

The Telegraph Weekly

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Gokarna Bista ashamed of being a Minister

Kathmandu: Gokarna Bista is ashamed of calling himself a minister.

Sounds interesting. "I feel ashamed calling myself a minister because of fake assurances being made by the political parties and the dishonest activities of the political leadership", said the Energy Minister.

Bista belongs to United Marxist Leninists Party.

"Good people too have been tainted because of non-stop fake assurances made by the political leadership and failing to keep up their promises", he said.

By the way, it is rumored that bureaucrats at the Ministry of Energy spend their spare time laughing at the unprofessional decisions taken by Minister since his appointment. "Our people are poverty stricken, they do not have enough food to eat and there is no education. Our leaders instead of concentrating on the plight of the population prefer to make eloquent lectures", said the minister while he himself was making a long lecture at a program held in Kathmandu, Saturday.

Easier said than done. "In this prevailing scarcity, I feel humiliated plying on a car with the national flag", he added while making these ear pleasing remarks.

He however, said that accomplishments he has made in his short stint at the ministry to solve the energy crisis is astounding. But he remained tight lipped on whether he would tender his resignation to avoid being called a Nepal Minister!

If he doesn't resign, then it would really be a matter of shame for him. Making tall claims will have no meaning Mr. Minister.

Dahal's proposal complicate Nepal Peace Process more

Kathmandu: Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal presenting his views on 'immediate plans to be adopted by the party' at the central committee meeting said on Sunday July 17, 2011, that unless Unified Maoists' Party leads the government peace process and constitution drafting will not come to end as expected.

He also said that only his party led government can successfully complete the integration of PLA combatants in the main-stream army. Dahal's lines are 180 degree apart from what the Nepali Congress and a faction of ruling United Marxist Leninists Party have been demanding. They say that without solving the contentious issue of militia integration, the Maoists' party cannot lead the government.

Dahal has also proposed re-classification of Maoists' combatants before August 31, 2011, however, to the utter dismay of Nepali Congress, Dahal suggests further strengthening of the PLA command.

According to the proposal, the command of the PLA will be

WASHINGTON-DELHI axis revived

Kathmandu: Politics has not moved onward even an inch for the better instead is taking a downward slide.

The process is in progress. Inter and intra party quarrel too has taken a new height leaving the lay men to guess as when and how the approaching political cataclysm will hit this nation hard. This is for sure. Things will be more clear beginning August, next month.

Half way of the extended three months extended period of the non-operational and money spinner Constituent Assembly body too has vanished in the ethereal medium and the rest will with the same fate as is being presumed with soaring authenticity.

The fresh crack in the Nepal Sadbhawana Party, NSP, led by Chairman Rajendra Mahato is yet another case in point which is sure to encourage some more so far "ignored" enthusiasts housed in various Madhesh based parties to make their fresh adventures. In true sense, the NSP split has

given a new curl to Nepali politics more so to the politics based in the Terai or say Madhesh.

The new NSP fragment is led by fire brand Anil Kumar Jha who apparently is more reasonable leader compared to his colleagues from the Nepal's Madhesh belt. At least he doesn't speak on communal lines instead he favors communal harmony to exist among the Nepalese nationals wherever they reside. A sensible person.

Which force on earth made this split to take a formal shape is any body's guess? What could not and should not be overlooked is that this split will surely hit the Madhesh based parties' vociferous demands for a single Madhesh in the entire Terai belt.

We have by now some twelve Madhesh based parties and the CA body will have some thirty plus parties to feed.

Now let's change the topic and switch on to the Nepali Congress. This party of late is

undergoing through a very difficult period. Sher Bahadur Deuba who is taken as a man representing the Indo-US lobby in Nepali politics has suddenly become restive and begun dreaming of next Nepal Prime Ministerial post.

Deuba apparently has received some positive indications from Maoist Chairman Dahal and from a few Madhesh based "liberal" parties too that if he is the new parliamentary delegation head of the NC party in the parliament

period.

Thus if Deuba is counting on Dahal's assurances then wisdom would demand that Deuba drop his scheme as Dahal no longer remains a political persona who could be trusted at least in the given time when his own Party Presidency is at a stake.

Some six lobbies exist at the moment inside the Maoists party. Fight for the Home Ministry has become a matter of fresh

Indepth-Analysis

then these parties could take his concerns seriously.

However, the fact is that Chairman Dahal will first himself prefer to be the Nepal PM. If that becomes a distant affair then he is already committed in favor of his arch rival-Dr. Bhattarai.

And even this scheme failed perchance then he is on record to have already stated that the incumbent Prime Minister Khanal will continue for an indefinite

debate as to which lobby should be awarded the Home Ministry portfolio.

But yet Deuba is resolute to depose his party rival Ram Chandra Poudel from the current post of the parliamentary delegation chief. To recall, the NC has a chartered policy that the one who is the PP delegation chief has his right to forward his claim over the Nepal Prime Ministerial post.

Thus Deuba wants to sack Poudel even if he has to push a no confidence motion against Ram Chandra Poudel.

NC has ever remained a divided lot.

President Koirala understands the fact that Deuba's adventure must have backing from some powerful nations in the vicinity and beyond.

Poor Poudel, unfortunately, enjoys the Indian support only, it is talked. The European Countries not even take him as a Nepali leader worth the name. Nevertheless, NC President Koirala has landed in Nepal after making a long "free trip" from abroad and, as was expected, he landed in New Delhi apparently to get "indoctrinated" by his mentors seated at the South Block.

The Nepal government must have paid the entire bills of Sushil Koirala. The Koiralas' feel great in taxing the national exchequer.

Deuba bid to depose Poudel mounting, Delhi returned Sushil pressed hard

Kathmandu: President Sushil Koirala of Nepali Congress who had fallen sick after his New Delhi visit met with senior leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, July 18, 2011 at his personal residence.

Koirala was out of the country for three weeks and on his way back home from the US and Europe, halted for a week long New Delhi pilgrimage.

In the half an hour long meeting, Deuba told Koirala either to elevate him to the post of party's parliamentary delegation head or he will begin maneuvering unseating the incumbent Ram Chandra Poudel democratically. The anti-Poudel signature campaign initiated by Sher Bahadur Deuba camp is in progress. Deuba has



already sought support from some of the party senior leaders. "If you cannot support my campaign, I request you not to take any of the sides", Deuba told Koirala and added, "I have the support of majority parliamentarians, I will sack Poudel through a no confidence motion".

"Ram Chandra ji is refusing to

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Jha bids adieu to Mahato

Kathmandu: The Rajendra Mahato led Sadwawana Party has formally split after general secretary Anil Kumar Jha formed 'Sanghiya Sadwawana Party'. Jha claims that he garners support of more than 40% parliamentarians. Sadwawana Party founded by Late Gajendra Narayan Singh, Gajju babu, is divided into countless splinters.

Four parliamentarians Khovari Rai, Mahesh Prasad Yadav and Malati Chaudhary including Anil Kumar Jha himself bid adieu to Chairman Mahato July 18, 2011 leaving behind five

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Chinese Foundation unites Nepal's main adversaries: Paras & Prachanda

Kathmandu: The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO, and the Chinese government backed Asia Pacific Exchange and Cooperation Foundation signed a memorandum to turn Lumbini into what both sides call a "special development zone", writes China Daily, July 17, 2011.

To recall, the Foundation had recently pledged to provide US\$3 Billion for Lumbini Development Project.

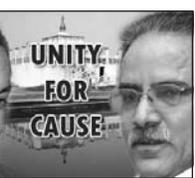
Interestingly, Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda-leader of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and former Nepali prime minister Paras Shah -the former Nepali

crown prince whose father's monarchy was overthrown by Prachanda's forces are associated with this foundation.

Amazing. The China daily reveals, "The joint chairmen of the Asia Pacific Exchange and Cooperation Foundation present an interesting mixture of backgrounds and interests. Among them are Steven Clark Rockefeller Jr, a fifth-generation member of the Rockefeller family; Jack Rosen, chairman of the American Jewish Congress; Leon H. Charney, a real estate tycoon and former US presidential adviser; Prachanda, leader of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and

former Nepali prime minister; and Paras, the former Nepali crown prince whose father's monarchy was overthrown by Prachanda's forces. Amalgamation of various religions as well. In the first phase of Project outlined by the foundation, an International Airport and a Railway fast track will be constructed. The foundation has allocated some US\$1.5 Billion for the first phase of the project.

A local representative of the Foundation in Kathmandu had told Nayapatika Daily, June 23, 2011, that Chinese experts will be soon



be landing in Kathmandu to kickoff the project.

The survey for the construction of railway track will begin right from this month, it had been reported.

According to the overall

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'Nepal-China needs to sign new Peace & Friendship Treaty'

Kathmandu: On July 1, 2011 China celebrated 90th Anniversary of the Founding of Communist party of China (CPC).

Various Chinese high level delegations have been making trips to different friendly countries perhaps to let the friends of China understand achievements and prosperity that it has accomplished under the leadership of the Communist party of China.

Leading a high level delegation of China Center of Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS), Mr. Chen Jin-vice director of Literature Research Center of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, is currently in Kathmandu with the objective to communicate the

spectacular achievements made by the CPC and also to talk of its shortcomings of in the last nine decades and the measures to be taken to correct those lapses.

The delegation had arrived in Kathmandu, July 14, 2011 at the invitation of China Study Center (CSC).

Prior landing in Kathmandu, the delegation visited Islamabad and New Delhi.

