

The press and the nation's democracy rise and fall together

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'Leg pulling an imported culture from India'

Kathmandu: Vice Chairman Babu Ram Bhattarai of Unified Maoists' Party opined at a program organized in his home district of Gorkha, Saturday July 9, 2011, that leg-pulling culture is prevalent in his party.
"Inter-party leg pulling always existed in Nepal. Of late our own party has acquired this culture", said Bhattarai and added, "This is the prime reason for the delay in the peace process."
The leg-pulling culture,

according to Dr. Bhattarai, came all the way from India. Dr. Bhattarai is certainly an expert on Indian affairs. He also told the famous story of the Indian crabs.

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It is this leg pulling culture that continues to mar constitution drafting and peace processes, he added.

He also compared the internal rivalry in his party to a cholera epidemic. Certainly cholera was not imported from India.

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Finally, Bhattarai toned down his vitriolic attack and claimed that the case in his party is not as worst as in the case of Nepali Congress and United Marxist Leninists' Party.

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Late Koirala (rest in peace) whenever arrived in his home town, Biratnagar, had the habit of making interesting and funny disclosures however, the main aim of heading to the Biratnagar was definitely to meet with the Indian intelligence agents and receive instructions from them, it was rumored.

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Sinking HORSE

Kathmandu: Misfortune never comes alone. It comes together with sisters and daughters as well, it is widely believed. Sometimes even the neighbors follow.

Nepal's national superman, a made one by some domestic and alien forces, Nepal Maoists Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda is currently being chased by all sorts of predicaments and bad luck which he may have not expected at least at this political point in time.

The vicious one of the not so distant past is taken as a wet cat by his own party colleagues for a multiplicity of reasons.

The reasons though are bona fide ones. Some were of his own creation and the rest imposed upon him by those who appear to have decided that Chairman Dahal must be told to pack as his flimsy and whimsical utterances neither were good for the country, the party nor hospitable for the international community more so to the country in the immediate neighborhood.

Prachanda is on a slither which is genuine. His political testimonials are being tooth and nail challenged even by those with whom he shared

and enjoyed good old days in NOIDA, New Delhi for several years.

To be candid, Chairman Dahal is currently experiencing some sort of a queer phenomenon going inside his own party to what he even has had not dreamt of.

The entire blueprint of his own party comrades is not only to show his actual political surface but also to prove him as a corrupt, highly ambitious and authoritarian party Chairman who takes sadistic pleasure in ignoring even the party's structured policies and ideologies.

Several dangerous charges have been already labeled upon Dahal. No escape from the allegations.

Comrade Mohan Baidya and Dr. Bhattarai, Dahal's long time associates beginning New Delhi boogily-woogily days, have taken the lead this time to strip off their own party Chairman for his, what they claim, from his "hegemonic and random" decisions that Dahal purposely imposes upon the party.

Not settling for less this time around, at least this much could be understood from what has been

appearing in the mainstream media against Chairman Dahal. Both Baidya and Dr. Bhattarai now opine that Dahal must be told to "take your leave" so that the party reenergizes itself and becomes able to serve the purpose for which the party had waged a people's war by residing in the Indian capital.

The negative front page media headlines in series against Dahal does indicate that both Mohan Baidya and Bhattarai not only enjoy domestic but some international support in their fresh bid which is aimed at not only clipping Dahal from his current position but to

sideline him once and for all. Dahal's meteoric rise has begun exhibiting its dangerous dilapidated trend which is also for real. Dahal must have begun feeling the heat of extraordinary humiliation campaign engineered against him.

Hero now taken as a villain. So sad. Several secret sponsored meets to corner Chairman Dahal are being organized at various places across

the country but wherefrom the financial supports were pouring in have not yet come to public which perhaps will never come to the perusal of the Nepali observers?

Nepalese pocket money both for making and breaking as well. Double bonanza.

But the Indian regime has some logical reasons to pounce upon Dahal because Dahal was elevated by the country across the border for some "exclusive powers" to which Dahal while in power acted just in an otherwise manner which must have been enough for the Delhi masters to "teach a lesson" to Dahal to what he is being taught at the moment.

New Delhi is a good teacher and is smart at teaching negative lessons. It is a proven fact. Moreover, Prachanda's excessive association with the Chinese regime too contributed to his current fall, analysts presume.

Delhi men expected that a person who was so meticulously nurtured by them must act like a political deterrer to the increasing influence of China in Nepali affairs. However, that was not forthcoming. China has already advanced and is more to go forward. Admit this reality.

The question is now that when a person like Prachanda can so easily bamboozle the regime which provided a safe shelter for him for more than eight years then he can, if a fitting moment approached him and that was for his personal benefit, can take Chinese regime also for a dangerous ride.

Rumors have it that now China too has become alarmed of Prachanda's real political intentions.

He becomes more than an Indian when he is in Delhi and suddenly becomes a real Chinese when he is in Chairman Mao's land.

But yet the million dollar question is how come Mohan Baidya and Dr. Bhattarai who strictly adhere to differing political preferences as regards their observance of India and China's role in Nepali affairs could join their necks? The reason remains yet unanswered.

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Is Upendra nearing political end!

Kathmandu: To recall, when the institution of Monarchy was nearing its "unnatural death" some four years back, those who were believed to be the so-called trusted and tested supporters of monarchy began quickly deserting the Royal camp. Natural phenomenon isn't it!

They were mostly those who under the shelter and blessing of powerful monarchy had not only amassed wealth, gained popularity, toured the world over as ambassadors but there were also some who were picked up from dust and made the most powerful men. The list could be long.

But, at times of difficulty, when you need them most, no one comes to your rescue. This was how the 240 years old institution



of monarchy was deposed. The state of Chairman Upendra Yadav of Madhesi Janadhikar Forum-Nepal is no different than what Nepal's former King Gyanendra Shah was some years back. Shah might have accepted his fate as "tryst with destiny".

He might also feel that the

heavy one.

"Not only as the leader of parliamentary delegation, I will also resign as the party chairman if you can prove majority in your favor and if my resignation is in favor of peace, constitution, revolution, country and the people I will certainly quit the current post", Dahal is quoted as saying by media. Dahal's inner pain could be sensed while saying so.

"Let us discuss the bottom-line for peace and constitution", Dahal said and added, "With this we can discuss on matters related to power sharing."

Bhattarai, on the other hand, claimed that he will very much accept the post only if there was consensus in his favor but will not

take part in the voting process. Moderate Bhattarai.

