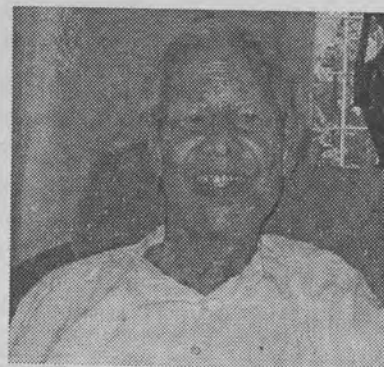


COVER STORY: Politics Of Discord As protests have been held, both in support and against, VP Jha's swearing in Hindi, the communal harmony has faced another threat Page 12



ECONOMY: Disturbing Deficit The latest report of the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) points out to soaring budget deficit in the face of rising government expenditure Page 10

INTERVIEW:
Rabindra Nath Sharma, spoke various issues regarding on going political situation Page 16



SPOTLIGHT

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 27, No 46, August 01, 2008
Shrawan 17, 2065

Chief Editor And Publisher
Madhav Kumar Rimal

Editor
Sarita Rimal

Managing Editor
Keshab Poudel

Senior Reporter
Sanjaya Dhakal

Cover Design & Layout :
Hari Krishna Bastakoti

Layout
Jyoti Dangol (Singh)

Photographer
Sandesh Manandhar

Legal Advisor
Advocate Lok Bhakta Rana

Marketing
Navin Kumar Maharjan
Madan Raj Poudel

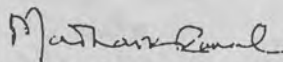
Editorial Office
GPO Box 7256, Maitidevi, Kathmandu
Tel (977-1) 4423127 Fax: (977-1)
4417845
Chief Editor's : 4435594,
E-mail : spot@mail.com.np
Internet : www.nepalnews.com/spotlight

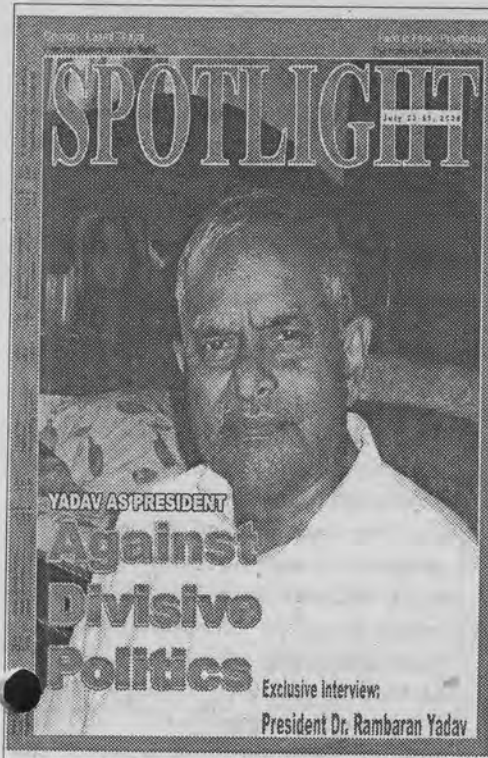
Distribution : R.B. News Paper Traders
New Road, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ph : 4232784, 2020247, 4244679
E-mail : rbnewspaper@hotmail.com

Printers : Pioneer Offset Printers (P.) Ltd.
Dillibazar, Kathmandu
Ph : 4415687, Fax: 977-1-4438650

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

“Prathamam Grase Makshika Paata” is a Sanskrit proverb which means “a flea in the very first morsel”. It signifies the ominous beginning of the Republic of Nepal. The very first official ceremony of the new Republic has been marred by serious public protests and agitations caused by the most uncalled for behavior of the Vice President Permanand Jha and dismal failure of the President Dr. Ram Baran Yadhav to exert his authority. The churlish behavior of VP Jha has, perhaps, justified the treatment meted out to the Madishes by the Ranas for over a hundred years. His taking the oath of office in a foreign language was rather incomplete even by his own stance. Had he donned a Gandhi cap and embellished his chest with a Sonia locket his stance would not only have been complete but would also have irrevocably established his loyalty and gratitude to his benefactors. In their absence VP Jha looked like a bat, neither a bird nor a beast. The learned President at least, should have been able to establish the clear distinction between the mother tongue, national language and a foreign language and refused to administer the oath as long VP Jha did not comply with the decorum of the high office and the nation's exalted institution. The high dignitaries must be aware that civil societies in the civilized nations are always governed by immortal traditions, rules and regulations and disciplined human behavior. That is what distinguishes a human from a beast who only knows the laws of the jungle. Such kind of recent happenings in the motherland have further strengthened our belief that this present political leadership is incapable of steering the troubled nation towards its cherished goal. The untried Maoists too have exposed their vulnerabilities by their unrestrained arrogance, utter extremism, unrealistic partisanship and sheer inability to abide by the agreements and understandings. Thus, they have proved that they also are not fit to lead the nation. Moreover, the conspicuous absence of their Supremo Pushpa Dahal, during the oath taking ceremony of the President recently has branded him dwarf in the national politics and disqualified him from leading the nation. In such an explosive situation when the country is facing the severe drought of politicians of integrity, the one and only savior seems to be the Nepali Army. It is indeed very heartening that the Nepali Army has still maintained its valorous and patriotic character. At a time when the water is about to flow over the head of the nation, the Nepali Army cannot stay silent spectator. But they have a very difficult role to play. While defending the sovereignty and solidarity of the country, they must also fully honor the “Laxman Rekha” and not cross it. The hard won freedom of the people in general cannot be endangered in any manner. Nepal is not bereft of honest and patriotic politicians. The difficult job for the Nepali Army is to find them. We can only wish them success in this noble mission. But they must not overlook the fact that time and tide wait for no man.


Madhav K. Rimal
Chief Editor & Publisher



Right Spirit

I really enjoyed reading the exclusive interview of president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav. In his interview, Dr. Yadav clearly said that whether one lives in Himal, Madhes or Pahad, we all are Nepalis (July 25-31, 2008). Taking his own stand against divisive politics, Dr. Yadav has shown his guts to speak in favor of unity of Nepal. We need to encourage leaders like Dr. Yadav in the country so that the growing gulf between various communities and regional factions can be filled. Nepali Congress has rightly taken a decision to push Dr. Yadav as the first president of Nepal. I hope Dr. Yadav will perform his duty as the first president of Nepal excellently.

*Nirmala Lama
Via Email*

Leader of Nepal

I don't know whether president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav will be able to hold his current stand or not. However, he has shown guts to speak the truth. At a time when everyone is trying to prove himself as a leader of certain community and region, Dr. Yadav, who has popular backing in terai, has revealed that he wants to be a leader of Nepal. Having started his political career as a medical attendant of Nepali Congress leader B.P. Koirala, Yadav has also learned political culture from him. Nepalese political leaders must learn the way shown by Yadav.

*Mahendra Raya
Via Email*

No To Division

You have rightly pointed out that the victory of Dr. Ram Baran Yadav as the first president of Nepal clearly indicated that there is no role for divisive politics (July 25-31). Everyone knows that Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-linguistic country and no community has absolute majority, so there is no option other than to live together. Despite

someone's efforts to create the trouble encouraging secessionist slogans, overwhelming majority of Nepali's are in favor of unified and strong Nepal. The country needs unity among all the political forces and ethnic groups to survive as an independent nation. I agree with you that victory of Dr. Ram Baran Yadav is a victory of Nepal's diversity.

*Karan Limbu
Via Email*

Filling The Gap

In recent years, there has been a growing divisive trend in Madhes as three terai-based regional parties have been demanding a single Madhes Pradesh. However, the election of two leaders from Madhes as president and vice president provide an opportunity for reconciliation between various ethnic groups. I agree with you that the election will be helpful to fill the gap created between Pahadis and Madhesi community as overwhelming number of Pahadi community chose two Madhesis to lead the country. There is need to have a statesman to fill the gap between Madhesis and Pahadis. I

hope that newly elected president will do so. By nominating Dr. Ram Baran Yadav as a president, Nepali Congress leadership have also shown maturity. I hope other political parties also follow the practice set by Nepali Congress.

*Subodha Rayamajhi
Via-email
One Sided Picture*

The story on private higher secondary school is biased and one sided ((Ten plus Two Education: Competing for Quality July 18-24). It is completely false that private schools are helping to upgrade the quality of education. Instead of contributing to make education for all, they are just trying to dilute the cause of education. In education sector, private higher secondary schools and colleges have been creating all kinds of bad precedents turning education into a business. News magazine like Spotlight should consider all sides before producing such stories.

*Anil Prajapati
Bhaktapur via-email*

Private Quality

At a time when all the government schools and colleges are politicized, the private higher secondary schools have become alternative institutions to impart quality education. However, nobody is speaking about such contributions of private sector. Instead, some extremists are trying to discredit private sector education institutions. It is an understandable fact that the political leaders want more students in government school as young students can easily be recruited as political activists. So far the students studying at private schools and colleges are concerned, political parties don't have any access there. As long as the government continues to run schools, it is impossible to improve the quality of education. Private sector investment is the only way out.

*Rohit Shah
Dubai, via email*



NC Divided Over Maoists

Contrasting views within the Nepali Congress came to the fore Friday (Jul 26) during a central committee meeting of the party convened here today, with one faction wanting to engage the Maoists and another arguing to isolate them to smoothen the constitution-making process. Central member Mahesh Acharya said the President should invite the CPN-Maoist, as the largest party, to take the lead to form a consensus government. He urged the party leaders not to be a part of the new government and lead efforts to revitalize the consensus politics. "The mandate of the CA is not for the NC to join the government and same is the feeling of most of the party cadres and intelligentsia," Acharya said, adding that a majority of the party leaders would finally agree with his argument. "We should not forget that the Maoists have just come to the mainstream politics and have won the largest number of seats in the CA," he said. However, another leader Govind Raj Joshi put forth contrasting views. "The NC should take the lead to forge a coalition of 24 parties by leaving the Maoists alone in the opposition. Then only will they feel the heat and agree for a consensus government," he said. He said there was no ground for the NC to collaborate with the Maoists as the latter had not met the seven-point condition set by the NC. Acharya, on the other hand, said it would not be wise for the NC to join the government and force the Maoists to sit in the opposition. "The

present political problem seeks historic role from the NC and the party should shoulder that responsibility by bringing all the major stakeholders under a broad coalition."