At a talk program organized by the CSC in Kathmandu July 15, 2011, Mr. Chen claimed that after 90 years of its founding the Communist Party of China is assessing its performance as regards its contribution to the process of nation building.

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SUICIDAL initiatives

The entire family of the Nepal's Koiralas are born arrogant. They are not only haughty in their behavior but also take to understand that others were filthy insects and thus deserved condemnation.

Albeit they pose to be the synonym to democratic order. They are liberals and several adjectives one could add to their stubborn claims.

In effect, the Koiralas are born undemocrats. They pose themselves to be the one however, the party's low rung cadres understand as to what the Koiralas were in essence.

The wearer knows where the shoe pinches. In effect, the Nepali Congress has through the very whims of the Koiralas for almost six decades with no end in sight to that rule yet. Save late B. P. Koirala, others are or were simply Himalayan political duffers.

Late Koirala B. P. too was somewhat arrogant in his behavior but yet he commanded respect and honor both from within and without more so even his detractors admired his visionary talents that he had in abundance. B. P. was at par with Nehru in effect.

Then came late Girija Prasad Koirala (rest in peace) who under the garb of being a democrat was from tip to toe a dictatorial democrat if this word fits into his personality. However, let's not talk much of those who have already left this material world as it would definitely tantamount to an abuse of the religions that we follow in Nepal. We apologize.

Nevertheless, one thing was common in all of the Koiralas mentioned above. If they possessed immense love and honor for the Indian regime and its leaders then concurrently they were specially indoctrinated to hate the Communists which by extension meant that ignoring the role of China in Nepal or even in the global context must be a mandatory practice which is in prevalence even today though the regional politics-paradigm has already gone into the pockets of the Northern neighbor, by default indeed. Reject it but this is a fact now which is there for all to see.

But yet the Nepalese laymen prefer Sujata Koirala-Jost for several reasons. In fact the people here believe or even take it for granted that Sujata has nothing to do with the system or the word democracy but she is here in Nepal away from Germany-her real home, to spin money. In the process, Sujata very cleverly has amassed wealth which she could not even bring into use in her lifetime. For spinning money from the national exchequer, Sujata more often than not, invites her son-in-law-Rubel-the undeclared Prince of Nepal of Bangladeshi origin, who makes all possible efforts that he can for plunder Nepal. We have been told that Prince Rubel too is now a billionaire thanks his relation with the Nepal's Koirala family.

It is said that even learned scholars from Nepal have failed to understand as to how much greed the Koirala family has for money and for chair?

Politically speaking, the Koiralas pose themselves to be the close adherents of Pundit Nehru-the Indian Prime Minister and wish to ignore others back home through the tacit support of the Indian regime that they still enjoy.

For the Koiralas, it is widely believed in Kathmandu's political circuit that the party that is the Nepali Congress is nothing but an extension of the Indian national congress now being mercilessly ruled by Italy born Indian Queen, Madame Sonia Gandhi. From one rule to the other.

The NC leaders in general and the Koiralas' in particular revere or even salute the junior clerks serving at the South Block, Delhi and back in Kathmandu. Their love for India is more than the Indian nationals. One has to admire such an unconditional love and respect for an alien regime. Honestly speaking, this love and honor which they possess for the friends in the South and their penchant to meet the alien leaders has no parallel in this part of the world. India advises or they themselves seek instructions and then use it in Nepali politics which is what has been paralyzing this nation beginning 1950s.

Well, yet it is not of our concern as to which party is subservient to which countries? We will not mind. Let them go ahead with their political preferences. Yet, our concern becomes genuine and sensitive if such subservience has its negative impact on the overall vital interests of our own country. In saying so we mean that we must not remain a mere spectator to the events that are or were being carried out by some of Nepal's parties under alien design that ultimately hits our own nation hard. This we have witnessed in the past or even let's say beginning early 1950s that the southern neighbor remains ever dominant in our political matters which were of exclusive internal domain.

The fact is that the Indian side is not at fault. Fault lay with our own august leaders. They in essence every time invite foreign interference wherein inevitably the NC has taken the lead.

We respect and honor this so called oldest political party. We adore those NC leaders who possess love and regard for their own motherland. The NC has countless nations who are in the distant past.

We wish now to dwell on NC President Sushil Koirala's fresh India visit. Why he visited Delhi? For what purpose? Was he provided with the mandate by his own party colleagues to see in person the Delhi rulers? Moreover, what compelled Sushil to seek and appointment with Dr. Singh and Mrs. Gandhi? What were the secret talks that he has had with those declared Nepal arm twisters? Sushil Koirala will not reveal his secret talks with whom he has met while being in Delhi. This is for sure.

However, even if he doesn't reveal the details of his talks, one can imagine well that he must have talked foul of the Maoists whom India had provided shelter and not so in the distant past. Moreover, Sushil may have also alarmed New Delhi of the increasing Chinese influence in Nepal. And many more talks may have been there in seeking Indian intervention in Nepali affairs at the earliest. If it were not so then why Sushil Da is not revealing the details of his talks that he had in Delhi?

What about his secret meet with the Indian Ambassador designate Jayant Prasad?

Abundant reasons to suspect Koirala's credentials until he speaks the truth.

Finally, having written all that what has been mentioned here yet we possess deep honor for the NC party and its leaders. All that we wish is that the NC men take the leadership of Nepal right into their own hands. Why inventing naughty elements if you have the guts to govern the nation which is yours?

Wishing an early health recovery of honorable Sushil Da.

Possible wars for Water underscore import of Nepal's Peace Zone Proposal

Professor Anand Aditya

"Nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come," said Victor Hugo. Wading through the strands of arguments that Isabelle Duquesne weaves into her thesis, the evidence she gathers, and the scope for Nepal as a zone of peace (NZOP) that she profiles indeed leaves the reader with the feeling that peace is the idea whose time has come. But, has it really? And if it has, can one hope for that idea to stage a comeback? In the fifteen years between 1975 and 1990, 116 countries supported that proposal, but like its predecessor, the declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace resolution of the 26th session of the UN General Assembly- it hangs in limbo.

That failure can be attributed mainly to the startling absence of citizens in the debate but also to the inability of other stakeholders in peace in and around the region who could not take up the cause with integrity and energy because Delhi pooh-poohed it and Moscow followed. As Abraham Lincoln observed, nothing in the world is solved conclusively, unless it is solved correctly, and the author sets out to address the historic amnesia in this volume to clear the many cobwebs that have gathered around the idea, an idea which now lingers in the people's memory as little more than a footnote of history.

The death of their kith and kin, and the debris of destruction left behind by a whole decade of unprecedented violence have left the people in Nepal pining for peace as never before and the wish for peace is there. But, is there the will for it?

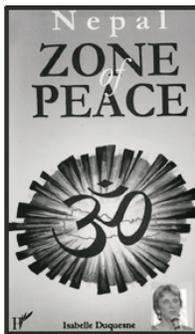
At a time when the political parties are spending more time arguing for power and privilege than on a national roadmap, can they be expected to muster enough support to make it the people's agenda?

And, after thirty-six years of hibernation, can the idea rise as the Phoenix did from the ashes of its past failure?

The author believes it can, forwarding her proposition with a certain trust and an stirring the reader's imagination to a height wherefrom it is hard to descend, yet, keeping it firmly grounded on reality.

Comprehending peace is not easy and putting it into practice is even less so. The weasel-like nature of peace has been defined diversely and deviously. "A just peace," said Bill Mauldin, "is one when one side gets what one wants," and peace in international relations often becomes a period of cheating between two periods of fighting, as Ambrose Pierce put it, rather than a co-existential pursuit, as Bertrand Russell advised.

Such difficulties notwithstanding, the movement for peace is making a noticeable headway. It is now a key staple of contemporary political literature and pacifism a major presence in the global scene. The forces of peace are certainly not alone. Thomas C. Wiegela's Biopolitics, to illustrate, is a search for a more humane political science offering a fresh outlook on the peace discourse, and Young Sek Chou's *Oughtopia* explores the scope for an ideal society based on trust, cooperation, and service. Apart from such theoretical efforts to lay a firm conceptual foundation for irremovably the science of peace-the trends emerging in contemporary world history add hope further. After the tortuous and torturous struggle, the Irish issue stands closer to solution. France and Germany have left their centuries of war behind to become friends. Turkey, which fought wars with almost every neighbor in the past, finds its 'peace at home, peace abroad' policy bringing rich dividends. After years of investing in nuclear weapons South Africa has decided to denuclearize itself. And, since the proclamation of the Unden Plan in 1961, various nations and regions have declared their own nuclear free zones. The symbolic peace capability of communities, too, is gaining strength in its own way. The International Day of Peace, 21st and October 2 (Gandhi's birthday announced by the UN as a universal day of peace) offer opportunities for communities, groups, and organizations worldwide to come together and express their support for peace. A



global community is also emerging, armed with human rights and assisted by a new generation of peacekeeping efforts — Multi Dimensional Peace Support Operations (PSOs) as also organizations such as the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). Closer to home, the social charter adopted at the 11th SAARC Summit in 2002 in Kathmandu made a good beginning as did the people-to-people non-formal dialogue to reinforce global peace movement

use of and gradual weaning from aid, implying power shifts from governments to the country's citizens. Situating her proposition in a multi-layered framework — from the local to the global — she draws profusely from a whole repertoire of ideas and tools such as the Global Compact, Athens Ethical Principles, Global Reporting Initiative, the Nuclear Weapons free zones (NWZF) of cities, countries, and whole regions, as also the impressive record of *La Coordinadora* of El Salvador. All this makes ample sense. She also does not forget to boost up her arguments with the help of concepts like *The Triple bottom Line (TBL)*, *Materiality*, *Conflict-Sensitive Business Practice (CSBP)*, *Conflict Analysis Framework (CAF)*, *Servant Leadership*, and *Voluntary Simplicity*. Voluntary Simplicity is a principle applied through federal and national plans for access to resource and distribution of wealth, which the author feels must be incorporated into the constitution for publicly elected representatives and appointed with clear limits on the use of rights, powers, and authority on the use of resources. Such declaration could take the form of a UN territorial peace declaration as a Nepali version of cantons at peace with themselves and with each other, pooling together the core competencies of the SAARC's member states.