According to Baidya's power sharing model, Bhattarai should be elevated as party's parliamentary delegation Chief and he himself be awarded as the party's organizational head. In that eventually, if at all that takes a shape, Dahal will be constricted to a titular role in the party. Dahal and ceremonial role? Forget it!

With Dahal refusing to tender his resignation and also who did not accept the power sharing model proposed by Baidya, the party has convened the central

committee meeting, July 13, 2011.

Whether or not Chairman Prachanda is in a minority, the issue will be appropriately decided by the central committee", claims Barsaman

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Pressure Mounts to elevate Bhattarai

Kathmandu: On Sunday July 10, 2011 the panel led by vice chairman Babu Ram Bhattarai of Unified Maoists' Party organized a secret meeting in Dhangadi. The meeting that was held in the evening was presided over by politburo member Devendra Poudel.

More than hundred regional bureau heads of various sister organizations, district committee members and PLA combatants were present in the "secret" meeting held at a hotel in the city.

The participants mostly criticized Chairman Pushpa Kamal

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Sushil in New Delhi: Return home uncertain

Kathmandu: President Sushil Koirala of Nepali Congress has finally touched upon the New Delhi dharm and has begun holding series of political meetings.

After touring the United States and European countries, Koirala on Sunday July 10, 2011, landed in New Delhi-his home away from home.

On Monday, Koirala met with Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and senior leader Lal Krishna Advani of main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party of India.

Both Mukherjee and Advani were declared Communist haters.

Reports coming from New Delhi have it that Koirala will also meet proxy Prime Minister Man



Mohan Singh today, July 12, 2011. Sushil's meeting with Congress-I President Smt. Sonia Gandhi- the Italy born de facto ruler of India has not yet been confirmed.

With Sonia Gandhi in the driving seat of the Indian regime, observers in Nepal claim that, after a period of some four decades of independence,

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Decomposed politics

He is a self made man but with a friendly touch of Nepali Royalty which has now been sidelined. Yet he could be taken as the long time diplomat and strategist of the sort of, Chanakya, of the Magadh era and also be equated with the modern world Machiavelli that he is by all means.

Basically he is taken as a conspiratorial politician of this country. However, this shrewd Nepali politician in his own right doesn't speak unless told. But when told to speak, he more often than not spits venom against his detractors whom he personally hates or is being told to ignore. The added advantage with this Nepali maverick politician is that even if times change and his adhered politics, which made him a real politician that he is now too change, he adapts to the new conditions and fits into the scheme of things in a manner that people remain askance as to whether the "political change" was ushered in by his solo contribution or those who claim to have brought the change in essence? Thus he fits into all the pots made so far in the world. He is a melting pot political persona. He can adjust his politics in any system of governance provided the change recognizes his latent talent.

The unseen advantage, but at times this becomes clearly visible though, that he enjoys that he has ever remained loyal to some alien countries in the neighborhood and the fact is that the concerned country believes him more on Nepali matters than their own government designated representative(s).

But his loyalty to his own motherland remains unmatched to which we have adequate admiration. He is a strong nationalist, at least this much is visible, though at times he feels more than pleased to pour for others and in the process allows some foreign nationals to penetrate deep into his own territories. This he did while he was Nepal PM during the royal regime, if he recalls.

Since he has been blessed by three successive ruling Monarchs of Nepal who elevated him several times to the nation's executive posts and thus his loyalty to that revered institution too remains intact caring little with what the changes have taken place in the country which he at times ruled mercilessly. Though he poses not to be so for fear of being "branded" that he is.

He talks less. But when he begins talking, there is no end to that. The flow is there associated with abundant logic that the political situation demanded from him. In many more ways than one, Surya Bahadur Thapa, the Chairman of the clout-less Rastriya Janashakti party, RJP, is a political personality whose expressions and statements forces others, let's say his colleagues across in various political paraphernalia to listen to him carefully. His explanations made as regards the country's politics can't be dismissed simply because he chairs a very meager party as such which is a crowd of former Royalists turned republicans.

Some even claim that the RJP is nothing more than a tail of the Nepali Congress. Since we don't have that much idea and thus we would refrain from maligning the RJP. We admire the Chairman because he deserves appreciation.

The perceptive politician very freshly talked with The Annapurna Post, July 8, 2011, on a variety of political issues that have currently plagued the nation of late. He is candid in his statement in degrading the Maoists for a variety of reasons. Perhaps his friends beyond Nepali borders too possess a strong distaste against the Maoists. Could be a mere conjecture indeed.

The fact is that he apparently hates the communists worth the name more so he pounces upon those radical communists who talk high of politics and every now and then threaten the national population that they will transform the nation within minutes. He has special revulsion for those revolutionaries who were not to what they claim, so believes Thapa-the political old hand. While going through the entire text of his interview (albeit the timing of the interview does tell that it was a planted one, it is so presumed) one could fathom the deep apprehension what Thapa has in his mind as regards the Maoists who were trained in New Delhi prior to joining the political mainstream back in Nepal. Thapa though understands this fact but yet simply lambastes at the Maoists in a manner that in no way fits into his political height. Simply dumping the entire political ailments of the country onto the heads of the Maoists will do little in easing the current situation to which Thapa himself claims that it was very close to an abyss.

Will it be correct to observe the Maoists as the plague of the country? Certainly not. Those who have at times joined necks with the Maoists for bouncing back to power or to retain power or even those who brought them all along from New Delhi shelter to overthrow the monarchy too must be held accountable for the current mess. It is a combined effect of all those who argue themselves as the champions of the obligatory republican order. If the Maoists were decomposed eggs then why the Nepali Congress stalwarts and their hangers on in various political paraphernalia rushed to New Delhi and greeted the Maoists back in Nepal with a red carpet welcome? What was the design then? The sole agenda, at least this can't be ignored now, was to remove the Nepali monarchy and nothing more than that. Thapa remained a mere spectator to the entire sad event that shook the nation from within whose reverberations have become more sensible these days.

Thapa would have done justice had he been wise enough to distribute the causes of the current Nepal ailments on the heads of others as well, he himself included. No wonder, Thapa is a baptized republican but people doubt his inner political credentials. He may be different than what he poses to be. He was forced to adopt the new order because he concluded that if he were to remain in Nepali politics he must embrace the new order. A betrayal or forced submission?

The question is how come an old hat of the Royal Panchayati era could embrace apparently an order that he tooth and nail rejects from his inner hearts?