The CWC meeting congratulated the President and Vice President for assuming the high offices. Narahari Acharya, Binay Dhoj Chand, Uma Adhikari, Arjun Joshi and Bishma Raj Angdambe also spoke in the meeting. The CWC will meet again on Monday. *The Himalayan Times daily reports*

VP Jha Defends His Swearing In Hindi

Even as students across the country have protested vice president Parmananda Jha for taking oath in Hindi language, he has defended his action. Talking to BBC Nepali Service, Friday (Jul 25), VP Jha said that Hindi is also a mother-tongue of (some community) in Nepal. "As per the census, there are around 200,000 people whose mother-tongue is Hindi," VP Jha said. He also rejected accusations that using Hindi language would, in any way, undermine nationality and integrity. Although he himself is a native Maithili speaker, VP Jha said he chose to take oath in Hindi because it was a common language understood by Maithili, Bhojpur, Awadhi and other lingual groups of Madhes region. Responding to the filing of a writ petition against his swearing in Hindi at the Supreme Court, VP Jha — who is a former judge — said he would abide by the court decision. He, however, claimed that his taking of oath in Hindi language had not breached the interim constitution. *Compiled from reports*

Maoists To Take To Streets If Koirala Becomes PM Again

Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has warned that his party would launch nationwide agitation if Girija Prasad Koirala becomes prime minister, again. Speaking at a programme organised by Muslim Mukti Morcha in the capital, Saturday, Prachanda claimed 'foreign forces' were plotting to Koirala PM again. "Domestic and foreign forces are conspiring to make Koirala prime minister. If that happens, that will be against the people's mandate. We will bring people in the streets against such move," said Prachanda, without elaborating who he meant by such forces. He added that his party can easily topple what he called 'petty Kings' in reference to Koirala. Prachanda also ruled out any possibility of Maoists returning to jungle. "Petty Kings are making every effort to block Maoists from climbing to power. If this effort continues we will push the petty Kings into the jungle instead," he said.

Compiled from reports

Indian Group To Invest Heavily In Nepal

India-based Bhushan Group plans to operate three big industries in Nepal — two in Biratnagar in the eastern region and one in Surkhet in the mid-western region as soon as the political uncertainty ends in Nepal. The group is carrying out feasibility study regarding the establishment of the industries. Bhushan Group is already operating Arati Strips — a zinc industry — with an investment of Rs 5 billion at Tankisinwari in Morang district for the past six years. "Many Indian investors are in confusion because of the political instability in Nepal," Roshit Unnithan, general manager of Arati Strips said. "The group has already got approval for the establishment of a cement factory in Surkhet at a cost of Rs 1600 million," Unnithan said, adding, "Study regarding the establishment of two industries manufacturing plastic pipes and corrugated iron in Morang-Sunsari corridor is underway." "If the government could attract big investors, it would help in the development of the eastern region," Mahesh Kumar Jaju, chairman of Morang Trade Association said, adding, "Though

several Indian investors are interested in investing in Nepal they are awaiting political stability in Nepal." Meanwhile, the export of corrugated iron to India decreased by Rs 740 million in the fiscal year 2064-65 BS. Repeated bandhs and 10 per cent additional duty imposed by the Indian government are the reasons behind the decrease in the export of corrugated iron, Arati Strips said adding that the industry had exported corrugated iron worth Rs 6,540 million in the fiscal year 2063-64 BS. Arati Strips exports 87 per cent of its manufacture to India and rest of the product is consumed in the Nepali market. Arati Strips, Hulas Steel Industries and Rajesh Metals are some of the big industries manufacturing corrugated iron in Nepal. *The Himalayan Times daily reports*

120 Die In Valley Road

Accidents Last Year

120 people lost their lives in 2,211 road accidents that took place in Kathmandu valley during the last fiscal year (2007/08). According to Metropolitan Traffic Police Department, in Kathmandu district alone a total of 72 people that includes 52 men, 10 women and 10 children lost their lives during the period. Likewise, in Lalitpur district 32 persons died (23 men and 9 women) and in Bhaktapur 16 (11 men, 4 women and a girl). Among the 2,174 people who were injured in these accidents, 610 suffered serious injuries. According to the department's 2007/08 statistics, altogether 790 vehicles that includes buses, trucks, cars, jeep, tempos, two-wheelers were damaged in these accidents. During the fiscal year 2006/07 90 people had died in road accidents in the valley. *Compiled from reports*

SAARC TO Focus On Food Crisis, Fuel Price

The 15th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) set to begin next week in Colombo, Sri Lanka will take up the issues of food crisis, fuel price and common strategy to fight terrorism. Addressing a press meet in Colombo, last week, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said that the issues of spiraling rise of fuel price and food crisis

will receive the priority. He informed that the Summit will take a concrete decision on creating regional fund to manage the food crisis. He also said there was a possibility of member states signing a mutual legal assistance treaty to address the issue of regional terrorism. There are eight member states in SAARC including Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan. China, European Union, Japan, South Korea, Unites States and Mauritius will attend the summit as observers. The rebel Tamil Tigers have announced truce during the period of Summit. Meanwhile, due to delay in forming of new government, the list of Nepali participants has not been finalized yet. According to Hira Bahadur Thapa, spokesperson of Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister and Prime Minister will take part in the Summit. "If a new government is formed then (new PM) will take part. Otherwise, the current leadership will participate," he said. *Kantipur daily reports*

HRW Criticizes Nepal On Tibet Protests

New York-based human rights group has alleged that Nepal arbitrarily arrested hundreds of Tibetans protesting against China and restricted their right to demonstrate. Human Rights Watch called on Nepal's government to respect the right of Tibetans to peacefully protest and to end the arrest, harassment and mistreatment of those who do so. "The government of Nepal, under pressure from China, has arbitrarily arrested hundreds of Tibetans and restricted their right to demonstrate against the March 2008 crackdown in Tibet," the report said, referring to China's violent reaction to protests against its rule in Tibet. In a statement, Human Rights Watch's Asia director Brad Adams accused Nepal's government of "turning the screws on peaceful Tibetan protesters at the behest of China." Tibetan exiles have been protesting in Nepal's capital almost daily since March. *Compiled from reports*

MJF Should Be Allowed To Lead Next Govt: Gachhedar

Madheshi Janadhikar Forum (MJF)'s parliamentary party leader Bijaya Kumar



Gachhedar has said his party should be allowed to lead the next government if Maoists opt to stay away from it. "While signing the 4-point agreement for the presidential post, the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML had verbally agreed to give MJF the leadership of the next government," Gachhedar said, and at the same time warned of serious consequences if the agreement was violated. The senior MJF leader, who deserted NC in the run up to the Constituent Assembly election to champion regional politics, re-asserted that only Maoists and MJF have got the "people's mandate" to lead the next government.

Gachhedar, who was speaking at a program organized by Reporters Club in the capital when reports were saying that the Maoists had decided they would now stay away from the process of forming new government, however acknowledged that Maoists should be the first choice to lead the next government. He, however, said that if the Maoists still decide not to form the next government, which he said would be a wrong decision, then MJF should be given the responsibility of leading it. He was of the opinion that NC and UML have suffered a "moral defeat" during the CA election and thus have lost their claim to lead the next government. "There have been many betrayals in the past, and I hope it won't be repeated. Only after the agreement is duly respected things would be as per the wishes of the people and the country," he said. When asked who would become the prime minister if MJF ends up leading the government, Gachhedar said, "We haven't decided about the person yet but if NC and UML abides by their agreement then we would immediately select an able candidate for the post of prime minister." *Compiled from reports* ■



The newly elected chairman of Constituent Assembly takes oath of office from the president

PRESIDENT DR. RAM BARAN YADAV OBSERVED the traditional 'Bhoto Jatra' of Rato Machhindranath, the deity of rain, at Jawalakhel in Lalitpur Saturday (Jul 26) evening. The President arrived at the function at around 5pm and stayed there for around half an hour. Nepal Army gave him guard of honor as he arrived at the venue. This was his maiden official public appearance since he assumed office as the first president of republican Nepal. Thousands of ordinary people had thronged to Jawalkhel to witness the Bhoto Jatra. Vice President Parmananda Jha, who courted controversy by taking oath of office in Hindi language, appeared at the chariot function in official dress, Daura-Suruwal. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Chief Justice Kedar Prasad Giri, ministers and senior government officials were also present on the occasion. Prime Minister Koirala had observed last year's Bhoto Jatra which in previous years would be observed by the King. The Bhoto Jatra marks the end of the chariot procession of the rain God, which continues for several weeks around different parts of Kathmandu and Lalitpur.

ATA TIME WHEN VICE PRESIDENT Paramananda Jha's use of Hindi while taking the oath of office has sparked outrage and nationwide protests, a civil writ has been filed at the Supreme Court (SC) on Friday (Jul 25) demanding nullification of the oath taken by the Vice President. Advocate Bal Krishna Neupane filed the writ claiming that Vice President Jha's use of Hindi went against the legal provision in the interim constitution. The writ demands that the oath be scrapped and the Vice President take the oath again in Nepali. Vice President Jha had taken the oath of office and secrecy before President Dr Ram Baran Yadav amidst a ceremony at the Presidential residence in Sital Niwas on Wednesday. Clad in Nepali attire President Dr Yadav had taken the oath in the Nepali language while the Vice President, who was dressed in what seemed like an Indian lawmaker's outfit, translated the oath which was written in Nepali and said it in Hindi. The incident has sparked protests across the country.

THE FINANCE MINISTRY ON FRIDAY (Jul 25) released Rs 36 million to pay one month's (July 16-August 16) daily wage

to the Maoist combatants living in cantonments. "The ministry has released funds for the daily wages of the combatants," said an official at the Office of the Central Coordination Committee for Cantonment Management. The government has been providing Rs 60 per person per day to over 19,000 Maoist combatants verified by the United Nations Mission in Nepal.

FORMER SPEAKER AND CPN (UML) LEADER Subas Nemwang has been elected unopposed as the chairman of the Constituent Assembly (CA). Acting CA chairman K.B Gurung announced in Thursday's (Jul 24) session that Nemwang had been elected to the post unopposed. The meeting also passed an amendment proposal on the CA procedures. Nemwang was the sole candidate for the post.

Fourteen political parties including Nepali Congress (NC) and Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) had supported Nemwang for the post. UML, NC and MJF had reached an agreement last week according to which UML CA members voted NC and MJF candidates for the President and Vice President respectively while getting support for its candidate for the CA chair. Nemwang was the Speaker of the interim legislature parliament. He had been elected to the CA from Ilam-2. Meanwhile the newly elected CA chairman has urged all the political parties to work together so that the country would get a new constitution within the stipulated time. Speaking to journalists after the acting chairman Kul Bahadur Gurung announced his election to the post, Nemwang said the political impasse over the last three months has delayed the constitution making process. Stressing the need for cooperation among the political parties in the House, Nemwang also expressed hope that a new government would be in place very soon.

THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav received congratulatory notes from far and near. British Queen Elizabeth has sent a message of congratulations to president Dr. Yadav. "My government and I look forward to continuing cooperation and excellent relations between our two countries. I wish you success in helping Nepal as it takes forward the important reform process. I send you and the people of Nepal my best wishes for the future," the message reads. Likewise, the President of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil has also sent a letter congratulating President Dr. Yadav on his election. "Your election as President represents a new chapter in Nepal's historic democratic transition. I am confident that Nepal would progress further on the path of peace, democracy and development," her message reads. "As a close friend and neighbor, India remains steadfast in its commitment to support Nepal in this critical transition. We attach the highest priority to further developing our close and multi-faceted relationship with Nepal. I look forward to working with you towards further strengthening the understanding and cooperation between our two countries," it further reads. The governments of China, United States, Pakistan, among others, have also sent similar congratulatory messages. ■

NEPAL IN HORIFYING IGNORANCE ABOUT WATER EXPORT BENEFITS

▪ Dr. A.B. Thapa

Nepal is pressed hard by foreign hydropower developers and also by our policy makers to speed up the plans to implement major multipurpose storage dam projects, taking into consideration only the power benefit, and completely ignoring the benefits to accrue to our country from the export of water. Our country is in horrifying ignorance about too big a share of the water export in total benefit to accrue to our country from large storage dam projects.

Canada has built in its territory storage dams across the Columbia river to generate electricity. It receives

from the USA 50% of the total

net benefit accruing to the USA from the use of the regulated water flowing across the border into the USA after being used for electricity generation by hydropower stations built inside Canada. Similarly, even the

South Africa encircled very weak country, like Lesotho, gets 56% of the net benefits from the South Africa for the use of regulated flow reaching South Africa after hydroelectricity generation in Lesotho.

India Willing to Pay

The net benefit to accrue to our country from the export of water could even exceed the net benefit as royalty from hydropower generation. Recently the information provided in the Indian news media clearly suggests that the Government of India is now engaged in developing a policy to obtain the consent of Nepal and Bhutan through a revenue sharing agreements in respect of the regulated waters discharged from the storage reservoirs built inside our countries. Unfortunately, our country is not paying at-

tention to this highly important development that would help to maximize the benefits accruing to our country from the large storage dam projects to be implemented inside our country.

Landlocked Lesotho

Lesotho, formerly Basutoland, is bordered on all sides by South Africa. Lesotho is one of only three nations in the world to be completely encircled by a single country (the others are San Marino and Vatican City). Its dependence on South Africa for access to the outside extends to economic reliance as well, and has deeply affected the develop-

ment of the country since independence in 1966. The kingdom of Lesotho is mainly mountainous and has a total area of 30,355 sq km. The capital is Maseru, which is the largest city Lesotho was able to reach an agreement to recover a fair share of downstream benefit (water export) despite its

complete dependence on South Africa.

South Africa's Demand for Water

The South Africa requires water to supplement the existing supply in the Vaal Basin catchments area, the principal source of water for the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereening (PWV) area, the country's commercial and industrial heartland which includes the Greater Johannesburg and Pretoria conurbations. By the year 2000, the PWV was expected to accommodate 42% of South Africa's population and to generate 56% of all industrial and 79% of all mining output. It was expected that the population of the Vaal River supply area downstream of the Vaal Dam will increase at a rate of 2.4% per year from 5.75 million in 1980 to almost 12 million by the year 2010. This represents an

The net benefit to accrue to our country from the export of water could even exceed the net benefit as royalty from hydropower generation. Recently the information provided in the Indian news media clearly suggests that the Government of India is now engaged in developing a policy to obtain the consent of Nepal and Bhutan through a revenue sharing agreements in respect of the regulated waters discharged from the storage reservoirs built inside our countries.

increase of 106%. The corresponding domestic and industrial water demand was expected to increase from 979 million cum to 3803 million cum per year, an average annual growth rate of 4.6%.

Lesotho Highlands Project

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project is one of the largest and the most intricate construction projects currently underway in the world. This project has been conceived to export water to South Africa and also to generate electricity. The first phase of this ambitious long-term master plan was scheduled for completion in 1996. It is planned to deliver 18 cum./s of water to South Africa as

well as generate 72 MW of hydroelectricity for Lesotho during the first phase. The cost of the first phase project was US \$2.518 billion based on 1991 estimate. The entire cost of the project (excluding the hydropower addition that constitutes a small component of the total project cost) was to be borne by South Africa.

The Treaty

Realization of the scheme is made possible under a Treaty signed by the Republic of South Africa and Lesotho in 1986. Under the terms of the Treaty, South Africa agrees to pay a royalty for all water delivered from Lesotho for the duration of the Treaty.

Royalties for the first 50 years are based on historical feasibility studies carried out by South Africa to ensure a reliable water supply for the PVW area. One of the earliest schemes investigated was based solely in South Africa and proposed diverting water from the Orange River and using a combination of gravity and pumping facilities to convey it over about 500 km of canals and tunnels to the Vaal Dam.

With the Vaal Dam at a higher elevation than the intake, such a scheme would have been expensive both in terms of electricity for consumption for continued pumping requirements and for the ongoing costs of operation and maintenance. Investigation of an alternative scheme proved significantly more cost effective. Under that scheme water would be diverted from the

upper reaches of the Orange in Lesotho where it rises as the Senqu River and be gravity fed to the Vaal Dam. It is on this scheme that the current Lesotho Highlands Project is based.

South Africa agrees to pay for the capital cost of structures required for water transfer. As such, South Africa agrees to pay to Lesotho as a lump sum each year \$25 million (in 1991 prices) for the first 50 years of the Treaty, subject to various adjustments for inflation and other financial considerations. At that time, the capital cost of building the scheme would have been realized in full and royalties will be renegotiated for the

Royalties for the first 50 years are based on historical feasibility studies carried out by South Africa to ensure a reliable water supply for the PVW area. One of the earliest schemes investigated was based solely in South Africa and proposed diverting water from the Orange River and using a combination of gravity and pumping facilities to convey it over about 500 km of canals and tunnels to the Vaal Dam.

remaining period of the Treaty.

Lesson to Nepal

Nepal must hold negotiations to reach an agreement with India to get a fair share of downstream benefit prior to taking the final decision to implement our storage projects. Else our country would be deprived of such downstream benefit for ever. We all would be failing to protect our legitimate national interest whereas even the most backward landlocked country in Africa like the Lesotho is able to recover 56 percent of such net downstream benefit to accrue to the South African Republic from the use of the regulated flow of rivers after hydroelectricity generation in Lesotho. Lesotho lagging far behind our country in human development index and completely thrown at the mercy of the powerful South Africa has recently demonstrated that it too has a good sense to take full advantage of the opportunity to exploit its water resources to accrue multifold benefits. ■



Prachanda : Grapes are sour

POLITICS

Sour Grapes?

As a new government still looks elusive Maoists look for the villain of the piece

By SUSHIL SHARMA

He had drafted a statement to be delivered at the Colombo SAARC summit. But what he did not deliver was his passport size photographs (for the summit pass) to the Sri Lankan embassy in Kathmandu.

The Maoist supremo Prachanda told the Sri Lankan envoy "it is not clear if a Maoist government would be formed."

He has been proved right. There was no sign of a Maoist government four days from the August 2-3 summit.

Prachanda says, he knew in advance "the game" to deny him a rare opportunity to rub shoulders with the South Asian leaders.

"It is true that a big game and a conspiracy are on to stop a Maoist-led government from attending the summit because," he told the state-owned *Gorkhapatra* daily in an extensive interview, "the Maoists would have given a new pro-people message to South Asia and the whole world."

As the summit approached, the caretaker prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala made it sure that the 'prime minister-in-waiting' would not represent Nepal in the two-yearly regional forum. And that he himself would go to Colombo to rub shoulders with, among others, the prime minister Man Mohan Singh

Prachanda has decried Koirala over his decision to go to Colombo.

But he has put the blame elsewhere. The delay in the government formation hence the denial to him a chance to participate in the SAARC summit, according to the Maoist chief, has more to do with "the machinations of foreign hand" than the role of Koirala.

"I don't think that the issue of the Maoists going to power has lingered because of the Nepali Congress alone. Nor because of the UML alone."

Prachanda further went on to add that the move to make Girija Prasad Koirala or Madhav Kumar Nepal president does also not seem to be the idea of the Nepali Congress and the UML.

He stopped short of naming what he saw as the villain of the piece; "I don't want to say either that it is because of India alone."

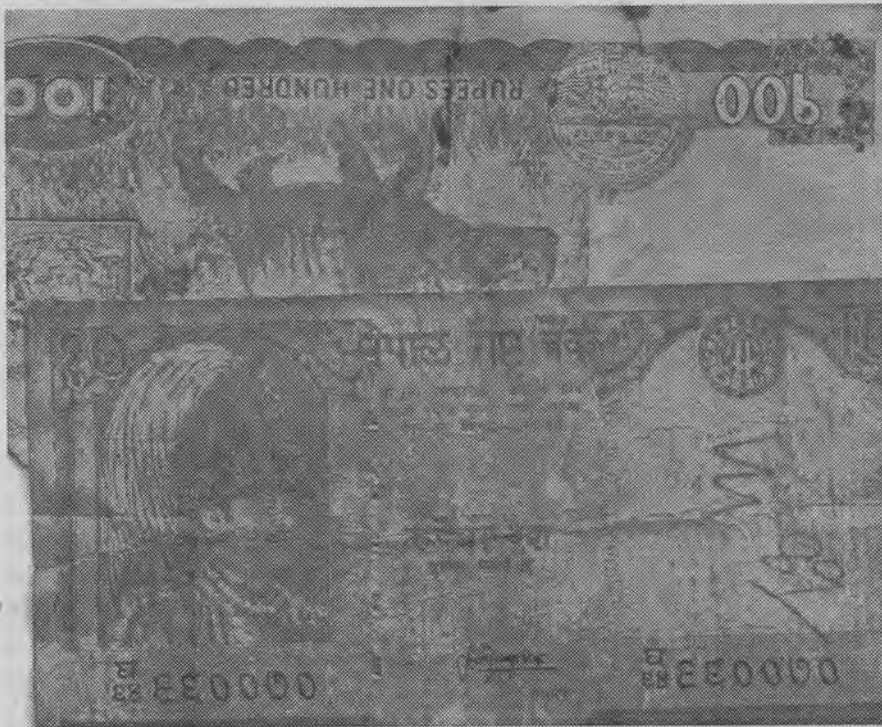
But the former rebel signatory of the 12-point agreement with seven mainline parties including the NC and the UML, in Delhi, "the Indians suspect that the Nepalese Maoists would go their own way."

