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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. PRESIDENT VISITS CHINA

President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a state visit to the People's Republic of China on 24 April-1 May at the invitation of the President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping. The President held delegation level talks with the President of China at the Great Hall of the People on 29 April. The two Presidents exchanged substantive views on further strengthening and consolidating ties of cooperative friendship and mutually beneficial partnership subsisting between the two countries.



Delegation level talks with the President of China

Following the talks, the two Presidents witnessed the signing of seven different agreements between the two countries including the Protocol on Implementing Agreement on Transit Transport between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Earlier on 26 April, the President attended the Opening Ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for

International Cooperation. After the Opening Ceremony, she addressed the High-Level Meeting of the Forum. Speaking on the theme of *"Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future"*, the President underscored the need for developing 'Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network' including Nepal-China Cross-Border Railway in boosting connectivity between Nepal and China, and other countries in the region.



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari addressing the High-Level Meeting of the Forum

Similarly, on 27 April, the President addressed the Leaders' Roundtable of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Speaking on the theme of *"Promoting Green and Sustainable Development to Implement the UN 2030 Agenda"*, the President drew attention of the world leaders to the adverse effects of climate change and laid emphasis on the need for developing clean energy and low-carbon pathways of development by means of scientific research-based solutions.

During the visit, the President also addressed businessmen, entrepreneurs and investors from Nepal and China at the Nepal-China Economic and Trade Forum jointly organized by the Embassy of Nepal and Economic Joint Committee of China Commercial Stock Enterprises on 29 April.

2. PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL VISITS INDIA

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to attend the latter's swearing-in ceremony held in New Delhi on 30 May.

During his visit, the Prime Minister also had a meeting with his Indian counterpart at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 31 May.

During the meeting, the two Prime Ministers exchanged views on maintaining the momentum generated in the recent past and expressed commitment to taking bilateral relationship to a new height. The two leaders underlined the importance of regular exchange of high-level visits between the two countries in order to further strengthen bilateral ties and advance cooperation in all possible areas for the mutual benefits of the two countries.



Prime Minister Oli with Prime Minister Modi

3. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES SENT

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli sent a message of congratulations on 28 May to Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, on his re-appointment.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, also sent a congratulatory message on 31 May to Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on his appointment as the Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India.

4. PRIME MINISTER VISITS VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli paid an official visit

to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 9-13 May at the invitation of Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. In Viet Nam, the Prime Minister had official bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of Viet Nam and meeting with the President of National Assembly of Viet Nam. During the visit, following agreements were signed between Nepal and Viet Nam:

- i. Agreement on Exemption of Visa for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders,
- ii. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Viet Nam,
- iii. Letter of Intent on negotiating and signing the Framework Agreement on trade and economic cooperation.

Similarly, the Prime Minister also paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 13-15 May at the invitation of Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Cambodia. Prime Minister Oli also had official bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of Cambodia and was called on by the President of Senate, Acting Head of State, and also held a bilateral meeting with the President of National Assembly. The Prime Minister also had meetings with Nepali nationals residing in Viet Nam and Cambodia.

During the visit, following agreements were signed between Nepal and Cambodia:

- i. Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation,
- ii. Framework Agreement on Trade and Investment between Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Government of Cambodia, and
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Cambodia Chamber of Commerce.

This was the first ever visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to Viet Nam and Cambodia since the establishment of diplomatic relations with both the countries. The visit mainly aimed at gaining firsthand knowledge of the economic development both countries have achieved after emerging from protracted and deadly conflicts similar to Nepal's decade-long internal conflict.

5. THE SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE ON TERAJ ROADS

The second meeting of the Joint Project Monitoring

Committee (JPMC) on Strengthening of Road Infrastructure in Terai areas of Nepal was held in Kathmandu on 6 May. The meeting was co-chaired by Er. Gopal Prasad Sigdel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport of Nepal and Mr. Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs of India.



Joint secretaries of Nepal and India in the second meeting of the Joint Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC) on Strengthening of Road Infrastructure in Terai areas of Nepal

The issues related to the implementation of fourteen contracts under the project were comprehensively discussed and action points for expeditious and smooth progress of work were suggested. The Committee resolved to work for completion of the remaining projects as per agreed timelines. The Committee also recommended processing the release of the fund on the basis of physical progress of the Terai Road Project.

6. THE 13TH MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON INUNDATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT (JCIFM)

The 13th meeting of Nepal-India Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) was held in Kathmandu on 27-31 May. The Nepali delegation was led by Ms. Sarita Dawadi, Director General of the Department of Water Resources and Irrigation (DoWRI), Government of Nepal and the Indian delegation was led by Shri C.K.L. Das, Member (Co-ordination), Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Government of India. The meeting was preceded by Joint Field visits to the Khando, West Rapti and Baanganga rivers to have preliminary assessment of the works to be taken up for river training along the said rivers.

The Committee took note of the two reports submitted by the Sub-group of JCIFM related to inundation issues along the India-Nepal border. The Nepali side requested the Indian side to share the status of implementation of the joint report/work plan submitted by the sub-group of

the JCIFM. The committee was briefed on the initiatives taken from the Indian side.