The treatment is far from routine. Focused analysis rather than banal



on the sands of history during the fate-filled days of the two world wars and later, in the various hotspots of global conflicts. Little wonder that this country has the highest level of returning visitors in South Asia, or that Aung San Suu Kyi herself authored a booklet on why to visit Nepal.

It is, however, the vulnerability and volatility of the region as an epicenter of the two largest sources of conflict-one ideological, another a terrorist one-that juxtaposes five large regions of Asia: the Arab West, the Muslim Central, Confucian Northeast, Buddhist Southeast, and a largely Hindu South, and also as a source of some of the largest rivers on the world's map which could breed *future wars for water that underscores the true significance of the peace zone proposal*. Isn't now, therefore, the right moment to declare and institutionalize this whole Himalayan belt as a region of peace, not only to forestall terrorist violence and the 'massacres to come', and to herald for us all the freedom from fear of the preventable misfortunes in the future? If the answer is a yes, declaring Nepal a Peace Zone would constitute the first, although not the only, right step in that direction.

The absolute conditions for such peace are two, as Urho Kekkonen noted: an atmosphere of complete security at home and a correct and irreproachable neighborliness. In Nepal's case, the irony is that despite the treaties of peace and friendship signed with its two next-door neighbors, at least one looks little better than the dinner to which the crane of the fable invited its friend, the dog. That India's role in materializing the Peace Zone idea is of crucial significance was confirmed not only in the significance accorded to it vis-à-vis every other country by the respondents of a survey done three years ago (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Survey 2008), but also by another survey executed that same year, when significantly more respondents from India and Bangladesh than from any other country of the region said they felt insecure about attack by another country (State of Democracy in South Asia: A Report 2008). That, however, makes the Peace Zone proposal a superordinate goal which means every country bordering on the Hindukush-Himalayan belt has to move forward if it is to become a reality. But they can move forward only if they move together.

(With Professor Aditya's permission. Thanks also must go to Isabelle Duquesne, France: Ed)

NATIONAL

in establishing peace in a region that boasts a superlative position in poverty and the military force ratio. That the world's Buddhist community and UNESCO have bestowed the status of World Polity on Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, the enlightened, is another piece of good news in the string of events.

To say peace zone in such a context, is to pursue positive neutrality, a choice that is easier said than done. It would be easier to obey, and easier to bend and bow. But, if the peace agenda is to become more than just a vanity project, the agenda has to be pursued with all the seriousness it demands and the efforts we can muster, since it is the only option left for us, whether to safeguard the vital interests of this land or to ensure the twin processes of democratization and development.

The author's discourse does not make it the conventional kind of treatise on politics of which the market has plenty. It, instead, tries to explain the ethos that suffuses the nation's drive for peace and charts out the route to make it possible, building it up not just as a national agenda, but as a multilateral regional mission buyable by the neighbors as well. This is where her proposal stands sharply apart from its previous version. In the course of revisiting the idea, the author reshapes it as a potent legislative initiative, as a national characteristic of the Nepali folk-soul, which she believes to be its very Dharma where violence, by and large, is an imported cultural phenomenon, and which can ensure stability and security in the region and around.

But, given that the second most water-rich country in the world cannot even quench its thirst, given that most of the past century makes it a century of loss decades, and given, moreover, that the Westphalian paradigm of state security fixated on *nachpolitik* and secret covenants still guides regime behavior around the region, how much sense would all this make?

Fitting the current geopolitical context in line with the circumstances of the 21st century, the author advances her premise on border security as a commitment to a joint framework and joint operation as the Swiss, the Germans, and the Austrians have, to secure their common borders on Lake Constance. (Doesn't that ring the bell on the way we mishandled Kalapani?) NZOP could become a stabilizing influence to help technocrats evaluate the degree of globalization that is beneficial to Nepal, which she-the author of the book, says, induces a certain conditionality on governance in the

narrative is the author's forte. Nor does the writer shun the controversial, building up her offensive convincingly. One clue she offers to breathing health into bilateral relationship is disentangling contingencies and conditions from factual issues and constraints. Another is a comprehensive security policy with clearly defined areas of commonalities, of interdependence, and of independence. Only such approaches, the author believes, can be expected to move the nation from load-shedding to pay loading through the sale of hydropower to the Asian neighbors that would require adoption of the guardianship principle on the ownership of our blue gold if we are to manage properly the geo-stress that control of water could bring to the natural regions of the four river basins that together occupy a total of 163,000 sq km of drainage area. Apart from the volume's significance as an updated key to Nepal's contemporary politics, and the parameters of peace, her work thus contains food for thought for every kind of reader on the peace theme-the academic, the advocate, as well as the activist.

In reality, it is not just the historic role of Nepal as an entrepote between two great civilizations-the Indic and the Sino-its critical location between the cultural heartland of India and the soft belly of China, its strategic locus as the center of gravity in the Hindukush Himalayan arc, or even its trijunctional position between nuclear powers, that sets the case for Nepal distinctly apart from many others in the peace agenda.

But also as a future transit corridor between two emerging super-economies. That was the reason behind both India and China approaching Nepal formally to provide transit facilities. As a potential South Asian hub, transit interaction could deepen the neighborhood relations without losing sovereignty which could alter the future of the Asian economic community itself transforming its deficits into surpluses. As an international center for financial service, the country holds another potential. Added to the list of UN volunteers from Nepal posted in countries from the Cook Islands of the Pacific to Kosovo, and from Botswana to Bangladesh are its track record on UN Peacekeeping operations of more than half a century and 33 missions involving 68,000 troops. Then there is also the saga of valor Nepali soldiers have left

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Nepal ZoP recharged, thanks Isabelle Duquesne

Sometimes even miracles do happen in Kathmandu's academic circle. Miracles are in itself more than a surprise.

An academic discussion now also begins with peace loving songs and music. In effect, those who can swim in song-rivers and music are the real human beings. I could not be an exception to the universal rule and thus I enjoyed to the hilt some Nepali folk songs in his

awarded with Central Committee member status.

Okay! Let me come to the point. It was just a lost cause reenergized. Many in Nepal who thrived writing the stories in praise of King Birendra for his Zone of Peace proposal are now not in the scene. The Royal hangers-on are not to be found.

With the ZoP and its initiator

partner in Eastern Europe, the then USSR, did not subscribe to the idea for their own explanations.

The long forgotten issue has very freshly been brought to the world attention once again. Thanks Isabelle Duquesne, the writer of the book "Nepal: Zone of Peace".

The book has a touch of Hindu religion because the very cover has Om printed.

Omkar embodies the universe. The author of this book is a French national who teaches at the universities and business schools in Europe, Nepal and Mexico. She has to her credit a Master's degree in peace studies and also is an MBA and has earned her doctoral degree in international relations and diplomacy from CEDS in 2005.

The book on the said topic should have been penned by Nepali scholars. But that did not happen. However, a magnanimous lady, highly qualified in her own right from Paris did take the courageous initiative and look! The book is already hitting the kiosks!

Shame on Nepali scholars-the intellectual prostitutes that they have already become save a few. She talked a lot about Nepal's peace zone proposal. The manner she presented Nepal's ZoP was simply educative even to those who rejected the entire proposal because it had been forwarded by a Nepal King whom they "under instructions" did not like.

Money matters most. By the way, she has already



marked the book for the European nations. For Nepal, the Bhrikuti Academic Publications published her book on ZoP, Nepal. She believes that the Nepal ZoP proposal will even benefit the Indian regime. Her claim was interesting one in that she appears not to have well understood as to what the Indian regime was?

She is thus advised to talk to the South Block authorities and convince them of the benefits of Nepal being declared a zone of peace. Professor Anand Aditya in his forenote predicts, "Future was in this part of the world could be averted if Nepal is declared a zone of peace".

Similarly, Dev Raj Dahal forwarding his comment on Isabelle's book says in response to the author Dr. Isabelle Duquesne's vital concern: "Can Nepal stand apart from the turbulence of the modern world and develop politically and economically by transforming itself into a zone of peace?" Obviously, my answer is affirmative, opines Dahal-a senior political scientist of Nepal. I will go by what Dahal claims. He has forwarded his own convincing explanations.

The narrative is being overly stretched. I wish to make my exclusive comments on the book at a later date but yet I must thank Isabelle for her kind words for my country and the pain she took for the publication of this book. Thanks Isabelle!

En Bref

Gokarna Bista ashamed of being a Minister

Kathmandu: Gokarna Bista is ashamed of calling himself a minister.

"I feel ashamed calling myself a minister because of fake assurances being made by the political parties and the dishonest activities of the political leadership", said the Energy Minister. Bista belongs to United Marxist Leninists Party. "Good people too have been tainted because of non-stop fake assurances made by the political leadership and failing to keep up to their promises", he said.