Prachanda's outbursts follow the new "unholy" alliance of the NC, UML and the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum to deny the Maoists the presidency, and, possibly, the prime minister ship.

He sees Indian hand behind the alliance. But, said an analyst, "the Maoist chief was conspicuously silent when ambassador Rakesh Sood courted controversy – and criticism – over his recent open support to a national unity government led by the Maoists."

Prachanda did not see the "Indian maneuvering" when Sitaram Yechuri, DP Tripathi and the company called for a Maoist-led government. The Nepali Congress saw the Indian leaders' statement as "interference" in Nepal's affairs, but the Maoists did not.

An observer wondered, "if the Maoist chief's flip-flop is a case of 'grapes are sour'" ■



NRB: Distressing Deficit

ECONOMIC REPORT

Rising Budget Deficit

The spiraling rise in government expenditure cause budget deficit to rise

By SANJAYA DHAKAL

The latest report by the central bank has shown that apart from the pressures from the rising cost of food and fuel, the transitional economy is also likely to bear the heat of budget deficit.

The government budget deficit amounted to Rs 9.30 billion in the first eleven months of 2007/08, according to the report by Nepal Rastra Bank. The deficit was Rs 6.93 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year. "The higher growth of government expenditure relative to resource mobilization accounted for such a budget deficit in the review period," the report adds.

But the huge budget deficit is not caused by any substantial investment

on productive sector. Economist and board member of NRB Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal said that this is caused by the high government expenditure.

In the first eleven months of 2007/08, revenue mobilization of the government soared by 25.5 percent amounting to Rs 90.17 billion compared to an increase of 20.8 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. "Such an impressive growth of revenue was on account of substantial increase in the import of merchandise goods and the resulting increase in customs duties, VAT revenue and excise duties, increase in income tax and increase in non tax revenue."

But Dr. Pyakuryal said that the handsome revenue growth has been eclipsed by soaring expenditure. "In this

period, the government generated revenue of Rs 90 billion but it spent Rs 117 billion. This is serious," he said.

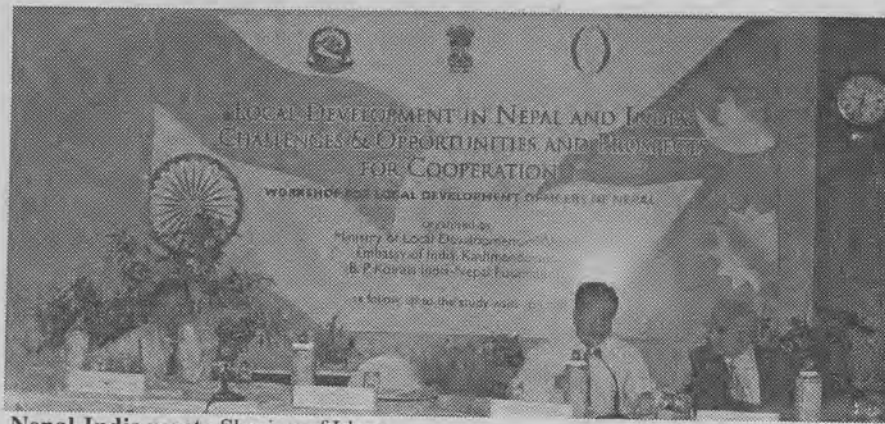
Another reason for the soaring deficit is the yawning trade gap with India. Nepal conducts two-third of its entire foreign trade with India. And during this period, Nepal's trade deficit increased by 40 percent compared with corresponding period of previous year to reach staggering Rs 76 billion.

The government officials, however, say that the situation is not so disturbing. Rameshwore Khanal, Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, said that the macro economic indicators are satisfactory. "The budget deficit calculated by the NRB doesn't include the resources we generated from domestic loan as well as foreign grants/loans. When they are taken into consideration, we actually have cash surplus of over Rs 6 billion," he said.

Dr. Pyakuryal, on the other hand, is worried that due to the budget deficit, the government will not be able to invest in social sectors like health, education, sanitation, drinking water and so on.

The NRB report states that in mid-June 2008, the gross foreign exchange reserves stood at Rs. 206.47 billion, a growth of 25.0 percent from the level of Rs 165.13 billion in mid-July 2007. Such reserves had fallen by 1.6 percent in the corresponding period of the preceding year. In US dollar terms, gross foreign exchange reserves went up by 18.5 percent to US\$ 3.02 billion in mid-June, 2008. Such reserves had risen by 11.5 percent in the same period of the previous year. Based on the import figures for the first eleven months of 2007/08, the current level of reserves is adequate for financing merchandise imports of 11.1 months and merchandise and service imports of 9.0 months.

"The y-o-y consumer inflation rose to 11.0 percent in mid-June 2008 from 4.5 percent a year ago. The inflation was driven by the significant rise in the price of food and beverage group (13.0 percent) as well as non-food and service group (9.0 percent) in the review period. The price rise of food and beverages and non-food and service group was 5.8 percent and 3.1 percent respectively a year ago."



Nepal-India meet : Sharing of Ideas

NEPAL-INDIA

Sharing Of Ideas

Nepalese local development officers share opportunities and challenges of local development based on Indian experience

By A CORRESPONDENT

At a time when Nepal is in the process of restructuring of state through writing a new constitution for federal republic, Nepalese officials require more exposure on how various bodies including the local governance fit in federal system.

Although Nepal can benefit from the experiences of many other countries around the world, India's experiences of devolution of power may be more appropriate to look at as Nepal and India have many things in common including local environment and local culture.

Nepal has long experiences of functioning the local government in unitary system of government and Nepal's officials now need to know the status of local government in federal structure.

In early days, India supported Nepal to build institution of local governance through Tribhuwan Gram Viakas back in 1951 but it later shifted to other sectors. After the political change of 2006, India again has shown interest in local government.

To show Nepalese officials how India is experimenting local governance, all the 75 local development offices of Nepal recently completed their study tour in India.

After completing the visit to various

Indian states and looking at the structure and function of local bodies in India, Nepalese officers had chances to see how local governance functions in three tier of government.

In the study tour that started in December 2007 and completed in May 2008, all local development officers of 75 districts visited – in separate trips – various Indian states for exchange of experiences and ideas on development administration.

Last week a program was organized in Kathmandu with the aim of encapsulating the experiences of these study visits.

Organized by Embassy of India in association with the Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal and B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation held the program at Gokarna on July 26.

The one day workshop for local development officers discussed various issues regarding making the local development administration more effective and shared their first hand knowledge about local bodies.

"Such visits constitute an important component of India-Nepal Economic Cooperation Program and also appreciate the role of the LDOs in implementing various projects under the program which at present has more than 280 large and small projects running in all 75

districts of Nepal with a total outlay of Rs 22 billion," said Rakesh Sood, Indian ambassador to Nepal.

"We have been launching this program under India Nepal Economic Cooperation" said Pranay Burma, Economic cooperation Counsellor of Indian Embassy. "Under this program, more such visits will take place in future." Gopal Bagley, member secretary of B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation, highlighted the objectives of the program.

The program was inaugurated by Secretary at the Office of Prime minister and Council of Ministers, Deependra Bikram Thapa.

"There is a need for continued interactions among development administrators of India and Nepal. Local administration includes district administration and local bodies in both countries. Local bodies enjoy more autonomy and power in Nepal in comparison to India. District magistrate or collector in India looks after local development, revenue administration and law and order. However, in the case of Nepal local development is mainly the job of LDOs," writes Hem Sharma Pokharel, under secretary, Ministry of Local Development, in his paper.

"Community mobilization in India is in primary stage in some states whereas it has jumped minimum level in other states. Nepal has long history with effective community mobilization experienced in local development."

"Although Nepal has a long history of decentralization to local bodies compared to India, Nepal has still a lot of things to learn from them. Like Nepalese society, decentralization has been bringing change in culturally diverse society in India," writes Mahesh Dahal, joint secretary at Ministry of Local Development. "The challenge for local government in federal structure is the devolution of power among center, state and local bodies."

"In rural India, the reforms have created a three-tiered structure, village councils (gram panchayat) at the base, block councils (Panchayat samitis) and Zilla Parishad at the top. There is a similar structure for urban India composed of municipal corporations and municipal councils (Nagarpalikas)," writes Narayan Bahadur Thapa, under secretary at Ministry of Local Development. ■

VICE PRESIDENT ON CONTROVERSY

Undesirable Trends

Even though the agitators withdrew their violent protests, the damage has already been done. A week after a positive sign emanated from the election of president and vice president – both from Madhes region – the scepter of politics of discord has hovered above Nepali political horizon once again. In the name of protesting against VP Jha's oath taking in Hindi, divisive politics was practiced. Parties have decided to withdraw the agitation fearing communal discord – but only after damage was done. The action of VP Permananda Jha and reactions, both represent undesirable trends.

By KESHAB POUDEL

After the five days (from 24 July) of unrest in the streets of Kathmandu, calm have started to be restored. During this period, the streets had turned into a battle field as eight student unions affiliated to eight political parties organized protest demonstrations

demanding apology from vice president Parmananda Jha for taking oath in Hindi language.

From burning effigies and to organizing demonstrations, the agitating student unions – who till now had backed all the unconstitutional and anti-

national acts of the present government - have taken to streets against the vice president.

Although it seems very spontaneous and natural, the student agitation showed that is well planned and very calculated. Initiated by All Nepal Free



Students protesting VP Jha: Misplaced Anger

Student Union (Revolutionary), a student organization affiliated to Maoists, the so called anti vice president and anti-Hindi demonstration received backing from other two powerful student unions Nepal Student Union and All Nepal Free Student Union, two organizations affiliated to Nepali Congress and CPN-UML respectively.

Interestingly, the eight student unions – which include seven student unions affiliated to various factions of communist parties and one affiliated to Nepali Congress, was revived on Friday to broaden the agitation. However, vice president Jha was a common candidate of Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and Madhesi Janadhikar Forum.

As the pressure from student unions and political parties mounted against vice president Jha, the leaders from Madhesi political parties have come to

rescue vice president on the issue of Hindi language.

As the anti-Jha agitation reached into climax on July 27 in Kathmandu valley, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum affiliated student front retaliated with CPN-UML and CPN-Maoist student front in Rajbiraj. This attack came just a day after the reaction of MJF leader Upendra Mahato.

“Hindi is a lingua franca of Madhes. It is common language of Madhes. Don’t politicize the matter,” challenged Upendra Yadav, president of MJF at a meeting of Constituent Assembly on 27 July.