7. THE FIRST MEETING OF NEPAL-TURKEY BILATERAL POLITICAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

The First meeting of Nepal-Turkey Bilateral Political Consultation Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 18 April.

Head of the Europe America Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari and Director General for South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Ambassador Mr. Riza Hakan Tekin led their respective delegations to the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides took stock of various aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation especially through enhancing economic engagements between the two countries.

The Nepali side appreciated the Turkish cooperation extended to Nepal, particularly in the areas of trade, education and labour. The Turkish side congratulated Nepal on the overall political achievements made in recent times and assured continuity of their support to Nepal's development endeavours. The two sides also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interests.

The Turkish delegation consisted of Mr. Ahmet Cem Algumus at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey as well as the Honorary Consul of Turkey in Kathmandu Mr. Prem Prakash Khetan. The Nepali delegation included Director General of the Department of Foreign Employment Mr. Bhisma Kumar Bhusal and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply and Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

A Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Bilateral Political Consultation Mechanism was signed between Nepal and Turkey on 23 August 2016.

B. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN THE R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT

Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun, the Vice President of Nepal visited Austria from 26-31 May at the invitation of the Federal President of Austria Mr. Alexander Van der Bellen, to attend the R20 Austrian World Summit.

Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister for Forest and Environment, accompanied the Vice President during the visit. The delegation consisted of senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Forest and Environment.



Vice President Pun Addressing High-level Panel on Climate Action at Austrain World Summit

Addressing the high-level panel on climate action at the Austrian World Summit on 28 May, the Vice President said that Nepal has negligible role in carbon emission, but bears disproportionate brunt of it. “Nepal has experienced melting of Himalayans, disturbances in drinking water system and gradual disappearance of floras and faunas,” the Vice President mentioned.

The Vice President also shared clean energy initiatives of Nepal to mitigate and adapt with the effects of climate change. The Vice President mentioned that Nepal has announced period 2018-2028 the energy decade. The announcement was made last year before COP 24 and it plans to substantially augment production of renewable energy, such as hydropower, ending dependence on fossil fuel, promoting clean energy, and helping achieve national aspiration of ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali.’

Besides the Summit, the Vice President had a bilateral meeting with the Federal President of Austria Mr. Alexander Van der Bellen and had attended the International Sagarmatha Day held in Innsbruck, Austria.

2. NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN THE 16TH UN VESAK DAY CELEBRATION IN VIET NAM

Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, the Prime Minister of Nepal addressed the Opening Session of the 16th UN Vesak Day celebration organised in the Tam Chuc Pagoda in Ha Nam province of Viet Nam on 12 May. The theme of the Vesak Day this year was ‘Buddhist Approaches to Global Leadership, Shared Responsibilities for Sustainable Societies’.

The Prime Minister spoke about the importance of

Vesak Day in his speech. He mentioned that Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, is not only the birthplace of Prince Siddhartha, but also the fountain of Buddhism. He spoke about the virtues and values of Buddhism that are even more relevant in today’s world which faces a number of common problems, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and many more.



Prime Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli Addressing 16th Vesak Day Program in Viet Nam

The Prime Minister said that today’s leadership can learn from Buddha’s exemplary lifestyle marked by simplicity and moderation. The Prime Minister touched upon the recent political transformation achieved by Nepal. “Happiness depends both on the external nature and the inner self, Buddhism has the answer to both” he said, and added that Nepal’s national aspiration of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali” can be realised by the hard work and commitment of the Government and the people of Nepal, the land of Buddha and the land of Peace.

Leaders and a large number of followers of Buddhism, including the scholars and monks from Nepal, participated in the celebrations. Besides the Prime Minister of Nepal, the attending leaders included the President of Myanmar, Vice President of India, the Prime Minister and other leaders from Viet Nam itself, Chairman of the Senate of Bhutan, among others.

The celebrations continued for three days, from 12 to 14 May.

3. NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN THE 72ND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population Mr. Upendra Yadav attended the 72nd World Health Assembly held in Geneva on 20-28 May. The Nepali delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister

consisted of officials from the Ministry of Health and Population.

The Deputy Prime Minister delivered a statement at the Plenary of the 72nd World Health Assembly on 29 May. In his statement, the Deputy Prime Minister shared the achievements of Nepal in elimination of trachoma and rubella. He also emphasized Nepal's steps to ensure Universal Health Coverage in the achievement of health related Sustainable Development Goals.

The Deputy Prime Minister also spoke at a WHO side event jointly organized by Nepal, Canada, Fiji, India, Malawi, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The event was titled "Universal Health Coverage to Deliver the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health: Re-thinking Quality Midwifery Education."

In addition, the Deputy Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Ma Xiaowei, Minister of National Health Commission of China; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the WHO; and Mr. Abdullah Ameen, Health Minister of Malaysia.

4. NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL(SE4ALL)

Mr. Barshaman Pun 'Ananta', Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, participated in the High-Level Dialogue on the implementation of the global plan of action of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) 2014-2024: A Mid-point Review organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) in New York on 24 May. The Minister was invited by the UN-DESA for the program.