By the way, it is rumored that bureaucrats at the Ministry of Energy spend their spare time laughing at the unprofessional decisions taken by Minister since his appointment.

"Our people are poverty stricken, they do not have enough food to eat and there is no education. Our leaders instead of concentrating on the plight of the population prefer to make eloquent lectures", said the minister while he himself was making a long lecture at a program held in Kathmandu, Saturday.

"In this prevailing scarcity, I feel humiliated plying on a car with the national flag", he added while making these ear pleasing remarks. He however, said that accomplishments he has made in his short stint at the ministry to solve the energy crisis is astounding.

'Nepal Constitution Success: Litmus Test for International Community'

Kathmandu: The Chair of Nepal's Parliament Subash Chandra Nembang who had led a delegation to New Delhi to attend the 5th SAARC-level Speakers' Conference returned home, July 13, 2011.

Upon return, Nembang told point-blank at the Tribhuvan International Airport talking to media persons that the international community would be adjudged victorious only if Nepal's peace and constitutional processes are successfully completed.

Else, Nembang hinted sure shot failure of Nepali political parties to successfully complete- in all likelihood the "most expensive constitution drafting process ever" would tentatively mean the international community too had failed. Blaming others for your failures!

"There is absolutely no alternative to bringing peace and constitutional process to its desired end", Nembang told Kantiipur and added, "Its success is the victory of international community."

Does that mean the international community is certain to fail in Nepal or is being made to fail?

However, Nembang providing some relief to the international community-that has more stakes in Nepal's peace process (in financial terms only), said, "I am very much hopeful that much ahead of August 31, the preliminary draft of the constitution will be available and progress will be made in the peace process".

During his India visit, Nembang also met with the Indian Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh and other leaders.

"I found them quite positive. They were also of the view that Nepali leadership itself should sort problems internal to Nepal", the speaker told media persons.

SECOND IMPRESSION

N.P. UPADHYAYA

and Tabala at a book launching program, July 16, 2011.

The publication of the book and the very title it has in its front page may come as a matter of critical heart pain for those who tooth and nail objected late King Birendra's proposal of declaring Nepal as a Zone of Peace.

Understandably, the objections were paid ones.

Nepalese have a habit to object even to adore when he or she is

heftily paid. Mercenaries that's why we are being taken by the outside world. A small tip for those who are presumed to work for the foreign forces. It is for those Quisling and fifth columnists I thus advise to open up a political party whose manifesto should at the very beginning must read, "Insult and rape one's own motherland if paid".

Salaried agents should be

gone, the paid ones of the then era have even forgot what late King Birendra had proposed and for what purpose? They pocketed money and built posh bungalows. I know some of them who squeezed King Birendra by penning flimsy stories which enraged India even more.

The ZoP was a smart proposition loaded with meaning (it has not yet lost its intrinsic meaning) and a much needed tender at least for Nepal's own survival and also for the continued preservation of the nation's sovereignty which partially we have lost. We could have sold the ZoP idea in the rest of the world market and it did sell as well. The recognition that it bagged from some 116 plus countries from the comity of nations was simply superb. Albeit, the Indian regime under the inferiority complex ridden lady Indira Gandhi and her

Nepal: Zone of Peace

A Revised Concept for the Constitution

Dev Raj Dahal, Head, FES Nepal

I begin with the author Dr. Isabelle Duquesne's vital concern: "Can Nepal stand apart from the turbulence of the modern world and develop politically and economically by transforming itself into a zone of peace?" Obviously, my answer is affirmative. Nepal's resilience to survive and adapt as one of the oldest nations in the world provides sufficient hope. It survived the imperial, hegemonic, multi-state and cooperatives regimes in the world. The crucial factors that make it resilient are the vitality of its centripetal forces and the power of spirituality of society to sustain the state. This is also the core argument of the author. She says: "Nepal's great strength is its spirituality. Nepalese people are not xenophobic because they do not feel cultural cringe— inferiority complex of one's own culture and any need to become reactive to other's intentions and actions. This is the mark of its openness. This openness has inspired many foreign sages and seers to come to Nepal to perform meditation and reflection and achieve enlightenment and the Nepalese to travel and work in many parts of the world. It is not surprising because the apostles of enlightenment Raj Rishi Janak and Gautam Buddha spread the universal messages of justice, brotherhood and peace. They propounded eternal values and dedicated their lives for the well-being of all living species. This is history."

The author's serious concern now is: "How to maintain Nepal's constructive independence?" This question is more vital now than any comparable time in Nepal's history as Nepal's two challenges of internal cohesion and external adaptation have strained its statehood. Post-modern classes are deliberately deconstructing its history, values and institutions and



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exposing this fragile state to unstable geopolitics. There are also non-state actors—thieves, criminals, armed groups and traitors for whom national sovereignty is an enemy. The lust for power, resources and separate identities continues to stampe over the national space creating a vicious cycle of fear, insecurity, loss of public order and underdevelopment.

Can Nepal escape from the chrysalis of this neo-feudalism which lacks spiritual and rational heritage of the nation? The author points its great strengths in tolerance, tourism, transit state, hydropower, liberal economy of peace and international acceptability. Of course, they are crucial virtues providing Nepal competitive and comparative advantages. Formulation of contextual policy can help reclaim its historical identity of an independent nation-state restore the dignity of Nepalese. The virtuous cycle of peace can be created in systemic values—in socialization and action—not in the maximization of identity of one variable such as class, ethnicity, caste or region while minimizing the others that people uphold, such as basic needs, justice and ecological sustainability. Buddha, inspired by the Upanishads, said

"inner peace and outer peace are related."

Nepal's peace process might remain 'restless' unless political leaders feel the accountability to implement all the contents of peace accord. It is neither incongruous nor surprising for establishing Nepal a Zone of Peace. It is not incongruous to Nepalese geopolitical imperative for physical survival and ethical necessity to foster a policy of peaceful co-existence. It is not surprising because, like Newton's third law of motion, people's war emerged as a class reaction against market fundamentalism. But the fusion of class politics and the market forces too bred regional and ethnic fundamentalism. This shows that subordination of politics to mini identities cannot foster Nepal's peace. Leaders' failure is caused by their party-minded and power-oriented linear approach, not the systemic, national and value-based, democratic one. The ground reality, therefore, reflects embattled nature of political compromises over many constitutional issues whose resolution is linked to the durable peace. Post-conflict peace building requires long-term structural adjustments of actors of conflict and peace. Only then it can overcome regular failure of dialogue, standoffs and unholy alliances lacking systemic features.

I agree with the author's conclusion: "Peace is national characteristic of Nepali folk soul." True, indeed, the viability of Nepal rests on the internalization of this "folk soul" into national life of elites, leaders and decision-makers. Only then constitutional expression of peace helps to institutionalize and reconcile its historical legacy of peace and current manifestation in peace zone. The book is written with positive mindset as it appreciates the highest civic virtues of Nepal and the Nepalese and fills the mind with great hope on its progress. I congratulate Dr. Isabelle.

India should think twice

Sultan M Hali

Pakistan has successfully conducted the first flight test of the newly developed Short Range Surface-to-Surface Multi Tube Ballistic Missile Hatf IX (Nasr), much to the chagrin of Indian defence planners, as is evident from the Indian Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) report titled Pakistan: Making Sense Of Nasr Ballistic Missile Test - Analysis.

The IDSA report tries to nullify the analysis by the Pakistani experts. Undoubtedly, Nasr has been developed to add deterrence value to Pakistan's Strategic Weapons Development programme at shorter ranges. With a range of 60km, Nasr carries both tactical nuclear and high-explosive conventional warheads. It is powered by a high-thrust, single-stage solid-propellant rocket motor. Nasr's launch platform is a double-tube transporter erector launcher (TEL) capable of carrying two missiles with high accuracy and shoot-and-scoot attributes. This quick response system addresses the need to deter evolving threats. The test of Nasr is a very important milestone in consolidating Pakistan's strategic deterrence capability at all levels of the threat spectrum. This is a new and very significant development because this latest missile system is in the category of tactical nuclear weapons. It is a low yield battlefield deterrent, which is capable of deterring and inflicting punishment on mechanised forces comprising armoured brigades and divisions. This was made possible because of miniaturisations to smallest level and it forecloses the Indian army's options of Cold Start and proactive operations. The