On the other hand, the student unions affiliated to MJF blocked the road in Lahan demanding withdrawal of the petition filed in the Supreme Court against vice president’s oath taking in Hindi language.

Meanwhile, Supreme Court on Monday issued a show cause notice regarding the oath taking. The bench comprising Damodar Prasad Sharma issued a notice to the vice president and the prime minister to furnish written reply within a week. The court has also accorded top priority to this case.

The Constituent Assembly meeting on the same day, unanimously, passed a proposal of public importance calling for restraint among all. The proposal registered by Maoist leader CP Gajurel also called on the government to maintain law and order.

Sudden Turn

With the election of president and vice president from Madhesi community, Nepal had begun a new chapter of reconciliation between Madhes and Pahad. The election had also gradually started to fill the gulf between these two communities.

However, in a dramatic and stage managed way, this hope for reconciliation between the two communities was shattered and divisive politics shot to prominence. "If political parties dominated by Pahadis continue to raise the issue of Hindi, we will be compelled to launch anti-Nepali language agitation in Madhes," warned Hridayesh Tripathy, leader of Terai Madhesh Loktantrik Party. "Hindi is our common language and it is going to be an official language of the single Madhes Pradesh."

Going one step ahead, Maoist leader Dev Gurung – whose party came to power under 12 point agreement signed in Indian capital New Delhi, accused foreign backing behind vice president Jha. "Our three-months-long exercise for forging alliance with CPN-UML was scuttled overnight by Indian rulers," said Gurung in Biratnagar on July 27. "The same foreign power has backed the vice president."

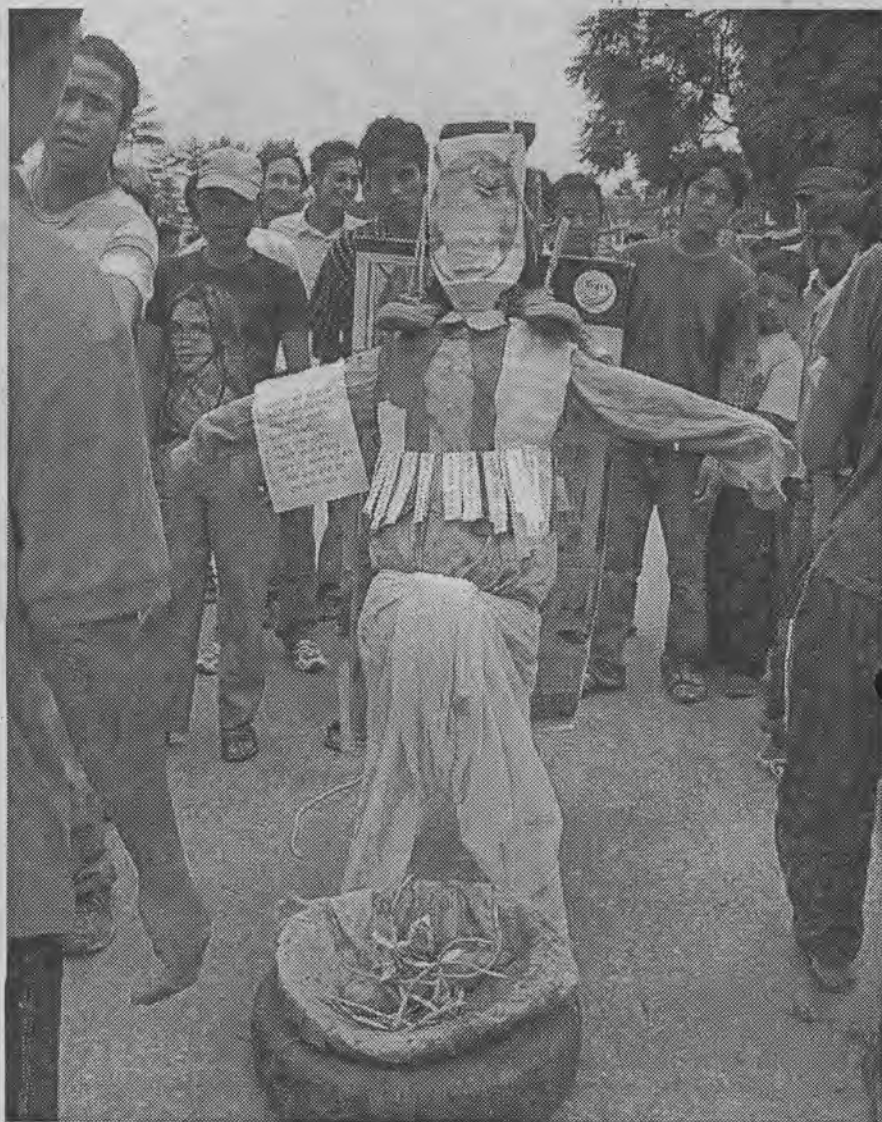
However, Gurung did not say anything how sudden the students union affiliated to three parties – which still has different alliance in the CA- join bandwagon against vice president and anti Hindi movement.

"If vice president Pramananda Jha's decision to take oath in Hindi unjustifiable, no one can justify the demonstrations launched by student unions and other agitating groups against vice president Jha and Hindi language. Both the acts are against nation's interest and serve the purpose of other.

Initiated by the student unions of eight parties, some regional groups like Tharu Kalyankari Sabha and lawyer's apex body Nepal Bar Association also joined the bandwagon against vice president Jha clearly dividing the nation opinion on the basis of regional politics. The lawyers from Madhesh, political parties and elites back vice president Jha.

Vice president Jha's decision to attend the Bhojatar festival in Nepali national dress along with ice president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav's sparked new wave of demonstrations in Janakpurdham and Rajbiraj - two major centers of Madhes.

As a lawyer and retired judge= vice president Jha is not unknown to



Burning effigy : Undesirable trends

Photo : Nepalnews

constitutional provisions, but he has succumbed to political sentiment of his party due to some compulsion. "Of course, my mother tongue is Maithali but it is our party's directions to take oath in Hindi," said vice president Jha.

It was really unbecoming for a person who was going to occupy the high ceremonial position to have made such decision that attracted widespread denunciation.

"But the way a section of political activists of seven political parties, who ignored all kinds of anti-national works committed by their leaders in power in the past, raised the issue in the press gives an ominous sign for the future political trend. There had been several violations of constitutional law and constitutional norms by the ruling

alliance in the past but all these did not get that kind of angry response, which this single incident has generated," said a political analyst.

"This is dividing the Madhesi and Pahadi community in two extreme camps. Divisive politics that was coming up in a highly agitated way was to a great extent subsided by the election results after which every sensible person of this country had heaved a sigh of relief with a feeling that there would be no more serious conflict between people of hills and terai. But, Nepal's problem is not that easy to be solved. One has to see the adverse trend in a broader conflict of the region, the way resentments are being expressed is partly natural and spontaneous and partly through an unseen hand intent to fish in the troubled



VP Jha in national attire along with president Dr. Yadav at Bhotojatra festival: Corrective Mood? Photo : K.P.

waters," said the political analyst.

At a time when the country needs reconciliation, people of all sections of this country have to be careful and visualize the repercussion and reactions of their rash activities which could invite more dangerous divisive game than what was going on before the election of CA.

"Based on experiences of the past, one has to be cautious about a dangerous rebound of the actions going on at present on the issue. What vice president Jha did was not becoming to the dignity of the chair which he was going to occupy but the way sentiments

are being flared up in an unruly protest is alarming and one has to be cautious of its dangerous spill over which may again arouse the same divisive sentiments which was pacified by the recent elections of president and vice president," said the analyst.

The people need to be aware of a game plan under which enough blood has already been spilled over in the past thirteen years. Was it the first incident against the nation's interest and prestige? The government headed by seven parties alliance committed series of anti-national policy in security, water

resources and citizenship act and so many other issues.

Then what prompted the eight student unions affiliated to eight political parties to make a hue and cry this time? Even prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala himself had violated the constitution so many times in the past two years. Was the declaration of parliament, which made the constitution null and void, legal? Nobody opposed when home minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula - who was wearing Pajama and Kurta - tabled the motion for the abolition of monarchy in the CA. Similarly, when the parliament passed the citizenship act and the interim government took a number of important decisions on water resources and security-related matters, there was silence all over. Didn't they hurt the national sentiment and pride?

In any case, VP Jha seems to have realized the mistake. Therefore, he appeared in national dress in Bhotojatra festival.

As both the persons, president Dr. Yadav and vice president Jha, represent the tolerant and assimilating character of this country, the present efforts will push them to the extremes, which will again widen the gap between the two communities. ■



VP Jha : On controversy

“Maoist leaders do not have continuity in thought and expression”

- Rabindra Nath Sharma

Former minister and RPP-Nepal's leader **RABINDRA NATH SHARMA** is a seasoned politician. As the country's political crisis prolongs, Sharma, who is sometimes known as Chanakya of Nepalese politics spoke to **SPOTLIGHT** on various issues. Excerpts:

At a time when CPN-UML and CPN-Maoists are trying to forge new alliance for the government formation and urging prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala to cancel his proposed visit to Colombo, how do you look at the future political course?

I don't think CPN-UML will follow CPN-Maoists to forge new alliance as Maoists have already betrayed them in the last minute. So far as Girija Prasad Koirala's decision to lead delegation for Colombo SAARC summit is concerned, it is not a big issue as he is not there to sign any bilateral issue. If the visit is canceled at the last minute under the pressure of two communist parties, it will have much repercussion near and far.

It means prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala will attend the summit?

Yes, he will.

Is it based on your expectation or do you have some information?

I have both.

What do you say about the attempts being made by the Maoists to form the government?

The elections of president and vice president by the three party alliances and defeat of Maoist candidates in both the posts have already indicated that the majority is not with the Maoists. It also gives clear sign that Maoists cannot form the government on their own.

Maoists say they have the mandate to form the government. Don't you think it is against the mandate of the people to let the government be formed under any other party's leadership?

One must read the parties' strengths in the Constituent Assembly election before commenting on the mandate of the people. Maoists have over 30 percent of seats of out of 601 CA members and they got 30 percent of popular votes. People have not given clear mandate to any party and this is a fractured verdict. How can a party claim that it has the mandate to form the new government when it

does not have majority in the CA?

If that is the case, why are the other parties saying that the Maoists have to take the initiative (to form the government)?

They know that the Maoists cannot stake claim to form the government until they manage the majority. They also know that nobody is going to accept Maoists in the government. Such political rhetoric do not have any meaning. If they were really committed to see Maoists in power, why have not they given written support to Maoist leadership?

Maoist leader Prachanda has declared that he will form the government within a week under his leadership. Do you see the possibility?