Yet his interview is worth reading. His preferences and distastes run in parallel in the said interview which we have dared to translate from the broad sheet daily, the Annapurna post, for our five questions columns.

Enjoy the interview.

France may stage a comeback to Nepal soon

Keshav Raj Jha
 Former Nepal's Ambassador to France and UNESCO

It is well understood that the power equation in world affairs is no longer remain the same, as it used to be during the cold war era. Due to this very fact that many "power" countries have been losing their influence over countries, once regarded and understood to be under their domain; which in no longer remain a guarded secret. It was a big hope, not only for the French people but for most of the countries of former non aligned bloc that President Nicolas Sarkozy would provide a dynamic leadership to France and will bring a sort of balance to unipolarity-driven world affairs. But due to the changing power dynamics in the world as well as internal challenges, France is still trailing to maintain its position as a power center of the world.

During President Mitterrand era, France was criticized for many ills in French society but the role France played in maintaining peace and world order during that time was commended by the world. Especially Africa and the Arab world had a strong partner in Europe and the economic situation was also in its stronger footing.

Let's take a burning example of Libya. Until the regime change in France, Britain had very little role to play in Libya and extract benefits from the resources there. But once the regime changed in France, it came as a bonanza for Britain. British Prime Minister Tony Blair started striking deals with Libya one after another, right from economic reforms to the security sector. A substantial loss for France. The war took a lead in attacking Libya under NATO auspices lately, it was nothing more than a hope to regain its influence in Libya. Otherwise what

democracy and dictatorship failed in Libya? Any government and all the government try to extinguish fire of insurgency in the country with all the available and possible means. It is no longer a secret in

adventure in Afghanistan will be bone in neck for President Sarkozy when he will be seeking re-election next year. The people in the US and France both may realize that the expeditions of the political parties abroad meant nothing but an attempt to cling on to power; and both the parties and their leaders could be swept aside. Hours

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international affairs and diplomacy that Iraq was invaded by the US not because Saddam Hussein was a wrong leader for the Iraqi people but he wanted to trade Iraqi oil in Euro instead of US dollars. French position those days is understandable as the cold war was just over and the world needed to come out of the vacuum. But can France defend her leadership to attack on Libya? The French people might decide soon. The main reason for Western attack on Libya was Gaddafi's attempt to circulate golden coins as Libyan currency in the world market; which would have severe impact on US dollars or the British Sterling Pound, though French would have got a chance to strengthen the Franc that lost currency battle with Dollars long ago.

How France would remain a silent spectator once Italian economy began suffering due to Libyan crisis as Italy happened to consume 33 percent of Libyan oil and gas production? The domino impact is yet to be seen from French expedition this time.

Let's talk about French position in South Asia.

France joined the US expedition in Afghanistan; what French got out of it will be evaluated in future by historians and French people for sure. But French commitment of 4000 troops to support US's failed

after US President Barack Obama announced a phased pullout of 100,000 troops from Afghanistan, French President issued a statement declaring a similar withdrawal in a calendar comparable to the Americans in a proportional manner. Such move may neither be helpful to assert France's role in global politics nor to convince the French people in general.

For Nepal, we may see growing interest of France in the coming months and years, as the US interest is growing in this sulking and sinking nation; where amateurs have entered into the devil's world.

There is no doubt that the French people love the natural beauty of Nepal and a sizeable number of tourists from France have been visiting Nepal even in most difficult times. From time to time we also hear words of concern from the French envoys to Nepal about the unstable political situation; some are even seen going out of the way of established diplomatic protocols and practices and showing undiplomatic manners and creating jitters in Nepali community; Nepali people are very cordial to the French yet.

Is it only the trekkers and climbers who would like to make Nepal a destination or it is also of the interest of the French policy makers



to give some insight about their policy on this New Republic, that even wanted to follow the French model of political system by bidding farewell to the long practiced West-minster model, is yet to be seen. A lot needs to be done from Nepali policy makers' side, most importantly; the politicians must have will and have to ponder over a lot.

After France started playing bigger role in the European Union, it is seen more focused with larger partners of the global economy and economic matters are now being dealt by European Commission, where different players have different tunes to play. The Scandinavians regard to have taken a lead role regarding Nepal's situation. What is not lost in this big game is long cherished bond of friendship and cooperation between France and Nepal on bilateral front. As a result, French Embassy remained intact in Kathmandu despite a lot of credible rumors that it will be closing down. Thanks to the relentless efforts of Nepali diplomats and Nepal-France business community, French Culture Centre in Kathmandu Mission du Nepal (Nepal House in France) for holding the situation from deteriorating further.

There is no doubt that Nepali side is seen seek to attract French investment despite knowing that a lot of big French Companies are based in India, and can very well be attracted into Nepal as well. But the political situation in Nepal has not been so congenial to convince the French investors to willingly come here; neither could we deliver the quality products, to which the French population in general are used to.

Maoist Insurgency in Nepal: Impact to India

Professor Surendra K.C
 History, Central Department of History
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Nepal and India both are multi lingual and multi racial country. Our cultural and other traditional relations are very much attached and were century long throughout history. Likewise both country influence each other in many perspectives namely politically religiously and many other spectrum as well. The time both countries are facing the Maoist insurgency. Here it would not be the out of context if we consider the implication of the Nepal's People's War on India.

To know this we have to understand the communist international system of organization - e.g. The RIM and the Composa (Confederation of Communist and Maoist Parties of South Asia), within the global, Nepalese and the Indian communists. Also remarkable is the open border system of our two nations. Likewise, the other politicians, especially the illegal politicians have optimally beneficiary of this open border phenomenon, in term of taking shelter and other physical facilities. And taking advantage of this the Nepalese Maoist leaders also drove their peoples war partially from India. Naturally throughout India they have party frontal organization among the Nepalese youth who are engaged in India in the context of job and other business.

On the other side, the communist of the world claimed themselves as the world- brotherhood and the slogan is to be united with the proletariat of the world! Considering this no-puzzling if the Nepalese and the Indian Maoists work together and support each others. It would be no wonder. This is the point why the relationship between the government of India and the Nepalese Maoist has worsened in the recent years. Matters have been so serious, the Indian government has blamed the Nepalese Maoist that they have begun giving guerilla training to the Indian Maoists here in Nepal as the Indian government did the same to the Nepalese Maoist during the People's War in the past. It clearly indicates the impact of Nepalese Maoist on India.