Indian military used to perceive gaps in the Pakistani side and was obsessed with finding space for limited war under the nuclear umbrella. Thus, it was amassing conventional weapons and had developed its Cold Start doctrine to be able to deal Pakistan a telling blow before it could retaliate with its nuclear weapons. India has been testing its Cold Start doctrine in various war games and military exercises, including the current corps level exercise "Vijay Bhav", in the Rajasthan desert and, at the same time, has been browbeating Pakistan. However, Nasr or "help", which is also the title of one of the Quranic verses, will ably plug that gap and ensure that India is deterred from any such adventurism. With the development of Nasr, Indian planners will now think twice before considering options of limited war. Often the Indians start beating their chests and crying hoarse with their battle cries prematurely. In May 1998 too after conducting nuclear tests at Pokhran, the Indian defence planners and politicians were so convinced that Pakistan did not have nuclear weapons capability that they became belligerent with their threats and jingoism, forcing Pakistan's hand in crossing the nuclear threshold and coming out of the closet. Having learnt no lessons, ex-Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor had announced: "The time has come for teaching Pakistan a lesson." The General had been blinded by the so-called success of the Indian war games testing Cold Start, and thus he had broken into rhetoric. A few details of Nasr, gleaned from overt sources; it is

akin to a guided artillery shell in the form of surface-to-surface missile (SSM). The Soviets had developed and used various types of such missiles, as a propellant and heavily fortified fixed installation target clearance weapon system in the battlefield. Nasr, however, can successfully target armoured and mechanised columns on the move with nearly pinpoint accuracy. Judging from the test flight video released, Nasr appears to follow a depressed trajectory, rather than typical ballistic trajectory that makes a lethal combination, when married to high manoeuvrability, high speed and short range; which will cause nightmares and throw a challenge to any anti-ballistic missile system. Comparing Nasr to the earlier versions of Hatf 1B and Hatf 1A, Nasr appears to be more stabilised in its flight. The use of terminal guidance enables the Nasr to be projected, as a quick response precision guided ballistic missile with extremely low circular error of probability (CEP) to take the heavily defended targets in a 60km radius. Its quick reaction time, low CEP, terminal guidance and lethal warhead make it far superior to a simple, unguided, multi-barrel rocket launcher system. The test fire and diameter of the warhead suggest that Pakistan has achieved the capability of deploying sub-kiloton yield tactical nuclear warhead appropriate for a sub-kiloton nuclear detonation, which if boosted with four to five gms of tritium, could yield a 10 to 20 KT nuclear detonation. When produced in bulk, it will wreak havoc in any battlefield scenario, penetrating the fog of war and striking a telling blow upon any belligerent.

Everest

Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs: Achievements and Future Directions-II

Dr Rambakata Thakur
Nepal's Former Ambassador to Egypt

The Istanbul Program of Action, 2011
The Istanbul program of Action covers 27 priority areas, including, infrastructure building, energy access, disaster risk reduction, human capital enhancement through health measures, and the empowerment of women and youths, more specifically, the Action plan calls on countries to build their capacities by: fostering sustained, equitable and inclusive human and social development; increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women reducing the vulnerability of LDCs to economic natural environmental

shocks and disasters as well as climate change. Under the Program of Action, developed countries agree to support natural disaster reduction programs in LDCs. The LDCs -iv: Seems to have been realized the past mistakes in priorities and policies and therefore, have taken new pragmatic approaches for surmounting the problems of the LDCs. Istanbul Declaration seems to be a pragmatic one, which demands more actions with

from US \$ 13.8 billion to US\$ 373 billion in 2009, which represents an annual average increase of 13.2% compared to 10.9% to the developing countries. The rate of growth of LDCs was 13.8%, SIDs was 11.2%. As proportion of OECD (Organization for economic cooperation and development) DAC (development assistance committee) donor's GNI, aid to LDCs has increased from 0.056% to 0.97% in 2009. The donors in the conference agreed to implement actions which would achieve aid targets of ODA to LDCs of 0.15% to 0.20% of GNI. Host country Turkey has pledged to increase the present direct investment amount around \$2 billion to LDCs to \$ 5 billion by 2015 and US \$ 10 billion by 2020. In addition to it, she is ready to dedicate and host an "international science, technology and innovation centre". Furthermore, a total of US \$ 200 million annually to LDCs, starting from 2012 for technical cooperation projects and program. On trade, the Declaration commits to the timely implementation of duty free and quota. Free market access, on a lasting basis, for all LDCs consistent with Hongkong, Ministerial Declaration -adopted by WTO in 2005. It allows members facing difficulties at this



time to provide 100% market access and to provide duty free and quote-free market access for at least 97% of products originating from LDCs by 2008 or no later than the start of the implementation period. Moreover, there are commitments to ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are simple, transparent and predictable and contribute to facilitating market access. For enabling LDCs to double its international trade. In the last decade, two least developed countries Cape Verde (2004) and Maldives (2010) have been graduated from the vicious circle of LDCs to the developed countries group. The conference also decided to establish the Green Climate Fund for a purpose of reducing their vulnerability to natural disasters through disaster preparedness and risk reduction as well as resilience -building. (To be concluded)

DOSSIER

graduating more from LDCs status and bringing better life to the people. A sincere promises made to develop the necessary infrastructure for telecommunication, trade, energy production, rail and road development. Although there is no new aid pledged in Istanbul, but the figure of assistance since Brussels Program of Action in 2001, has been higher than to all the previous programs. Since 2001, aid to LDCs has gone up

shocks and disasters as well as climate change. Under the Program of Action, developed countries agree to support natural disaster reduction programs in LDCs. The LDCs -iv: Seems to have been realized the past mistakes in priorities and policies and therefore, have taken new pragmatic approaches for surmounting the problems of the LDCs. Istanbul Declaration seems to be a pragmatic one, which demands more actions with

Importance of accession to the Rome Statute of ICC by Nepal

Raj Kumar Sivakoti

Over the past century, we have witnessed the worst violence in the history of humankind. In the past 50 years alone, more than 250 conflicts have erupted around the world; more than 86 million civilians, mostly women and children, died in these conflicts; and over 170 million people were stripped of their rights, property and dignity. Most of these victims have been simply forgotten and few perpetrators have been brought to justice.

Nepal is state party to a significant number of international instruments pertaining to human rights. In July 2006, the then House of Representatives issued a directive to the government to accede to the Rome Statute of ICC. Since then, there has been little progress toward Nepali accession to the Statute. On 11 February 2009 the then Minister of Foreign Affairs tabled ICC accession motion to the Cabinet. The ICC is the first permanent, independent court capable of investigating and bringing to justice individuals who commit



crimes through this instrument. Being state party to the ICC helps us to avert possibilities of future violation of human rights. To manage transitional justice process

legal problems in Nepal for ratifying ICC. However, UCPN-Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal has expressed commitment to cooperate, but his party has not taken any concrete step to this effect. There are 3 major causes hindering ratification of ICC, viz., unfavourable attitude of party leadership, backward syndrome and fear of retrospective effect. Besides, Nepal has signed a bilateral immunity agreement with the government of USA. According to this agreement, none of the signatory parties can transfer the convicted person to a third country to present to the ICC. It is a big obstacle for Nepal to implement Rome Statute. The political parties are still not convinced about the benefits of ratifying the Rome Statute of ICC. We must work to narrow down the misunderstanding about this international mechanism. It will have no value of crying to ratify ICC by Nepal until Maoists commit for "not to go for violence in the future."

We need a new criminal justice system for new Nepal, and the accession to ICC can help us in this regard. To control impunity, Nepal should immediately ratify ICC. This plays a very important role to strengthen international as well as national justice system. (The author is secretary general, FOHRID, Human Rights and Democratic Forum)

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the most serious crimes under the international law, namely war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and, once defined, aggression. The Court is seated in The Hague, The Netherlands and was established in accordance with the Rome Statute, the ICC's founding treaty, on 1 July 2002. To date, the ICC treaty has been ratified by 114 States, with representation from every region of the world. However, Nepal has not acceded to the ICC till now.

also, it is important for Nepal to accede to the ICC. No doubt, there are good characteristics of the court that can ensure justice for the victims. This court does not replace or intervene the jurisdiction of the national courts; rather it is a complementary mechanism. ICC becomes active on the request of concerned individuals or institutions, only if national judicial system is unwilling or unsuccessful to deal with a case related to serious human rights violation. There are no constitutional or

During the period of armed conflict in Nepal (1996-2006), more than 13,000 people were killed and 1227 (ICRC:2008) were disappeared. Security force and the Maoists were equally responsible for atrocities with the people in the name of political ideology or assisting the other party in conflict. Now, the war is over and the nation is in the process to institutionalize peace and democracy. However, the state is not being accountable to answer to the families of the victims who are in big trouble awaiting justice. Not a single perpetrator of the conflict is prosecuted in a proper manner. Many identified and hidden forces are working to fulfill their individual interests at the cost of justice to the people.

The United Nations General Assembly first recognized the need for a permanent mechanism to prosecute mass murderers and war criminals in 1948, following the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II. Since then, numerous laws and conventions have defined and forbidden everything from war crimes to poison gas and chemical weapons, yet no system was proposed to enforce these norms by holding individuals criminally responsible for the most serious violations of international law until the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998. In addition to bringing justice to victims of such atrocities, the ICC hopes to serve as a deterrent to the future Hitlers, Milosevics and Pol Pots, bringing an end to the culture of impunity,

The image of Nepal was very positive in the international community before the days of conflict, but now it is deteriorating. For a long time, efforts have been made to ensure ratification of the ICC by Nepal. There is no disagreement about the need to accede to the ICC. Various task forces formed by the government in the past have pointed out this need. The civil society is continuously exerting pressure to the government. The government and the political parties have expressed their commitments, but nothing significant has happened till now. This makes us feel humiliated in case of human rights commitments from our country.

Accession to the Rome Statute of ICC has a multiplier benefit for Nepal. We can address international and national serious

DATELINE KATHMANDU

Niraj Aryal

Pani Puri EFFECT

After treating his physical ailments in the US and having treated for his political ailments in India from recognized political doctors of the sort of Dr. Mohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi, the frail President Sushil Koirala of Nepali Congress upon return home has even again fallen sick.

An overly excited Koirala after landing in New Delhi even did not care of his frail health and met with tom-dick and harry Indian leaders of various shades and colors in his six day stay there.

And, the pressure he is receiving from former King Gyanendra Shah declared inefficient leader 'Sher Bahadur Deuba' to vacate the post of party's parliamentary delegation head by unseating Ram Chandra Poudel too might have added more troubles to his already to his frail health conditions.