His wish to be the first president of Nepal has already been shattered. If he could, he would have formed the government a long time back. Given the political situation, it will take few more weeks to see the new government. So far as the leadership of new government is concerned, time will tell who will get to lead it. If we are lucky, there will be government in few weeks, otherwise it may take another couple of months.

As president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav has already invited Maoist leader to form the consensus government, how do you say Maoist will not form the government very soon?

Don't forget that president has invited Maoist to form consensus government as per the interim constitution. At a time when Nepali Congress opposes Maoist, the possibility of forming consensus government has already finished. After this, president will invite other party to form the government on the basis of majority. As Maoist needs other party support to show the majority, they need to convince other party and no body will give unconditional support to them. The process of forming government is not easy as it looks. There is powerful external factor also.

Why there counts external factor much?

Because they have security stakes and need to take the greater risk placing Maoist in power.

Maoist leader and former minister Dev Gurung recently remarked that India spoiled their three-months-long effort to forge alliance with CPN-UML. Is it the indication to external factor?

As far as Maoists leaders are concerned, they do not have continuity in thought and expression. They

One must read the parties' strengths in the Constituent Assembly election before commenting on the mandate of the people.



will interpret the situation to suit their interest. Recently, when Indian foreign minister Pranab Mukharjee and other Indian leaders prematurely congratulated Maoists (immediately after the CA election), no Maoist leaders interpreted that as Indian interference. At that time even the election results were not finalized. Similarly, when they signed 12 points agreement in New Delhi and launched Janandolan II, Maoists did not see any Indian role. Maoists have appreciated India when the latter sided with them. And they oppose Indian now when they see Indian policy is not favoring them.

Do you mean the Maoists' anger against India is reflection of India's changed policy towards Nepal?

Not only the Indian policy but the international situation has changed now. When the Maoist leader Prachanda gave interview to India's Hindu daily a month ago, he appreciated India's role in Nepal. Maoist leaders may now have perceive India's changed policy and, therefore, are making anti-Indian statement. This kind of pseudo-nationalist slogans like in the days of Panchayat will be counter productive.

How has India's policy changed so suddenly?

It is bitter but true that initially India supported Maoists. When India saw Maoists are drifting ideologically closer to China, India was apprehensive of them. They feared that based on their ideological affiliations, Maoists may build new relations with China. Whether one likes it or not, Maoists have always been a vulnerable force.

As the secessionist demand in terai is growing, what will be its consequences?

If India encourages one Madhes one Pradesh in terai, Nepal's northern neighbor will encourage one Himal one Pradesh. As there are wide dissensions

from Kashmir to north India for separate state, that will create other problems. I don't think it is in anybody's interest to encourage slogans like one Madhes one Pradesh.

Recently, there was nationwide protest against vice president Parmananda Jha for taking oath in Hindi. How have you observed it?

It was a very unfortunate incident. I don't see any reason to oppose that in such a violent manner. It will create more rifts between two communities. Taking oath in Hindi should not be an issue for such violent demonstration. Such acts will create hatred among different communities. Every individual is given the right to speak/write and wear dress as per his/her wish. By organizing violent demonstrations, students weakened our nationalism.

You stood for monarchy till the last minute. What is your opinion on the institution of monarchy now that Nepal has already become a republic?

I have never supported the individual king. I was severely punished when I opposed the unconstitutional activities of the king. Despite all humiliation and suffering, I held the opinion that monarchy is essential for Nepal. Like in the past, it is essential for future.

Do you see any possibility of revival of monarchy?

Monarchy is history now and it cannot be easily restored. Given the history of many countries of the world, one cannot rule out the possibility of revival of monarchy. I think monarchy is required in Nepal to maintain social, cultural and religious harmony.

How can Nepal stabilize?

As the saying goes Punar Musiko Bhaba, Nepal has to come face to face with its own reality, which all the national and international players also need to accept. ■

At that time even the election results were not finalized. Similarly, when they signed 12 points agreement in New Delhi and launched Janandolan II, Maoists did not see any Indian role. Maoists have appreciated India when the latter sided with them.

Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road Project: Linking increasing Connectivity

-By Tatsuo MIZUNO

It is indeed my great pleasure to sign and exchange the Notes to extend up to two billion, six hundred and eighty-nine million Japanese Yen (¥2,689,000,000), approximately one billion, seven hundred and seventy-four million, seven hundred and forty thousand Nepalese Rupees (NRs.1,774,740,000), to the Government of Nepal for the Project for the Improvement of Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road in Japan's Fiscal Year 2008.

The Grant extended to the Government of Nepal today is intended to be used to procure the products, equipment and services necessary for the execution of the Project. In implementing this Project, approximately a 9.1km segment of the Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road section of the Araniko Highway will be upgraded by expanding the existing two-lane road to four-lanes. The Project will also take into consideration advanced traffic engineering so as to enable smooth traffic movement as well as protect ordinary citizens from accidents.

This Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road is designed to serve not only as a road to ensure smooth transportation of goods and people between Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, but also to play an important role linking the Kathmandu Valley with the Eastern Terai via the Sindhuli Road, (which connects Dhulikhel-Sindhuli-Bardibas of the East-West Highway). In addition, this road section will also improve the connection of the Kathmandu Valley with the north via the Araniko Highway, which is going to be a vital physical infrastructure for Nepal in terms of connectivity, considering the neighboring two growing economies of China and India.



After the completion of the Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road, it is expected that it will help save time and reduce fuel expenses considerably for road users, who are currently facing a very congested traffic situation, especially during rush hours. It is expected that this Road Project will bring a positive impact to the Nepalese economy and also improve access to health and education institutions for the people residing along the road.

In this connection, I would like to take this opportunity to note that the Sindhuli Road, which is expected to significantly improve connectivity between the north and south, is now under construction with the Grant Assistance of the Government of Japan. It has already started to benefit the people residing along the completed sections of the road. Once fully completed, its economic and social impact will be substantial to the people of the Kathmandu Valley, including the people residing along the Sindhuli Road

and Eastern Terai.

On this occasion, referring to the recently conducted historic Constituent Assembly Election and Proclamation of Nepal as a Federal Democratic Republic, I would like to congratulate the people of Nepal for successfully achieving such transformation, which is a huge step forward on the path toward peace and democracy in Nepal. It is a historic achievement made by the people of Nepal, which will lead to lasting peace and stability and socio-economic development in New Nepal. I would like to reiterate that Japan, as a long-lasting friend for Nepal, is committed to assist Nepalese development efforts through whatever possible measures for Japan. ■

Excerpts of remarks by Tatsuo MIZUNO, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, delivered on the Occasion of E/N Signing Ceremony for the Project for the Improvement of Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road recently



PLA : Challenge ahead

UNMIN

Term Extension

The UNMIN will remain in Nepal for six more months although in a reduced size and mandate

By A CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has decided that the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) will remain in the country with reduced size and mandate for six more months after its term expired on July 23.

Last week, Ian Martin, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIN, addressed media at UN Headquarters in New York to explain the latest development.

The Special Representative said the Mission - originally meant to monitor the ceasefire signed nearly two years ago and to oversee the management of the arms and armed personnel of the two warring sides - would remain in the country to support the peace process. However, the Security Council had made clear that the mandate extension would be the last one. A review would be conducted in October to see if a drawdown was possible, and plans were already in place to reduce the Mission's staff by more than two thirds.

Speaking at the press meet, Martin said Nepal still had two armies that required dismantling, following years of

fighting between Maoist insurgents and Government forces.

"The Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which had ended the war in 2006, provided for a special committee to supervise, rehabilitate and integrate Maoist fighters, but the process had stalled after only one meeting. Last month, the parties had agreed to make the body more inclusive, although a durable solution on the future of former combatants, many of whom were housed in special cantonments, remained to be worked out. For instance, UNMIN had been able to verify that some fighters were underage, or had registered as "late combatants", but the manner in which they should be treated remained uncertain," he said.

The reintegration of combatants was not the only bone of contention among Nepal's political parties, he said. They had also failed to reach consensus on the distribution of Government posts, with formerly marginalized ethnic groups seeking greater representation in State bodies, including those in the security sector. In addition, although all political parties largely agreed that

Nepal should adopt a federal constitution, there had been no agreement on what form of federalism the country would take on.

Martin explained that the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the largest party in the country's Constituent Assembly, had assumed it would take the lead in forming a new Government, but following defeat of its candidate for the Presidency - which had raised the possibility that it might not form a majority in the Assembly - the party had seemed to suggest that it "may stay out of Government".

"At the moment, there was a "vacuum of authority" at the local level, resulting in the absence of law and order, he said, pointing out that there had been no locally elected political bodies since 2002. Proposed amendments to the constitution would have political parties form local multiparty bodies reflecting the results of the Constituent Assembly elections. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was actively preparing to assist the constitutional process."



Martin: Scaling Down

Although fraught with difficulty, Nepal's democratization was unique for being the first in which a Maoist insurgency had chosen to participate in mainstream politics, he said. It was also an extraordinary process of social change, in which two centuries of monarchy had been replaced by a republic. For the first time, the national legislature would incorporate enormously underrepresented ethnic groups such as the Madhesis, Janjatis and Dalits.

He said it was also remarkable that one third of the 601-member Constituent Assembly were women, making it the top female-friendly legislative body in South Asia, and the fourteenth highest in the world league table, according to statistics from the Inter-Parliamentary Union. "It is a very remarkable process of change, which I think is being looked at with considerable interest by others in the region." ■

BOOK

The Post American World

Renowned American author Fareed Zakaria's book highlights how the world is evolving under western constitutional principle

By KESHAB POUDEL

Till one and a half decade ago, it was very difficult to find books written by renowned writers in the markets here. Nowadays, the situation has changed. All kinds of latest books are easily available in the market.

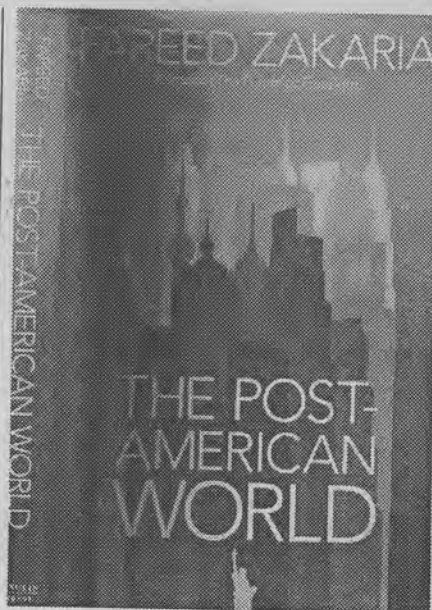
In case, the book is marketed for India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, the price is also very much affordable to the people living in the area. As the world becomes more globalized, it also applies to knowledge business.