Epilogue
 Indo-Nepal relation is very long and old. We have a century long

relation of different types. Not only that we have open border of 800 miles from east to west without any restrictions but also culturally, linguistically and religiously our two countries' people are the same and inseparably interdependent. Not only among the Terai people of low land and but also the hilly people from the mountains. Accordingly, the hilly people of eastern Nepal and Sikkim and Darjeeling are inseparably the same culturally and facially. Likewise, the hilly people of western Nepal and the Uttarkhand are also the same. So the case is the low land people of Nepal and the west Bengal, Bihar and the UP's peoples of India. Accordingly they have every type of socio-cultural relations among them. So the writers use to say that we have a unique relation that is even not comparable with any other country in the world except few exceptions. That's why comparing unique international border system with the Canada and US, (Tribhuvan Nath, The Nepalese Dilemma 1960-74, New Delhi, Sterling Publisher Pvt. Ltd., 1975, p. 13)

That's why our two people can move freely on either side of the border without any restrictions. The matrimonial relation is common as if they are the citizen of same country. That is why the Terai people of Nepal usually use to say that this is the questions of Roti-Beti (Bread and daughter)

Not only culturally and religiously but also economically, politically and educational point of view India always remain cooperative to Nepal. India is the place where the Nepalese youth educated when this was absolutely restricted and not available in our country. Our leaders took and have been taking political Shelter and asylum even as of today. All and every party and leaders were established and built up in India. The whole political change of Nepal becomes possible only because of India including the Maoist of Nepal. The developmental infrastructure of Nepal also becomes possible because of India. The universities, schools, roads and the hospitals are also possible in Nepal almost because of India's contribution.

Unfortunately the return is not positive. In spite of all that contribution - the level of understanding and the good will between the two countries is almost low. A section of people in Nepal usually think that Indian ruler treat us as the junior brother. The most important part is they have not settled the border disputes of our two nations since long time in the low lands of Nepal.

Very recently that is before 3 years the misunderstanding between the government of India and a Prime Minister of Nepal Prachanda surpassed all previous records of bad relations. Prachanda openly charged that he resigned because of India. Since that our two country's relations again has entered into the cold war era. Talk of war is going on. The Maoists are charging and charging the Indian government, and have declared a war of independence of Nepal.

Consequently the continuous struggle of Maoist against their UML led collate government of Madhav Kumar Nepal resigned on 2010 June 30. The Maoist compelled him to resign simply because they thought that he was pro-Indian PM. But, they could not replace Mr. Nepal for seven months. The constituent assembly scheduled the date of election for the PM but all sixteen time went in vain. At last Prachanda unexpectedly and abruptly voted in favor of UML's candidate Jhal Nath Khanal and elected him the PM of Nepal on Feb. 4, 2011, 217 days after the resignation of Mr. Nepal. The government of India took it as a great set back to the Indian foreign policy regarding Nepal. Because they were not informed of present PM JN Khanal. They thought Khanal was the Maoist instrument. So, the online edition of Times of India was immediately after the Prime Ministerial election of Nepal wrote - "This is not the defeat of Nepali Congress and Forum (Democratic) but India".

But the major question is- Why our two countries have such a misunderstanding and continue to talk of war? Where as in every change and development and construction works, India is always with us. This indicates that there is some sort of weakness that we have to redefine, relocate and resettle the Indo-Nepalese relation in the changing context. Of course the question of impact of the Nepalese Maoist on India also includes this.



Only the charge and counter charge does not deserve much meaning. Then, the possibility of Nepalese Maoist's support to Indian Maoist cannot be ignored but this is only the byproduct of the Indian side what they did in favor of the Nepalese Maoist in the past. So this is the time of learning from the history, not repeating or making another history. Because history only penalize not teaches.

Also this charge and counter charge is not a robust phenomenon in the vortex of Indo-Nepal relations. If we prelude the past history of our two countries up today, we often found such types of charge and counter charge. One of the major charges from the side of Nepal Government actually is that India was behind the success of the Nepalese Maoists. The single fact is enough to prove this that out of ten years of the Maoist war Prachanda spent eight years period in India. Likewise the main source of arms and training was also the same-India. Those sources were not only the underground weapons markets of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in India but also the corrupt Indian army men. Today it has been proved that the Nepalese Maoists used 36 grenades actually were issued to the Indian army and were ultimately sold to the Maoists by the corrupt Indian army men by showing records exceeding their actual use in strike-front areas. (Ananda Aditya, "Expansion of Maoist People's War" in an Overview of Recent Armed Conflict in Nepal, A research report, submitted to New Era in Oct. 2001, p. 39)

Unfortunately today same charge is being used against the Nepalese side. This is nothing but the fact that history repeats itself. Sorry to say this but we have to resolve it so that such types of misunderstanding won't repeat in the future.

Paper submitted by the author at International Seminar on "Before Emergence of Nation States: Indo-Nepal Relation through Uttarakhand, June 13-15, 2011, Doon University, Moharawal, Kedarpur, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India, Organized by:- The Yugashail Kalyana Samiti (Reg.), Dehradun

Israel ready to provide skill to Nepali farmers

After long many time, I was invited by the Israel embassy at a press meet, July 6, 2011. In fact I prefer not to attend programs because of my poor health these days. However, this does not mean that I ignore the invitations. I was surprised to notice several developments that the Israeli embassy conducted well within its own premises and beyond. Much more pleased was

strengthening Nepal-Israel bilateral relations and we appreciate the role of the media". So said Mr. Adam Levene, the Deputy Chief of the Mission at the Israel Embassy in Kathmandu, July 6, 2011, while talking to a Kathmandu press gathering. The Embassy had organized a press meet to let the Nepalese people know through the media

subsisting even more stronger and also to share technical know-how and knowledge with the developing world", opined Mr. Levene. According to what has been made known to the attending media at the press meet by the Israeli diplomat, the Embassy premise in Lazimpat itself is currently engaged in organic farming.