A beaming Koirala had returned home on Friday July 15, 2011. "He has high temperature, cold and cough", say Koirala family insiders.

Deuba who had plans to meet Koirala on Saturday was advised



EXCESSIVE SOUTHERN BEND



to meet the president later after Koirala recovers. "The president has just returned home. We will meet him in a day or two. We will sit together again with the same group of people who were present while the agreement was made (between Koirala and Deuba to unseat Poudel)", reports quote a leader close to Deuba as saying.

While Deuba claims that Koirala had informally given him words to unseat Ram Chandra Poudel, Koirala has been parroting that he has never made any assurance in this regard.

The Deuba panel claims that when Koirala had made the assurance, the NC leaders Prakash man Singh, Krishna Prasad Sitaula and Bimalendra Nidhi were present.

"If he rejects, we will move in the direction to unseat Poudel through democratic means", the leader adds.

Informal reports have it that the Deuba panel needs support of some 58 parliamentarians to unseat Poudel.

Observers presume that the Delhi **Pani-Poori** may have caused indigestion problem to President Koirala and thus the high fever. Yet analysts wish him a speedy recovery.

1950 Treaty ...

barracks. They are working for the inclusion of such provision in the new constitution which made all Nepali citizens above 18 years old to take military training compulsorily. The Maoists already possess paramilitary force, YCL to carry out any military exercise. Thus, the Maoists are moving ahead with grand design and their ultimate aim is the State Capture. However, their plan is not going to work. NC is fully committed to foil their deceitful plan.

Q9: Let's change the topic. NC is widely accused for undermining nationalism. The leaders of NC are also accused of remaining tightlipped on the issue related with Nepal-India relations. Mr. Pandey, what you say on such accusation?

Pandey: The communist of Nepal are responsible for such false accusation. They want to portray themselves as a nationalist by tarnishing the image of NC.

I agree that we have some serious problem in our relations with India. The Peace and Friendship Treaty signed in 1950 and other several pacts and agreement signed in between the two countries do not seem to be in favor of Nepal. On the changed national, regional and global context, those treaties and agreement should be reviewed in such a way that it will develop the strength of our nation.

To make our nation stronger, we should have to strictly do two works. Firstly, we should unite the entire Nepali people in the string of nationalism. An act of playing one ethnic group against another or one region against another should be immediately

stopped. We should not try to play Limbuwan against Klumbuwan or Terai against Hills. The Maoists are doing same thing. This will further weaken our nationalism.

Secondly, we should be economically independent. Until and unless we do not stop receiving aid from other countries, we cannot gain moral ground to defend our agenda strongly while negotiating with them.

The communist in Nepal call themselves as nationalists. However, their childish and immature behavior is making our nation further weaker. Just look what the Maoist Chairman Prachanda did after assuming post of Prime Minister? He went to Beijing to participate in the closing ceremony of Beijing Olympics. That was fine. As a Premier of a sovereign Nation, he can visit any country. However, after returning to Nepal, he said his first formal visit will start from New Delhi as if he had committed any crime by visiting Beijing. What force compelled him to utter such nonsense? What the Chinese may have thought upon listening to such remarks?

Such immature behavior do not work well in diplomacy. We should practice mature and subtle diplomacy based on negotiation and dialogue. The present day Nepali leaders should learn diplomacy from late BP Koirala. We should learn from the way he successfully made the Chinese establishment led by Chairman Mr. Mao Zedong and Prime Minister Mr. Zhou Enlai to accept Sagamatha (Mt. Everest) as a part of Nepal. He had done so with tactful skills. We should enrich our negotiating skills if we have to make our nation strong. Interviewed by Sujit Mainali

सुनिश्चित पहिला तथा बाल अधिकार सुसम्पन्न नेपालको पूर्वाधार

नेपाल सरकार सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय सूचना विभाग

Budget leakage unparalleled in Nepali history

Dr. Ram Saran Mahat, Nepali Congress

TGQ-Answer 1: The government has insulted the entire parliamentary system of democracy by leaking the national budget and making it public much ahead of the budget formal presentation in the parliament. Since the budget had already been made public and thus the entire affair could be held suspect and one can even think that some foul games must have been played in the dark. One cannot dismiss that



even the leakage of the fiscal budget is free from the tacit understanding of the black marketers. There is no basis not to suspect the very motive of the government.

In the entire history of Nepal, this event may be taken as a black day and also be considered as highly objectionable act. I suspect that in the whole affair there is the prevalence of the economic crime and that it may have been done so for committing such sorts of felony.

The government has presented a flimsy and whimsical budget. The construction of the whole budget aims at pleasing the people. Moreover, this government summarily lacks the capabilities to implement this national budget which has just been made public. We will on a regular basis protest this budget. We will not allow this fiscal budget to get approved from the parliament come what may.

As a matter of moral responsibility, this government has no right or whatsoever to continue in power and thus must resign at the earliest.

Nepal always fails in implementation part

Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, Former Finance Minister

TGQ-Answer 2: The fact is that the budget has been leaked prior to its presentation in the parliament. This is a matter of grave concern and also an issue which has pained us all. Such leak has been made for the first time in Nepal's budgetary history.

The investment structure is tentatively the same as it was the previous year. The budget has provided attention in the sectors of power and road construction. This has to be taken in a positive manner. If we look the budget policy wise then what come to the surface is that this

budget has tried to harmonize the money market, capital market and the real estate. This too can be taken as a good step.

Well, the Nepalese problem is that we make abundant planning in advance but the real problem with us is that we fail when it comes to the implementation of those planning undertaken. This has been in prevalence in Nepal for quite some time. I doubt that such a weak government that we have at the moment could implement the budgetary targets as formulated. I doubt that it could see its proper implementation? To implement the budgetary allocations and the targeted plans, one needs a strong and able leadership to which we lack at the present time. Those who wish to investment in Nepal have failed in doing so because

Questions

of the existing political vulnerabilities. To do away with the current economic ailments that have plagued the country, the government must first make the country an economy friendly one. The needed environment must be in place. If the government is ready to make an investment friendly atmosphere then I presume that Nepalese are very much willing to invest in various sectors. The environment must be a friendly one primarily,

FM should have taken some bold decisions

Binod Chaudhary, President, Confederation of Nepalese Industrialists

TGQ-Answer 3: That the national budget has been presented is in itself a great achievement indeed. I appeal all the political parties not to play politics against the presented national budget. The national document must be allowed an unhindered advance.

Many proposals have come in the sector of energy. Substantial amounts have been allocated for this sector. This is the positive side of the budget. This is what I presume. The domain of the management of the energy is naturally the Electricity Corporation. Well, complaints have been there as regards the capabilities of this corporation. Likewise, the real estate sector is too experiencing great threat. What has been made public is that even the foreigners and the Non Resident Nepalese can engage themselves in buying process in Nepal. This can play a very positive role as I think. But the incorporation of a clause that they can't sell their bought properties for some five years must not have been enacted. The share and the capital market had touched its lowest ebb. The budget though has tried to address these issues as mentioned. The productive sector too had already taken a down going trend. The country still lacks the Industrial laws and regulations. Unless these law comes into effect, the Industrial sector will not get the needed energy for their industries. I have marked some solid provisions mentioned in the budget to correct the declining export.

The demand proposed by the nation's industrialists that Industrial policy should be brought through the use of economic laws has not been mentioned in the budget or say at best the demands have summarily been ignored. The proposal that even the VAT issue be addressed through the use of prevalence of multi-layer rates too has been not addressed. On a variety of economic issues, the finance minister should have taken bold decisions but he has failed. This is how I see to it.

National budget is directionless

Dr. Babu ram Bhattarai, Nepal Maoist Party

TGQ-Answer 4: The budget has been come to public prior to its formal presentation by the government. It is a leaked one. This could be taken as a grave act of indiscipline. The entire issue demands a thorough probe. We too have been demanding that an investigation must be carried out in this regard. We are morally bound to support the budget because the government enjoys our party's support. We are forced to do that. If one were to analyze the budget in an independent manner then nothing new programs could be located in the freshly presented budget. Nothing new programs have been inserted in the budget in order to raise hopes in the minds of the general population. All that the budget has in it is old and stale talks. Nothing new.

Some solid financial measures should have been taken by the budget for ensuring economic growth but unfortunately such measures remain absent. The budget has talked of several peripheral issues; nothing concrete as such is there in the national budget. Which direction the budget wants to take is also not clear. Last year the economic growth was kept at 3.5 percent, however, for this year the economic growth has been expected to go up to the tune of 5%. But how it could be attained and with what measures such a growth will be achieved, the budget remains silent? There is no planning set for achieving such a target. The budget presented by the government appears directionless. We are not happy with this budget. The budget is not also as per the coalition aspirations and culture.

Budget has discouraged private sector

-Bhasakarraj Rajkarnikar, Vice Chairman, FNCCI

TGQ-Answer 1: Since the budget has talked of the development of basic infrastructure, this must be taken as a positive sign. The government has also brought various projects to develop the infrastructure at various places which is also a constructive one. However, whether these projects will see its positive implementation or not could be held under suspect. The budget has also touched upon the development of agricultural sector. This also could be taken as an encouraging effort. We had been demanding that the low income level farmers must get benefits from the agricultural sector that too should be provided its due attention. The budget speaks on those lines. Since the budget has accorded much importance to the cooperative system and thus suspicions are there whether such plans would dampen the courage of private investors in the agro sector. Liberal market economy is our sole agenda. Since the budget has failed to address genuine concerns as regards the liberal economy, it has thus disheartened the private business sector. It is yet to be seen how the government promulgates its monetary policy. But the budget has summarily failed to address the current economic issues plaguing the nation.