Renowned American writer Zakaria's recent book is also available in the market soon after its publication in India. In the words of Henry Kissinger, "Fareed Zakaria, one of the most brilliant writers, has produced a fascinating and thought-provoking book on the impact of western constitutional principles on the global order."

This is the book where Zakaria tries to link the one country's general political trends and its implications to the global order. In his book, Zakaria describes how in the Post American World the growth of countries like China, India, Russia, South Africa and Kenya has been making change.

As this power rise, the power is shifting and wealth and innovation are bubbling up in unexpected places. By building the tallest buildings, biggest dams, top selling movies and most advanced mobile phones outside the USA, countries have been showing their own pride. Through all these development countries are finding national political confidence and national pride.

Author Zakaria argues that as these trends continue, the great engine of globalization will increasingly be powered by nationalism setting the world on a course that is likely to define next de-



Post American World

By: Fareed Zakaria

Published by: The Penguin Group, Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd, Community Center, Pachsheel Park, New Delhi India

Pages: 292

Price: IC Rs. 499.00

Available In Kathmandu at Paradise Book, Ranipokhari Kathmandu Nepal

ades, which it is not yet equipped to tackle.

Zakaria outlines the contemporary diffusion of power throughout the world. "There have been three tectonic shifts over the last five hundred years, fundamental changes in the distribution of power that have reshaped international life- its politics, economy and culture," writes Zakaria. Divided into nine differ-

ent chapters, the book starts from the Rise of the Rest. In another chapter, the author discusses the Cup Runneth Over. The third chapter is about the non-western world.

In this chapter, Zakaria discusses about the rise of China and India in contemporary world and their growing economic and political might. In this chapter, author Zakaria discusses the culture and values of these countries and experiences of colonization. The writer also discusses the process of westernization and modernization of these two countries.

The changing global order is a matter of concern to smaller countries like Nepal, which, sandwiched between Asia's two major powers India and China, has been suffering from a series of uncertain period due to tensions between these two powers. The past experiences have shown that Nepal's peace and stability is very much dependant on the kind of relations existing between these two countries.

Zakaria's book gives a ray of hope that Nepal will see good period in future. "Despite a growing sense of competition, India is actually moving closer to China in a certain respect, one that relates to the countries entries onto the global stage. India has moved away from the self-righteousness of the Nehru era as well as the combativeness of Indira Gandhi's year."

Writing about India, Zakaria argues, "Its society is open, eager and confident to take on the world. But its state -ruling class - is hesitant, cautious and suspicious of the changing realities around it. After winning its independence, India was eager to play a large role on the world stage. This ambition was inherited from Britain which ran a great deal of its empire from New Delhi."

Zakaria also observes the Chinese role. "China has been more skilful and used better diplomacy and soft power in Asia, the region where Beijing devotes the most time, energy and attention," writes Zakaria.

This book is very important to read as it helps Nepalese scholars understand how the world is changing and power is shifting.

Cyber safety and Children

-Aashis Lamsal

After the exhilarating SLC result, the enthusiasm among parents and students are increasing to accept computer education as carrier. Many private colleges and +2s are alluring students with their subliminal advertisement and eye-catching mottos as in previous years, this train going far more than previous years. Not only colleges, higher secondary schools and educational institutes, junior school also contend with each other to attract students with various schemes on computer education for instance free computer course, unlimited internet access in lab, well equipped computer lab, experienced computer faculty etc, by strewing banners, pamphlets and hoarding board around the street and market places. So that one can easily predict that the numbers of students in computer education is gradually increasing in Nepal. Some takes it as fashion some takes it as necessity. Day by day Nepalese children are going to be digital natives. They have grown up with computers and Internet as well as spend a good deal of time online while at school and at home.

While we recognize that the computer and the Internet are a powerful source of information and entertainment, we must also recognize that there is potential for malicious behavior and harmful effects. Considering only dark side and denying children access to computer and Internet, we deprive them of rich magical experience of technology. Many people, including children, have been confronted with material that is disturbing or inappropriate in Internet. There are steps parents can take to try to shield their children from such material, but it's almost impossible to completely avoid all inappropriate material. Sadly there are some cases where children have been victimized by serious crime as a result of going online. Parents can greatly minimize the chances that their children will

be victimized by teaching their children to follow the safety rules on the back cover. The fact that crimes are being committed online, however, is not a reason to avoid using these services. To tell children to stop using the Internet would be like telling them to forgo attending school because students are sometimes victimized or bullied there. A better strategy would be to instruct children about both the benefits and dangers of "cyberspace" and for them to learn how to be "street smart" in order to better safeguard themselves in any potentially dangerous situation.

Risk on Internet

There are a few risks for children who use the Internet or other online services. Teenagers are particularly at risk because they often go online unsupervised and are more likely than younger children to participate in online discussions regarding companionship, relationships, or sexual activity.

Exposure to inappropriate material a child may be exposed to inappropriate material that is sexual, hateful, or violent in nature, or encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal. Children could seek out such material but may also come across it on the web via chat areas, E-mail, or even instant messaging if they're not looking for it.

Physical Harassment and Bullying

A child might provide information or arrange an encounter that could risk his or her safety or the safety of other family members. In some cases child molesters have used chat areas, E-mail, and instant messages to gain a child's confidence and then arrange a face-to-face meeting. A child might encounter messages via chat, E-mail, or their cellular telephones that are belligerent, demeaning, or harassing. "Bullies," typically other young people, often use the Internet to bother their victims.

Pedophiles are those who intentionally prey upon children. On the web they

pretend to be young children themselves, earn the child's trust and gradually seduce them into sexual or indecent acts. Often this happens as the unsuspecting parent sits in the next room. Children are easy targets as they are innocent, trusting and curious. Although not very likely, this risk does exist that while on chat, a child might provide information or arrange an encounter that could risk his or her safety or the safety of other family members. A Child may waste a lot of time in chat rooms and could increase your telephone expense if your Internet works through a telephone line

Pornography

Adult entertainment is the largest industry on the Internet. It is estimated that over half of Internet traffic is pornographic. An innocent keyword typed on some search engines or wrongly spelling a Web site's name can lead children or adults into sites that are shocking and often difficult to escape. A child innocently researching a paper for school could may accidentally come across pornographic content due to its sheer abundance on the web. Monitoring or blocking software which you install is a limited solution as new adult sites are launched daily in abundance. When children come across such sites, they may get upset, embarrassed, frightened or unfortunately even corrupted by them. This could affect the child's psychology, self-esteem.

Internet Addiction Disorder

The net can make some people too dependent on it. There are varying opinions on the subject of Internet addiction. Some say that the Internet can be addictive, to the point that it disturbs one's life and the lives of those around him. Others say that there is no such thing as Internet Addiction Disorder— getting pleasure out of a computer is not the same as getting pleasure from cocaine or any other drug. Whether there is or is not a bona fide disorder, the Internet is surely disrupting some people's lives.

Viruses and Hackers

A child could download a file containing a virus that could damage the computer or increase the risk of a "hacker" gaining remote access to the computer; jeopardizing the family's privacy; and, perhaps, jeopardizing the family's safety.

Legal and Financial

A child could do something that has negative legal or financial consequences such as giving out a parent's credit-card number or doing something. While children need a certain amount of privacy, they also need parental involvement.... that violates another person's rights. Legal issues aside, children should be taught good "netiquette" which means to avoid being inconsiderate, mean, or rude. There are many sites on the web that allow people to gamble with real money or just "for fun." In some cases these sites may be operating legally in the jurisdiction where they are physically located but it is generally illegal (and inappropriate) for minors to gamble regardless of where they are.

Recent international media reports have noted the growth of incident such as- Online identity theft, cyber-bullying, sexual abuse of child avatars, computer addiction etc. One noted incident, in South Korea, 28 years old man collapsed and died after playing online game at an Internet café for 50 hours straight in August 2005. Similarly, the Singapore police recently helped rescue a 16-year-old boy who was kidnapped by a lady pedophile.

Internet crime in Nepal has begun although still a nascent stage. It is sagacious to be aware of the danger, which Nepalese children may encounter, and what precaution you can take. All teacher and parents need to be aware of the issue and threats that their children can be faced with when using computer and the Internet and ensure their children use computers and Internet responsibly. School administration also keeps some attention on these crucial issues rather than cheap popularity and money. School should accouter the teachers with first-rate cyber safety and Internet crime education. Teachers will need to be armed with up to date, comprehensive and

age appropriate teaching materials and understanding of cyber safety. We must have to recognize that cyber-safety is an important part of children's overall health and well being, yet it is one that is not being adequately addressed by Nepal Government and other child related NGOs and INGOs. Just as we teach children about the risks of smoking, drinking, Government should teach children how to be responsible cyber-citizens and about the importance of cyber safety.

Although there have been cases of Internet abuse (including Cyber stalking, Pornograph and Pedophile) even in Nepal, these cases are relatively less frequent reported.

Although there have been cases of Internet abuse (including Cyber stalking, Pornograph and Pedophile) even in Nepal, these cases are relatively less frequent reported. The fact that crimes are being committed online, taking into account of all these factors; a number of options for cyber safety can be visualized.

What Parents Can Do

A better strategy would be to inculcate children about both the benefits and dangers of internet and for them to instruct how to be "net-wise" in order to better safeguard themselves in any potentially dangerous situation.

Another, best ways is to point children to some of the thousands of excellent sites for children and teens on the Web, to keep them busy with choices that really interest young people. We can direct them to the sections they might be interested in, where they can roam under our supervision. So we feel comfortable about bringing this new medium into our home safely, wisely, and with the knowledge to make it work for us.

In addition, there are filtering features built into the Internet browser and light software that empower parents to limit their children's access only to those sites that have been rated appropriate for children. Most of these programs can be

configured by the parent to filter out sites that contain nudity, sexual content, hateful or violent material, or that advocate the use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol.

What Government Can Do

Government will require ISPs to offer a 'clean feed' Internet service to all homes, schools and public internet points accessible by children, such as public libraries. ISP policy will prevent children from accessing any content that has been identified as prohibited, including sites such as those containing child pornography and X-rated material.

Additionally, cyber-safety education will ensure that young children are provided with important cyber-safety tools from the time they are introduced to computers and to the Internet. In turn, this will ensure that children are empowered to be responsible cyber-citizens and will grow up knowing that they have options when they see something online that concerns them. Nepal Government will work with children, educators and IT specialists to improve the website for parents and teachers. The website will contain up-to-date, relevant and effective cyber safety educational material so that teachers can confidently teach children on all aspects of cyber-safety and parents are informed of cyber-issues and their effects.