"I feel proud to share with you all about the Embassy's initiative to convert a part of its compound to a Agricultural Demonstration Farm. A ropami of land inside the Embassy is allocated for vegetable farming as well as fishery with a small area designated for composting. The initiative was taken to promote organic farming systems using Israeli knowledge and technologies. This unique and interesting concept has never been initiated by any diplomatic missions around the world. It is a joint initiative of The Embassy along with an Israeli NGO, a

En Bref

Bhandari favors Bhattarai as Nepal PM, NC leader Mahat rejects

Kathmandu: Smt. Bidya Devi Bhandari of K.P. Oli panel in the United Marxist Leninists' Party has said that personally she would wish to see Babu Ram Bhattarai to be elevated as the country's Prime Minister. "Personally, I wish Babu Ram ji becomes our Prime Minister", said Bhandari adding, "I am one of the admirers of Dr. Bhattarai." "He is a well educated person. This is the time to take initiatives for the economic transformation of the country. Who else better than Bhattarai possessing great knowledge in economics could lead the country now", continued Mrs. Bhandari. Yet, Bhandari claimed that first the Maoists should support completion of the peace process. Bhandari made these remarks at a media interaction program in Kathmandu, July 9, 2010.

Speaking at the same program, Minister for Physical Planning and Construction Top Bahadur Rayamajhi who belongs to Bhattarai panel in the Unified Maoists Party revealed that in the forthcoming Central Committee meeting, Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will himself nominate Bhattarai as the candidate for country's prime minister. Similarly, Nepali Congress leader Ram Saran Mahat speaking at the same program held that since the Maoists are not prepared to handover weapons, it is impossible for Nepali Congress to join a government led by the Unified Maoists party.

NC row lingers, Nidhi claims worst waits if Khanal sticks to Nepal PM post

Kathmandu: The Sher Bahadur Deuba panel in the Nepali Congress is enraged with the panel led by President Sushil Koirala in not forcefully demanding resignation of Prime Minister Jhal Nath Khanal. Mr. Bimalendra Nidhi of Deuba panel tells Annapurna Post, July 10, 2011, "The five point deal between major parties was signed by the party president. The deal was approved by the party. But, what is the reason for the unwanted reluctance being exhibited by our party president as it clearly refers to the resignation of Prime minister". Nidhi also opines that President Koirala and vice president Ram Chandra Poudel should take the matter seriously.

"They must raise this issue forcefully. The issue becomes insignificant if only we continue to ignore the issue", he said. However, Nidhi prefers not to enter into the debate as to who between Deuba and Ram Chandra Poudel, should be nominated as party's prime ministerial candidate. "Let the prime minister resign first. The person who heads party parliamentary delegation becomes the prime minister. If there is the need we could change the delegation head. The present head should either resign or we could resort to another option". To recall, Deuba panel has already begun a signature campaign to oust Poudel as the parliamentary delegation head.

Monarchy Revival not easy Kamal Thapa

Kathmandu: Pretty irritated by frequent applause from the attending listeners, Chairman Kamal Thapa of Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal, while addressing a program in Bhaktapur, July 9, 2011 said, "Only the frequent rounds of applause does not ensure return of Monarchy and re-declaration of Nepal as a Hindu state". Thapa is the single Nepali leader who prefers not to be clapped even by his followers as and when he makes eloquent lectures. "We will not succeed in our mission by clapping hands in indoor meetings like these", Kamal said and added, "Let us carry our party flag and with party agenda in our mind reach each and every homes of Nepal. We need to expand our party base."

Thapa heavily criticized the three party (Maoist-UML-NC) leadership (he called it 'three party syndicate') for pushing the country close to an abyss. "Unless and until people unite against 'three party political-syndicate' country cannot become free from their continued hegemony", he opined. There lay clear fault in the ideology of the peace and constitution adopted by the three parties", he said and concluded by stating, "Unless the flaw is rectified the country will never complete peace and constitutional processes." But why Thapa is in an angry mood?

parliamentary delegation Ram Chandra Poudel's days are over now in the Nepali Congress. Reports claim that a dozen parliamentary members who were close to the Poudel faction till the other day have joined the Sher Bahadur Deuba panel. Not unusual in the NC. They all want to unseat Poudel from the current post of the party parliamentary delegation head. Those who have quit the Poudel camp are none other than, KB Guring, Lalita Magar, Hansaji Lama, Laxman Ghimire, Pasang Sherpa, Gokarna Rai, Purushottam Basnet, Jadishwar Narsingh K.C, Ambika Basnet, Pushpa Bhusal, Ajay Chaurasiya, Krishna Prasad Yadav and Shovakar Parajuli. To recall, the Deuba panel has already initiated a signature campaign for unseating his arch rival-Poudel.

Sushil in..

India has once again fallen under the foreign rule. This time it is a voluntary decision of the nationalist Indians, critics also have it. However, reports Kantipur from New Delhi, "Since some of the meetings are yet to be finalized, Sushil's date for return home is not confirmed." By the way, Nepali leaders, more so the NC men, feel more at home in New Delhi than their own home in Nepal. Sushil's preference to stay in New Delhi until he meets all the deities is justified. Reports Kantipur "During the meeting with Advani and Mukherjee issues related to peace and constitutional processes were discussed." "The Indian leaders also suggested that Nepali Congress should play a mediatory role in Nepali politics", report concludes. To recall, some years back the Indian media had propagated that Sushil Koirala had links with Pakistani intelligence agencies and had received Rs. 60 Million for his election campaign in the district of Banke. The district in the west-southern plains of Nepal has large Muslim population.

SECOND IMPRESSION

N.P. UPADHYAYA

when I was told that any Nepali farmer who wishes to learn farming skills, is most welcome at the embassy. Without talking much on how I perceived the entire program, let me tell you how the program proceeded. Below the details what I could collect during my half and hour stint at the program. "Media in Nepal has a greater role to play in enhancing and

of the variety of activities conducted by the Israel embassy over the years and recent months and also the upcoming ones. "The Embassy of Israel, as part of its annual activities, has been conducting several programs every year, be it in the field of culture, education, technology, agriculture or social responsibility towards the society and so on, to make the friendly bond so happily

Role of Teachers in Promoting Gender Equality in South Asia

Dev Raj Dahal, Head, FES Nepal

The Framework: Education's supreme aim is to provide human beings knowledge and values to shape productive and peaceful lives. Women's eternal aspiration for peaceful society goes beyond "rights discourse" to capture the domain of enlightenment and emancipation. Education and culture are linked to society and working life. The liberal separation of the public and the private sphere has now been falsified as the state has entered into family in cases of denial of rights, domestic violence, child abuse and even suicide. The emergence of knowledge and information society has also removed the tradeoff between education and technology as their synthesis has become critical to effective participation in the political economy. New social stratification followed by scientific and technological change and the changing nature of jobs demand professional development of teachers to respond to unfolding life-choices.