The national budget is not in line with the much required back-up and priority to the production oriented areas. Questions now could be raised as to what extent the cooperatives will contribute to strengthen the national economy? Since the budget has been scattered everywhere and thus I doubt that it could be implemented as expected by the budget.

Budget FY 2011-12

Communist Budget to Garner Peoples' Vote

Impact of People: Ideally, the budget should have been based on national political consensus. Unfortunately, it was not because the principle of consensus has been replaced by majority rule in the Interim Constitution. As a result, this budget is this government's political-economic weapon that attempts to carry its political ideology into the economic sphere and, in this manner, influence and impact the people by holding on to power even more firmly by marginalizing the opposition.

Broadly, this budget may be described as a Maoist-Communist Budget that is designed to garner maximum people's votes in the likely event that there will be a general election after the abject failure of the Constituent Assembly to write a new federal, republican constitution. This budget will raise the probability that the new constitution, when it is written, will be far removed from pluralism, liberalism and parliamentary democracy—as we have known it—should the Maoist communist coalition garner a two third majority after the new general elections. This is the raison d'être of this budget.

Never in Nepal's budget making history has populism been taken to such height and depth. It contains everything for everybody with colourful confetti of endless subsidies. And, further, it seeks to raise hopes and expectations for the future amongst the gullible rural population where the vote bank lies.

If one assess the impact of the 3 consecutive Maoist-Communist Budgets; namely of Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai and Surendra Pandey's

(that preceded this one by Bharat Mohan Adhikary) one will find that populism gets one nowhere as the economy has persistently worsened, year by year, as compared to the one in 2007-08 (that of Nepali Congress' Dr Ram Saran Mahat).

Despite raising historic revenue volumes in the above 3 years, yet, it had unfavorable impact on GDP, Balance of Payment, Inflation, Unemployment, and most other macroeconomic indicators. This one will suffer the same fate economically as we move towards a command and control economy under state capitalism reminiscent of the Panchayat era where economic growth and national wealth creation was retarded by yielding no role whatsoever for the private sector and the market mechanism.

It needs to be underscored that this Budget is against the letter and spirit of Nepal's WTO obligations and, even worse, it totally ignores the strategic opportunities arising to Nepal from globalization and regionalization of the global geo-economy.

Impact on Entrepreneurs and Traders: Rana: Entrepreneurs and traders will be disadvantaged as state control means they will play second fiddle to central planners, bureaucrats and state enterprises. Big business patronized by political parties will gain immensely but small and medium entrepreneurs and traders will lose out badly since their prosperity and ingenuity depends on a liberal market economy. They are the backbone of the national economy creating 90% or more of the jobs in the economy. Through this budget

Professor Madhukar S Rana
Senior economist, Nepal

This budget should not be expansionary with gifts for all. On the contrary, it should have sought, in coordination with the Nepal Rastra Bank, the supplementary and complementary monetary, credit and foreign exchange policies that will help douse the fires of inflation, tackle the balance of trade and payments disequilibria, fully utilized available production capacity and arrest the massive capital flight from the country.

entrepreneurs and traders will suffer even more as it is now expected that the economy will have a mushroom growth of state promoted and controlled cooperatives that are to be the second vertical of the economy with the pride of place given to state enterprises. Hence forth, PPP is to mean public private participation (at the invitation of the state)—not partnership as equals sharing risks pragmatically.

Entrepreneurs and traders would have benefitted had the government sought to stabilize the macro economy by controlling inflation, dealing with liquidity issues and seeking ways and means to revive the industrial sector that languishes with underutilization.

These short term measures will grow GDP, trade, employment and lower inflation. Long term measures to enhance the production possibilities through investment in big and medium infrastructure will, in the absence of confidence of the national and international private sector and the continued political instability will fuel the fire of inflation that will lead, sooner rather than later,

to the collapse of the national economy suffering international shocks and gross political instability.

Will this Budget help the country?

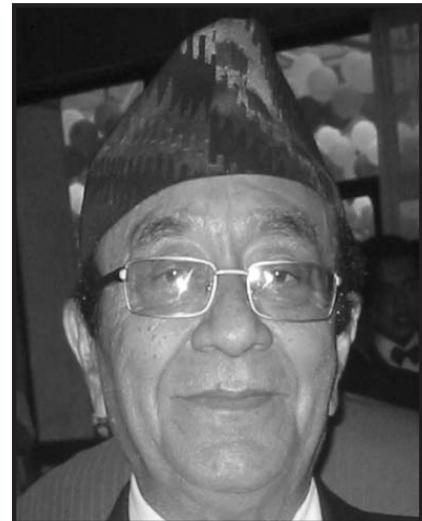
The budget will not help the country as can be witnessed live from the political unease amidst the opposition and the utter loss of dignity in the conduct of the parliament.

"New" Nepal has become the land of the impossible where anything and nothing can happen.

The opposition rightly feels that this budget will turn the tide in favor of Maoism and communism as they face marginalization in a communist state albeit it with multiparty people's democracy.

Until a clear winner will emerge through a new general election—and the sooner the better for political and economic stability—the economy ad interim will be a mafia economy dominated by cartel s and syndicates suffocating the supply chain to make it an economy that is unable to compete in the international arena.

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A Joint Action Plan for National Economic Stabilization to save it from collapse should be brought out by the government and NRB at the soonest to utilize

existing production capacity, remove hurdles to the supply chain and tackle the energy crisis with incentives for maximizing the immense possibilities for import substitution in the agricultural and livestock sectors. This action plan should be based on the submissions by FNCCI, FNSCI and the Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The Nepal Rastra Bank must devolve authority to its Regional Offices to play a proactive role in regional economic development and regulation with capacity development for this.

1950 Treaty with India and some more do not seem to be in Nepal's favor

Badri Pandey

Central Committee Member, Nepali Congress

Q1: Finance Minister (FM) Mr. Adhikari has recently tabled budget in the parliament. What is your comment on the content of budget presented by him?

Pandey: I didn't find anything new in the budget. It was largely expected that the ongoing coalition government formed by two largest communist parties of Nepal, Unified Maoist and CPN UML, will introduce some provisions in the budget which will ease the livelihood of common men. However, when I review its contents, I found it more traditional and more so it lacks vision.

While presenting the budget, the government failed to maintain minimum secrecy. The whole content of budget was leaked before it was tabled in the parliament. This is a serious breach of parliamentary system and is also a grave financial crime. Such deeds of the government has once again proved that it is unqualified and incompetent one. This government cannot recover the country from ongoing political mess.

On the moral ground, the finance minister should have immediately tendered his resignation after the leakage of the contents of the budget. But this government is in itself an immoral one; therefore we cannot expect moral behavior from its ministers. In the 5 points deal which was signed before the extension of Constituent Assembly (CA) on 31st May, 2011, it is clearly stated that Prime Minister Mr. Jhalanath Khanal will immediately step down to create atmosphere for the formation of national unity government. This agreement was even endorsed by the parliament. However, forwarding this and that reason, PM Khanal is denying tendering his resignation and thus his government has lost the moral ground to remain in power. Therefore, to expect the moral behavior from the member of current government which is

based on the immoral ground will be a self defeating exercise.

Q2: These days, you are busy in providing training to the cadres of your party. Could you please tell our readers what is the purpose of such a training?

Pandey: Before 12th General Convention of our party, we had formed a Central Policy and Training Academy (*Kendriya Niti tatha Prashikshan Pratisthan*) whose purpose is to empower our cadres with ideological and political agenda that our party adheres to. The academy is yet not in full operation. However, we are organizing training programs in various districts. The party has assigned me the task to empower our followers, both politically and ideologically through different training campaigns.

Q3: Being a mass based party, your party refrained from organizing such training programs in the past for indoctrinating its followers. What urgency your party felt now that you are carrying out such programs?

Pandey: The Unified Maoist has formed a militant force of youths called Young Communist League (YCL). Imitating the Maoist, the UML has also formed a Youth Force. These youth wings of the communist parties are physically targeting our cadres. However, NC believes on peaceful and competitive politics. Therefore we have not formed any wing of youth to physically retaliate the assault from other parties. Rather the youths of our party want ideological and political knowledge to defend the assaulters. Indeed this is the practice of democracy in real sense. We want to counter our rivals equipped with ideological and political standpoints. And for this purpose we are carrying out training programs in different districts.

Q4: CA is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2011 and this date is approaching closer. Is the NC is preparing internally

to tackle the difficult situation which is expected to follow soon after August 31?

Pandey: Before the extension of CA for 3 months on May 31, a 5 point deal was signed by NC, Maoist and UML. However, the parties in the government did not become serious to implement the agreement. Up to now we have signed different agreements including 12 points agreements and Comprehensive Peace Agreement. But the Unified Maoist has not become serious on implementing the essence of those agreements.

Drafting of new Constitution based on democratic norms and value and institutionalization of democratic order in Nepal is becoming a threat. The ultra-communist forces in Nepal who believe in violent politics are opposing such moves. Only a strong and vibrant NC can tackle such aggressive forces and can protect democracy which has been achieved waging a long struggle.

Right now, we are working to make our party strong. We are committed for not to let the ultra-communist forces of Nepal to overshadow the democratic achievements gained so far.

Q5: Mr. Pandey, please tell our readers on how you are observing the internal rift seen inside the Unified Maoist party?