Further more, Nepal Government should convene a parliamentary standing committee on Cyber-safety. The Committee will investigate and report on issues such as the prevalence of computer addiction, online identity theft, cyber-stalking, abuse of child avatars in virtual worlds and cyber-bullying involving Nepali children; the effect of such issues on children; the adequacy of cyber-safety education in Nepal; and opportunities to improve the cyber-safety of Nepali children.

Above options or combination of two or more of the above options could be another option for child safety in cyberspace. There could be other options not mentioned above. The concerned authorities need to dig them out and implement down to earth approach to a problem as soon as possible. ■

(The writer is computer engineer can be meet at - ashislamsal@yahoo.com)

“We should stick to politics of consensus.”

President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, reading a brief note of gratitude from his new office immediately after assuming the responsibility as the first president of Nepal.

“I wish you success in helping Nepal as it takes forward the important reform process. I send you and the people of Nepal my best wishes for the future.”

Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom, in her message of congratulation to newly elected president of Nepal.

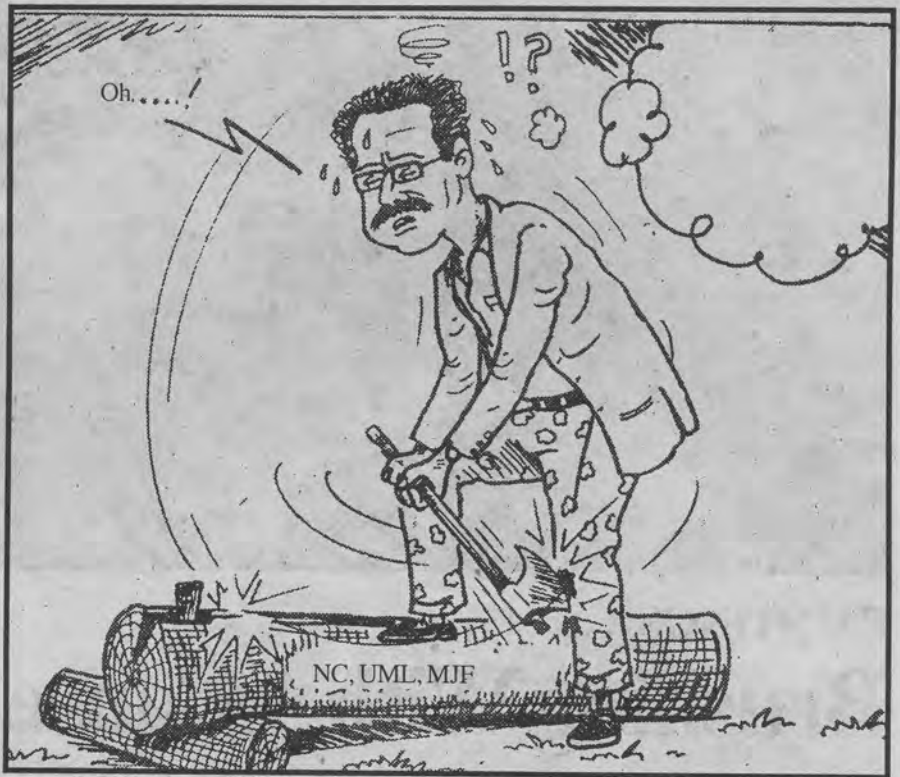
“As per the census, there are around 200,000 people whose mother-tongue is Hindi.”

Vice President Parmananda Jha, defending his action of taking oath in Hindi language, in BBC Nepali Service.

“Domestic and foreign forces are conspiring to make Koirala prime minister again. If that happens, that will be against the people’s mandate. We will bring people in the streets against such move.”

Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda,’ without elaborating who he meant by such forces, addressing a program by Muslim Mukti Morcha.

“My election (unopposed) shows



that the politics of consensus is still the way to go forward.”

Subas Nemwang, the newly elected chairman of Constituent Assembly (CA).

“While signing the 4-point agreement for the presidential post, the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML had verbally agreed to give MJF the leadership of the next government.”

Bijaya Gachhedar, parliamentary party leader of Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF), speaking at the Reporters’ Club.

“The NC should take the lead to forge a coalition of 24 parties by leaving the Maoists alone in the opposition. Then only will they feel the heat and agree for a consensus government.”

Govinda Raj Joshi, central member of Nepali Congress, in The Himalayan Times.

“Nepal’s government (is) turning the screws on peaceful Tibetan protesters at the behest of China.”

Brad Adams, Asia director of New York-based rights watchdog Human Rights Watch (HRW), in a recent report.

TRANSITION

SWORN IN: The newly elected first president of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, administered oath of office and secrecy, by Chief Justice Kedar Prasad Giri.

The newly elected first vice president of Nepal, Parmananda Jha, administered oath of office and secrecy, by president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.

RESIGNED: Prime Minister Girija

Prasad Koirala, handed over his resignation to president Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.

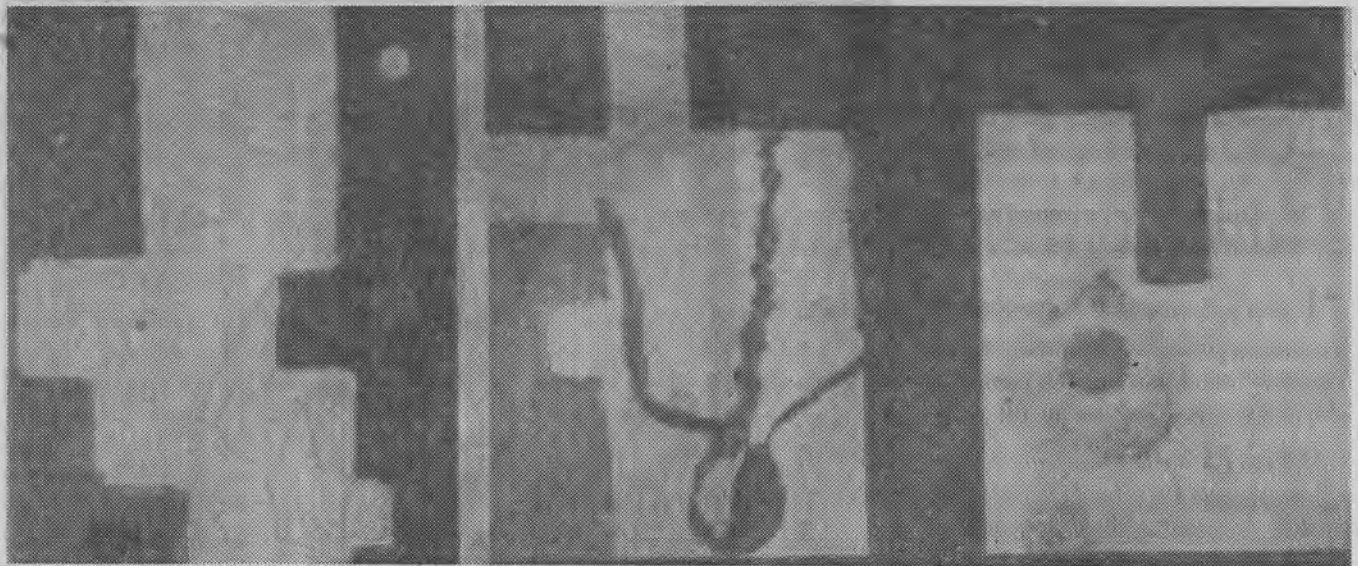
WITNESSED: President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, the traditional ‘Bhoto Jatra’ of Rato Machhindranath, the deity of rain, at Jawalakhel in Lalitpur Saturday (Jul 26), in his first attendance to a public cultural function in his new role as the head of the state.

ELECTED: Subas Nemwang, former Speaker of the interim legislature, as the

chairman of the Constituent Assembly (CA), unopposed.

FILED: A writ petition at the Supreme Court (SC), against vice president Parmananda Jha for taking oath in Hindi language, by advocate Bal Krishna Neupane.

EXTENDED: The term of United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), by six months, up to January 23, by the United Nations Security Council.



PAINTINGS

Brushing With A Cause

Artist Juju Kaji Maharjan makes paintings to contribute for the cause of children welfare

By A CORRESPONDENT

Artist Juju Kaji Maharjan's art exhibition entitled "Connection" is on at an art gallery in 1905 Kantipath.

One of the challenging and difficult tasks of artists is to capture the mood of the earth and mood of the human being. If one tries to combine them together, the results are always fascinating if not complicated.

In his solo art exhibition, this is what artist Maharjan has strived for. There is no doubt that chasing nature is a very difficult task but it is an opportunity as well. This is the reason why artist Maharjan has carefully tried to link the human relations with nature.

One of the important aspects of Maharjan's painting is that he has made efforts to highlight the importance of human and its relations with nature. Nobody can ignore nature and its influence on human life. Every hu-

man being is guided by nature and no one can go against it. This is the message he wants to convey to the youths.

At a time when the world is much commercialized and everybody wants certain benefits from the work one performs, artist Maharjan has tried his best to connect with the noble cause in social working though art painted for underprivileged children.

Although most of his paintings are abstract in nature, they are full of meanings and his own imagination displaying various moods of life and human society. By using various kinds of colors, artist Maharjan draws the agony and happiness of human life.

Human life is full of miseries and happiness. People have to face one or the other kind of situation in their life. But, only a few people have the

caliber and capability to grasp the situation. Maharjan is one of them who has shown his talent in the paintings.

Artist Maharjan used primary colors to express his feelings and inner observation. In the abstract figure, Maharjan uses various kinds of colors to depict the world, nature and other horizons. He is able to convey what is in his mind. To make his paintings attractive and understandable, Maharjan uses bright hues and abstract figures.

He tries to depict the whole horizon merging the sky with the earth with the bright sun shining as a part of nature.

The exhibition has been organized with an aim to raise the fund for the children living in orphanages, Artist Maharjan's exhibition is for the charity art exhibition for orphans at Bal Mandir and 50 percent of the proceeds of the sale will go for the welfare of the children.

Presented by Earthbeat, which has been working to bring children and youths close to nature and culture through arts, music, sports and modern technology, Maharjan's exhibition tries to bring out this message through the arts. ■

SPOTLIGHT

The News
Magazine
Packaged
with
Up-To-Date

News
Views
&

Analyses
Our Readers

Deserve The Best



SPOTLIGHT

The National News Magazine

BALUWATAR, GPO BOX: 7256

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

Email : spot@mail.com.np



The Star is in Your Favor.

Choose Your Lucky Casino!



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



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



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



CASINO ROYALE
Hotel Yak & Yeti
Durbarimarg, Kathmandu
Tel: 4438619
Fax: 9771 4223933
royal_royale8hotmail.com



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



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