In South Asia, statistical improvement on education, particularly of girl education, is fostering gender equality and the equality of people irrespective of their distinctions. Positive transformation has come from women as gender equality involved a cycle of change from personality, family, society, public institutions to intra-state and post-national public spheres. The vision, determination and leadership of women leaders have made vital impact on the welfare, political agency and lives of both men and women in South Asia. Education, income and engagement are the keys to the gender equalization within and across the countries. They are also passports to economic security, identity, voice and representation. Learning to grow in an age of multiple transitions requires women's overall knowledge, skills and leadership to cope with transformation underway and reap benefit from it.

New education theories situate women within the social, economic and political context of life-world and deem them critical masses of social transformation within the political system. Teaching and learning centers and teachers' unions should, therefore, espouse hermeneutical and emancipatory visions, not only to strategic interests to upscale one's own mobility to elite politics and serve the interest of ruling regimes. This alternative vision of learning for equal and dignified citizenship for women and men rests on critical awareness about existential condition and evolve cognition, disposition, values and attitudes

unless states of the region are consolidated by building their capacity to implement constitutional and human rights commitments, UN Convention on the CEDAW, ILO Core Labor Standards, national social security policies, etc. All the South Asian countries are signatories of these documents but the level of implementation and monitoring is highly skewed. Effective campaign, advocacy and lobbying are needed from SAARC Women's Network and civil society for linking these rights to actionable public policies and attaining MDGs and 6 goals of Education For All (EFA) for gender parity.

VIEW

created by free play of market forces alone, wider participation of citizens including teachers' unions and women would be necessary to plan for social, gender and inter-generational justice. This is where the promise of MDGs and the South Asian Social Charter holds. But both suffer from under-achievements, not because of poor economic resources but because of a lack of political will of leaders. Brain drain, massive capital flight, corruption, trafficking of women and weak implementation of rights and policies are the major distortions for social development. Capital flight has been partially compensated by the remittance the migrant workers bring in the region. There are, however, no mechanisms for compensating the loss of skilled persons and their lack of accountability to the society of their birth. Low risk of arrest, light penalty and even impunity do not deter human trafficking to overcome a battle between market efficiency and social justice. The enforcement of SAARC Convention on Combating and Preventing of Trafficking in Women and Children too requires a strong regional political will.

Solution: One solution of gender inequality is the democratization of education by making it accessible at all levels of society. The other is making education for life skills and choices than degree-based and status bound for the maintenance of elite culture. Still, the other is the distributional reach of education among geographic regions, social and economic classes and gender to build positive impact of women's ideas, institutions and leadership. It is difficult to achieve these strategies



Dev Raj Dahal, Head, FES Nepal

The transformative leaders emerging from women's organizations have to continuously infuse the lived experience of their struggle into the public sphere and seek to make them part of national priorities for action. Women can achieve this if educational reforms critically engage them with the state, public institutions and international society in unveiling the "apropos of conflict" and applying remedial measures by using teachers' unions as a spring for collective action. Problem-solving education need to shift from the currently dominant discourse to a discourse on reflection and care to life-world and make room for an effective and appropriate for national and cosmopolitan citizenship. It is, therefore, important to foster inter-movement solidarity of all the global unions to shape the forces of market-driven globalization in favor of a legitimate social contract and overcome democratic shortfall created by neo-liberal temptation to turn education into "economic model" producing two kinds of citizenship defined by wealth. This system and gender discriminatory laws thwart justice for poor women and children. South Asia is fit to resolve its cruel paradox: the greatest concentration of the world's poor and biggest pool of scientific personnel and natural resources provided its leaders are accountable to producing suitable public policies necessary for democratic equity for citizens.

Teachers' Union Roles: The general functions of teachers' unions worldwide are: defending teachers rights and jobs, securing improvements in working conditions, including working hours and health safety at work, improving pay and other benefits, including holiday entitlements, encouraging governments to increase teachers' participation in decision making, improving sick pay, pensions and



Mr. Deuba had participated at a tree plantation program organized by a local organization.

injury benefits, and developing and protecting the skills of union members enabling them to compete in the changing nature of political economy. Working conditions are also linked to curriculum, books and the teachers' skills to keep abreast with new developments. In this context, stronger union movement is not a matter of choice; it is a necessity to realize the vision of teachers for a better life, liberty and dignity. It is also a necessity to foster gender, social and inter-generational justice in the life of the union. But the notion of solidarity—the social power of teachers' unions—is a lynchpin to shape true democracy in the life of each individual member, union, nation, region and the globe and influence vital decisions and actions pertaining to the universal values they esteem the most. Note: Speech made at the regional meeting of Educational International, Kathmandu

Tagged...

government in that eventually Deuba asked, "Why...can't I become the prime minister?" Laughter followed after Deuba's response.

By the way, Deuba has already been labelled as most inefficient prime minister by Nepal's last King Gyanendra Shah who was himself later sidelined. Dubbing him as inefficient Prime Minister after his repeated failure to hold parliamentary elections, King Gyanendra had sacked Deuba as the prime minister of the country in February 1, 2005.

Mr. Deuba had participated at a tree plantation program organized by a local organization. He also urged Prime Minister Jhal Nath Khanal to tender his resignation, which he claimed is the prerequisite for the formation of a National unity government. Thus Deuba has declared his Nepal PM candidacy. Bid to unseat Poudel: It seems that vice chairman and leader of

Everest

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

Dr Rambakata Thakur
Nepal's Former Ambassador to Egypt

The fourth conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs IV) was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9-13 May 2011. It was well attended by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, and about 50 Head of States and Governments, including the Prime Minister of Nepal. This conference was convened at a time when the global economy has been experiencing difficulties, and the response of the global economy mechanism was alarming for the very survival of many poor countries of South as well as some countries of the North. In the midst of the world recession, it was a high time to review the policies and strategies for the LDCs with a view to



encountered as well as actions needed to overcome them. To identify new challenges and opportunities for LDCs, and the actions required at national and international levels to respond to them effectively.

DOSSIER

readjustment in its priorities and actions. There are 48 countries (Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central Africa, Chad, Comoros, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Island, Somalia, Sudan, Timor, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia) classified as LDCs: 33 of which are in Africa, 9 in Asia, 5 in Oceania, and 1 in America.

- 4 To reaffirm the global commitments to address the special needs of the LDCs made at the major UN Conferences and Summit.
- 5 To mobilize additional international support measures and actions in favor of the LDCs in this regard.
- 6 To formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the LDCs and their development partners.