Pandey: I don't know whether the internal rift inside the Maoist party is a deliberate action to mystify the rivals or a real one. Whatever may be the case; such volatile situation inside the Maoist will not benefit themselves and the country as a whole. If they are projecting the rift to confuse others, it will boomerang on them ultimately. And if the rift is real, then it will harshly hamper the ongoing peace and constitution drafting process. The rift seen in the Maoist party is not a good omen for the nation. I personally request them to unite and proceed further.

Q6: The hardliner faction of the Unified Maoist led by senior Vice Chairman Mr. Mohan Baidya 'Kiran' is urging for the immediate formulation of a National Security Policy.

Study Center and former ambassador Mr. Sundar Bhattarai and General Secretary Professor Uprender Gautam also spoke on various aspects of Nepal-China relations.

Deuba...

resign. He instead advised us to adopt democratic means to remove him. It was then only we began collecting signatures," so said Deuba to a bed ridden Koirala.

Koirala asked Deuba if he can garner support from other parties in his favor?

"Until you get their substantial support, how can we think of removing Poudel ji", Koirala asked.

"Stop talking of changing the leadership. It will only aggravate conflict in the party", Koirala said and added, "If you have any other issues, I am ready to solve those."

Deuba who presented himself aggressively in front of ailing Koirala during the meeting, later talking to media persons changed his tone completely and said, "We discussed about his foreign trip and his health conditions. There is nothing to tell to the media. Our talks did not focus on anything substantial."

When further grilled by media, an irritated Deuba replied, "I think I can't tell you exactly which you want from me to listen to."

Secret meeting: A day earlier Deuba had held talks with party seniors at the personal residence of NC senior leader Govinda Raj Joshi. Kull Bahadur Gurung, Arjun Nar Singh K.C., Laxman Ghimire, Binay Dhoj Chand and some more were present at the meeting. Sources claim that the NC leaders present at the meeting assured Deuba that they had their entire weight behind him.

Sushil meets Sonia: After a long wait, Sushil Koirala was granted an audience by India's ruling Congress party Chairwoman Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Thursday July 14, 2011. After meeting Sonia, Koirala returned home on Friday.

It had been already five days since Sushil was in New Delhi. Reports have it that Smt. Gandhi keenly listened to Koirala's version

of Nepal's peace process and constitution drafting, reports Kantipur Daily. He must have heavily criticized the largest party Unified Maoists, as is his habit.

The then terrorist declared safe haven by the Indian regime while they were in exile. To recall, it was the Indian regime first that had declared Nepal Maoists a terrorist organization.

Koirala told media after his much touted meeting with the Italy born Indian queen that, "India wants peace, prosperity, stability and institutionalized democratic order in Nepal."

Sonia also told Koirala, reveal other news sources, "India wants Nepal complete its peace and constitution drafting process soon."

Interestingly, reports have it that Sonia was of the view that since Indian congress leaders are influenced by the ideologies of Nepali Congress founder leader B.P. Koirala, the relation at the party level should be further strengthened.

Koirala briefed her that the political parties of Nepal were committed to draft the constitution and bring peace process to positive end.

"I also told her that there was no alternative except Nepali political parties unite, however since the Maoists are reluctant to abide by past agreements the process is being delayed", he said.

It is reported that he will return home today at around 1:00 PM loaded with the India fresh instructions. Climax of subservience!

Jha bids...

parliamentarians.

Jha at a press meet made an interesting observation, "A sharp-shooter only aims at the target, it does not loot money and purse. Mahato is a different kind of shooter; he not only fires bullets but also loots money and purse."

Now things have begun coming to surface.

"As he began looting money and purse from the party, we were left with no option than to choose



OPINION

parties to charter new constitution based on democratic norms and values. If the Maoist deny these two things, I don't think this problem is going to be solved.

Q8: Why the NC is cynic on each and every move of the Maoists?

Pandey: It is because the very intention of the Maoist is treacherous. Just look at their proposal then you can become clear of their intention? They are collecting money from different sources in vigorous manner. During the wartime, they had robbed several banks and they still have a big chunk of deposit. They are forcefully collecting money from different people and businessmen. They are even asking for money from the foreigners. During the latest election for the Prime Ministerial Post, we heard a tape record where Maoist leader Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, who is now leading the Home Ministry, had sought 50,00,00,000 rupees from a Chinese national for the purpose of horse trading inside the parliament. Further, the Maoist had captured all the major tender process and they are getting handsome money from it. The Maoist want to collect as much

money as they can.

At the same time, they are advocating for the Presidential System in which the president is elected from the public and he will remain as the head of National Army. Similarly, they are working for the bulk integration of their combatants in the National Army under a separate directorate. Further, they are insisting for the leadership of such a directorate.

The Maoists are cunningly looking forward for the State Capture. In the new election to be followed after drafting of new constitution, they are preparing to sweep the election for vast majority with the help of muscles and big chunk of money that they possess. If it so happens, then the Maoist leader will be the president of Nepal and National Army will fall under their command. Under these circumstances, the Maoist will declare the capture of State in any favorable situation.

At the same time, the Maoists are working for the militarization of the whole nation. Maoist Chairman has already declared that his party will convert the universities and industries into

(Continued on page 4)

Nepal-China...

"We are analyzing our shortcomings and seeking ways to improve upon them", said Mr. Chen while also accepting that corruption in the modern day China is one of the major concerns as well.

In the course of his speech, Chen urged Nepal's friends near and far not to get concerned by the closeness Nepal shares with China.

"Our relations with Nepal is special; we cannot compare it to any another country as such", he said and added "Nepal and China need to sign a peace and friendship treaty to further strengthen existing ties."

"We cannot believe that Nepal will ever use China card against India and India card against China", he held.

The delegation will stay in Kathmandu until July 17, 2011.

Delivering his welcome speech at the program, Chairman of CSC Mr. Madan Regmi told the august gathering that "the history of the CPC is indeed the most glorious part of the valiant struggle of the people of China led by Chairman Mao Zedong".

"The opening up of China to the outside world and the economic reform measures taken some 32 years ago under the visionary paramount captainship of Deng Xiaoping was a landmark in the development of China with amazing rate of growth which in reality has contributed to the prosperity of China and its people", added Mr. Regmi.

Highlighting the Chinese contemporary role in the global arena, Mr. Regmi opined that China today is in a position to shape the international relations and is also endeavoring for the prevalence of a peaceful and harmonious world order.

Talking on Nepal-China bilateral relations, Mr. Regmi stated that there remain substantial prospects for enhancing our ties which were for our mutual benefits.

Similarly, the newly accredited Chinese Ambassador, Yang Houlan addressing the gathering opined that Nepal and China are friendly and

close neighbors for generations, and have a long history of exchanges and cooperation.

"Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1955, regardless of how the international and domestic situation have changed, our bilateral relations have maintained a healthy, stable and comprehensive development", added Ambassador Houlan.

Dwelling on 90th year of the founding of the Communist party of China, the Chinese envoy maintained that "over the past 90 years, the CPC and the Chinese people are as close as flesh and blood, stuck together in a boat, and went through thick and thin ever together to complete and push forward three earthshaking events which have epoch-making significance in China's modern history".

Elaborating the phase wise steps that China undertook over the past 90 years to develop the country, the Chinese diplomat said that at first, his country completed the new-democratic revolution, winning the national independence and liberation of the people, secondly China completed the socialist revolution and established the basic socialist system and industrial and economic systems that are independent and fairly complete and finally at the third stage Beijing went on a mission of carrying out the policy of reform and opening up and established a socialist market economy and constantly improved it.

"After 90 years of the founding of the CPC, the Chinese people now have a thriving socialist motherland and the Chinese nation has stood majestically in the World's East", continued the Chinese Ambassador.

The Chinese envoy said that the current year was the first one of the 12th Five-Year Plan, and the upcoming five years were a critical period for China in order to build a moderately prosperous society.

However, with the reverence for history and the thinking on reality, China's economy will take new steps and rise to a new level, concluded the Ambassador.

The Vice Chairman of China

opportunities, environmental protection and most notably, poverty alleviation," said Hu Yuandong, head of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's investment and technology promotion office for China.

"It can serve as an engine of growth" for Nepal, Hu added.

"The value and significance of this project will increasingly become known to people as time goes on," the Asia Pacific Exchange and Cooperation Foundation stated in a press release.

Dahal's...

transferred to General Secretary Ram Bahadur Thapa-Badal whereas Barsa Man Pun 'Ananta' will remain intact in the post of PLA in-charge.

"Ananta ji will continue to remain as PLA in-charge, yet a separate commission shall be put in direct which will under the direct supervision of General Secretary Badal remain responsible for PLA overall affairs", said party secretary C.P. Gajurel.

Washington...

the Nepal Prime Ministerial post has to be taken.

A new tool for the Indo-US lobby is in the making in this part of the Himalayan Asia, analysts presume it to be so though it will take some more time to take a formal shape.

How the Chinese tackle this approaching uneasy event will have to be watched.

For the road: Sushil Koirala while in New Delhi had a secret talk with the Indian Ambassador designate, Jayant Prasad.

Chinese...

Project Plan, an international Airport, five star Hotels, convention centers, new highways, railway link between Kathmandu and Lumbini, Buddhist temples and a Buddhist University will also be constructed.

Tentatively, it will take nine years to get the project completed. "What we're looking at here is a comprehensive project that brings together all aspects of economic development, including infrastructure upgrades, employment

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