Speaking in the High-Level Dialogue, Minister Pun highlighted the importance of SE4ALL initiative and reiterated the commitment of the Government to ensuring reliable, affordable and modern energy for all. The Minister also highlighted that Sustainable Development Goal 7 has an important crosscutting dimension and fulfilling this goal would help achieve other important goals and targets including poverty reduction (Goal 1) and sustainable infrastructure (Goal 9).

While in New York, Minister Pun held a meeting with Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and discussed on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. NEPAL'S ELECTION TO THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)

Nepal was elected as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) from the Asia-Pacific region for the term 2020-2023 in an election held at the United Nations Headquarters on 7 May. CND is one of the functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the central drug policy-making body within the United Nations system. This is for the first time Nepal is elected to the Commission.

Nepal obtained 44 out of 54 valid votes of the 54 members of the ECOSOC. Nepal attaches high importance to combating drug trafficking and related crimes. Nepal signed the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 in 2003 and ratified it in 2011. The Convention has currently 186 states parties. This is yet another opportunity for Nepal to work closely with international community in fight against illicit narcotic drugs.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

6.1. NEPAL AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Nepal and Equatorial Guinea established formal bilateral diplomatic relations on 30 April. Ambassador Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, and Ambassador Mr. Anatolio Ndong Mba, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations, signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in New York.

Both Nepal and Equatorial Guinea are members of the Group of 77 as well as the Non-Aligned Movement. Equatorial Guinea is currently a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

6.2 NEPAL AND THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

Nepal and the Kingdom of Eswatini entered into the formal diplomatic ties on 9 May. The Permanent Representatives of Nepal and Eswatini to the United Nations, Ambassadors Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai and Mr. Melusi Martin Masuku respectively, signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in New York, together with a joint letter informing the United Nations Secretary-General about this development.

With the efforts of the Government of Nepal to make the country's bilateral diplomatic relations as universal as possible, the number of countries having direct diplomatic ties with Nepal has now reached 166.

C. REGIONAL AFFAIRS

1. THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC EXPERT GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

The Seventh BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on Agriculture was held on 24-25 April in Bangladesh. Dr. Kisan Lal Bhatta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and Mr. Shankar Sapkota, Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development participated in the meeting. The Meeting discussed various agendas of mutual cooperation in the agriculture sector. It reviewed the common projects under agriculture and reduced number of projects to seven from existing nine due to lack of fund to operationalize them. The Meeting also requested Member States to prepare a concept note on the projects led by them. The Meeting welcomed the proposal of Government of India to provide fully-funded BIMSTEC Scholarships, five (5) slots for Masters and five (5) slots for Ph. D. program in Agriculture. The Eighth Meeting of the Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation will be held in India in early 2020.

2. THE 16TH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE (ACD)

The 16th Ministerial Meeting and Senior Official's Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) were convened in Doha on 1 May and 30 April respectively under the theme 'Partners in Progress'. Nepali delegation to the Ministerial Meeting was led by Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister for Forests and Environment while the Senior Officials' Meeting was led by Mr. Yagya Bahadur Hamal, Joint Secretary/Head of the Regional Organization Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The 16th Ministerial Meeting held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar adopted the Doha Declaration. The Doha Declaration emphasized on programs and initiatives to facilitate and expand regional trade, transit, increase investment and promote infrastructure development, among others.

The Senior Officials' Meeting, which was chaired by the Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, deliberated on various issues of common interests. After detailed discussion, the Meeting finalized the draft Doha Declaration. Nepal convinced the Drafting Committee to include Nepal's view of cooperation among Member States on climate change and the natural disasters in the draft Doha Declaration.

D. NON RESIDENT NEPALI, PASSPORT AND CONSULAR SERVICES

1. NON RESIDENT NEPALI (NRN) RELATED SERVICES

S. N.	Services(Only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	10
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN	4

2. PASSPORT SERVICES

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received	84008	Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports Issued	83272	From Districts, Missions and the Department
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to Document Type)	82474	Ordinary
		117	Diplomatic
		221	Official
		436	Gratis
		24	Travel Document (TD)
		83272	Total
4	Emails responded including Social Networks	2104	
5	Grievance handled	2372	
6	Lost PP registered in the Interpol	4090	
7	Official Error	201	
8	Null and Void Passports	7	

9	Feedback Forms Collected	900	
10	Revenue Collected (From the Department only)	Rs.33,90,25,125/-	

3. CONSULAR SERVICES

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	Consular and Legal Counseling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour and others	9
2	Recommendation related to Indian education	221
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	2
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepalese driving license	197
5	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for character verification	72
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	9
7	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit	6
8	Correspondence regarding the citizenship renouncement	11
9	Correspondence regarding the Power of Attorney	83
10	Correspondence regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	27

11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens	216
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals	245
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad	51
14	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	16
15	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	26
16	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	299
B	Visa and Exemption Section	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	634
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	54
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	8
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	688
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	282
C	Attestation section	
1	Number of attested documents	34,540
Total		37,696