Brief History: Willy Brandt Commission (1976) published a very shocking fact and figures of the poor countries where 800 million people were presented as utterly poor, living below the poverty line, having great difficulties in managing two square meals a day. Immediate after UNCTAD identified 25 poorest countries as set criteria in 1970s. The same year, UN General Assembly witnessed a dead lock between North and South on the survival questions of the South. Further, again, an attempt was made to improve the world economic situation by calling a summit of developed and developing countries in Cancun, Mexico, 1981, which also could not succeed in opening the deadlock between rich and poor countries.

LDCs comprise 12 percent of the global population – some 900 million people – but collecting only 1 percent of world export, and receive less than 2 percent of global investment.

Objectives of the 4th LDCs Conference

- 1 To comprehensively assess the implementation by the LDCs and their development partners of the program of action for the LDCs for Decade 2001-2010 adopted in Brussels in 2001.
- 2 To share best practices and lessons learnt, and to identify obstacles and constraints

realization for saving the poorest countries, was conceived and convened in 1981, Paris, known as Conference on Least Developed Countries. 42 LDCs participated in this summit. Reaching down to the 4th LDCs conference, Istanbul, 2011, the members of LDCs jumped to 48. Over the three decades, only 3 countries could graduate from the LDCs, status. Botswana in 1994, Cape Verde in 2004, and the Maldives in 2010. This simply means that the development model of co-operation in the fields of investments, trade, aid, technology, and co-operation could not work for the economic growth of the LDCs.

Review of the Brussels Program of Action, 2001

The Brussels Program of Action was based on seven commitment aims at significantly improving the human conditions of people in LDCs, through providing a framework for a strong global partnership. Its overarching goal was to make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015. Economic and social development was found better during the implementation of the Brussels program and action than during the previous decade. Thirteen LDCs have done better exceeding over 7% economic growth, some remained lower and some have got insignificant growth. Some Asian LDCs have done significant progress in health, drinking water, education, youth, women empowerment, climate change and biodiversity in Africa, many LDCs progress are found below satisfaction. Finance is the main tool of development. While the LDCs have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources for their development, most of them still face a huge financing gap, and ODA (official development assistance) continue to be the largest source of external financing. The aggregate ratio of ODA members increased from 0.05 percent in 1997-1998 to 0.09 percent in 2008 but remained well below the 0.15-0.20 percent targets. Millennium Development Goal (MDG) has estimated the short fall of ODA to LDCs at US\$22.9-US\$42.5 billion in 2008. The share of LDCs exports in international merchandise trade increased from 0.62 percent in 2002 to 1.08 percent in 2008. Little progress had been seen by the virtue of some relaxation in the

developed countries 'market access' for the products originating from LDCs. LDCs are claiming that Doha Round 2001, and Hongkong Declaration 2005 could not fulfill the obligation of the developed countries towards the LDCs, and thus, limited market because of quota, non-tariff barriers, subsidies, vague rules and non-transparency remained the main bottle-neck for doing a liberal and fair trade with the developed countries. LDCs exports are highly concentrated on a few export products, mainly, agriculture based and mines. The heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) Initiative have had positive impact on development in general, in which 25 LDCs are also eligible. However, owing to increased lending and borrowing during financial crisis, has become major concern for LDCs. 14 LDCs are under great distress, and rest are moderate. Unfortunately, debt could not become a tool for development rather it made the economy of LDCs weaker and vulnerable. LDCs and civil society have raised grave concerns about it and demanded for immediate and unconditional cancellation of all debts of LDCs and moratorium on debt payments by LDCs governments pending debt cancellation. Some more economic weaknesses were also noted such as, domestic saving in the LDCs remained constant at a very low level of 10 percent of GDP (excluding oil exporters) and the manufacturing sector accounted for only 10 percent of GDP in the period of 2006-2008, the same level as at start of the boom. Similarly, LDCs dependence on food imports recorded high during the boom year, from US\$ 7.6 billion in 2002 to US\$ 24.8 billion 2008. Istanbul Programme of Action and Achievements 2011: Since the adoption of the Brussels Program of Action 2001, LDCs have been making some progress in economic, social and human developments. However, there is no room for complacency as more than 75 percent of the LDCs population still live in poverty. The LDCs continue to have the lowest per capita incomes and the highest population growth rates. LDCs productive capacity is limited, and they have severe infrastructure deficits, including the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, energy and food crisis, challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity

which increase the vulnerabilities and inequalities, and have adversely affected development in LDCs. The fourth LDCs conference committed to further strengthen their support to the LDCs by creating favorable environment for sustainable development, increasing productive capacities, diversification of economies and building the necessary infrastructure. The declaration

has further underscored that the ownership and primary responsibility for escaping poverty rests with the LDCs themselves, stressing the importance of food governance, inclusiveness, transparency, respect for human rights, reduce corruption and domestic resource mobilization is emphasized, however, these efforts must be given concrete and international support in a spirit of shared responsibility. (To be concluded)

For reference: ODA=official development assistance
OECD=organization for economic co-operation and development
DAC=development assistance committee
SIDS=small island developing countries

DATELINE KATHMANDU

Niraj Aryal

Chaudavi ka Chand!

chaudavi ka chand ho... ya aftab ho...

Kathmandu: Now the question is whether ex-King Gyanendra Shah was forced to quit the throne through the alien backed Peoples' Uprising-II or he had voluntarily left the Narayanhiti Royal Palace, June 11, 2009?

If we are to believe Shah's public statement that he made on the occasion of his 65th Birthday July 7, 2011, then it becomes clear that the republican order was established through his magnanimity than anything else.

Not even the 19 day long uprising, let alone the controversial peoples' revolt, as claimed by political parties, Shah dismissed in an implied manner that it was him who exhibited his magnanimity.

In addition, in many more ways than one, Nepal ex-King summarily also ignores the New Delhi engineered and drafted 12 point agreement for the signing of which the Nepali subservient parties had rushed to Delhi of which the leader was late Girija Prasad Koirala (rest in peace).

It was this Delhi sponsored agreement which, analysts had been told, uprooted the Nepali monarchy.

The dilemma is whether the Republican order was gifted by the former King to the countrymen or the political parties through foreign backing had snatched from his grip?

Staunch Royalists and a small portion of public with placards and flowers in their hands had arrived at the posh bungalow of the former Nepal sovereign in Maharajgunj to wish him long life. It was raining cats and dogs but his loyalists did not care. He still commands respect and honor, at least this must be clear to his detractors both within and without.

Surprisingly, chairman of the single royalist party, Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal Mr. Kamal Thapa was nowhere to be located during the greeting ceremony.

The lone crusader for the revival of the monarchy was absent. Must have some reasons.

"I had not quit thinking that the situation would be in this sorry state. Then I used to think that the situation will improve. But, let us pray for peace and prosperity of the people at large", Shah told the media.

"It would be a befitting gift (to me) if peace is resorted and people become happy", he added.

When asked to comment on the ongoing peace process, constitution drafting and the five point agreement signed between parties to extend CA term, replied Shah, "Perhaps this you know better than me."

An astute answer that the question demanded.

"Let us not become pessimistic. Let us hope that the country will get it (constitution) on time", he continued and added in a satirical manner, "tara ashar mahina ma rapai ko time ma tapalle choudavi ka chand ta khojnu bhayena nE." (But, we can't also hope to see a full moon in the rainy season, in the paddy plantation season... can we?)

The use of Hindi/Urdu words by Shah in his statement perhaps indicate that with the fall of monarchy and ample spare time in his possession, Shah has been maintaining close contacts with Shayars (poets) from India.

By the way, the former king in the literary world in renowned for his literary works and is known as G. Shah.

However, it would have been ear pleasing to the Nepalese nationalists had he avoided the Hindi citation.

In effect, Gyanendra Shah made it clear during his brief interaction with the media that in the current state of order it is highly unlikely that the country will get both the elusive constitution and peace.

Open challenge to the republicans that it was.

"I have deep love for an independent Nepal. In any capacity, I will dedicate myself to Nepali independence and sovereignty", he also assured the media persons.

The Image Television channel was quick to conduct a random poll for Gyanendra's remarks. Majority of the interviewed ones claimed that Gyanendra Shah was right in criticizing for the abject failure of political parties. While a speaker claimed that remark coming as it does from a person who holds no stake in Nepali politics was irrelevant.

One another public participant claimed that the political parties through their wrong deeds have been providing needed energy for the institution of monarchy to resurrect.

Bombs before bread in N. Korea

Joel Brinkly, The Korea Herald

Is there any greater nuclear threat to the world than North Korea? With a dozen nuclear weapons and a vile record of proliferation, this rogue state and its lunatic leader can be relied upon for just one thing: making terrible trouble for its neighbors and everyone else.

Just last month, U.S. Navy warships intercepted a North Korean vessel carrying missiles to Myanmar (Burma) and turned it around.

So this will most certainly come as an unpleasant surprise for nearly everyone: A few days ago, the United Nations chose North Korea, yes North Korea, as the new president of the U.N.'s Conference on Disarmament, which describes itself as "the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community."

Most of the conference's 65-nation membership publicly welcomed the new president, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon endorsed his ascension.

Is this a joke? It should be. But as State Department spokesman David Kennedy put it, for the United Nations, this is "business as usual." After all, with a straight face the U.N. also plays host to the Human Rights Council, among whose members sit China, Cuba and Saudi Arabia. Quite recently, Libya, Pakistan and Tunisia also served.

Well, not to worry. The new

Disarmament Conference president, North Korean So Se Pyong, promised to become "very engaged in moving the conference forward" so that it can "achieve concrete results." How reassuring. Perhaps his country would like to set an example for the world?

Actually, North Korea is already setting an unprecedented example. It's the only state that stubbornly holds onto a nuclear-weapons arsenal? even though its leaders know full well that millions of their people are starving to death as a result. In fact, defectors are reporting a situation so desperate that people are turning to cannibalism? all so Kim Jong-il can keep his bombs.

Right now, North Korea is facing a famine, and not for the first time. A calamitous food shortage in the late 1990s killed an estimated 2 million people. That time, once the world learned of the problem, months too late, it provided copious aid. But the nation's leaders and their minions kept most of it for themselves and watched? eating grapes (figuratively) as their people starved to death.

This time, almost no one seems willing to help. The United Nations is now pleading with the world's wealthy nations, including the U.S. and Japan, to provide more aid. Despite months of entreaty, the U.N. office of humanitarian affairs has raised only 20 percent of what North

Korea needs, though the European Union made a modest donation on Monday.

Other officials in Washington, Tokyo, Seoul and elsewhere are furious with Pyongyang for multifarious reasons. Chief among them: For several years now, North Korea has refused to

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participate in nuclear-disarmament negotiations. In 2003 it withdrew from the Non-Proliferation Treaty and after that twice tested nuclear weapons.

For many weeks, the U.S. has been saying it is considering the aid request. But speaking to Congress last month, Robert King, special envoy for human rights in North Korea, said Washington doesn't want "the people in North Korea to continue to starve while this food aid goes to the government" instead.

As it is, uncounted numbers of North Koreans are subsisting on grass they pick in fields. Last week Australian television broadcast harrowing smuggled footage showing "filthy, homeless and orphaned children begging for food" while "soldiers demand bribes."

Watching all of this, Penultimate Potentate Kim issued an order: He shut down every one of the nation's universities on July 1 and sent the students to work on construction projects and in

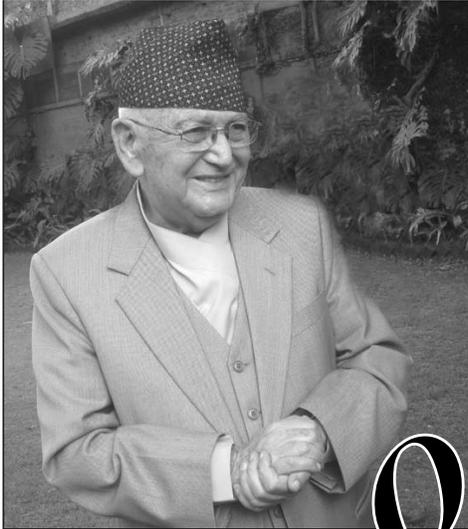
rice paddies? until next April.

Oh, maybe he figures that if everyone pitches in, they can help end the famine. No, actually, most analysts believe Kim is watching the Arab uprisings and wants to disperse the nation's college students? the seeds of any possible revolt.

Meantime, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency quoted "an alleged North Korean police document" describing rampant cannibalism, including "a male guard who could not bear his hunger" and "killed his colleague using an axe, ate some of the human flesh and sold the remainder at market" disguised as mutton. These allegations cannot be verified.

No one has said this, but it's quite obvious that if Supreme Leader Kim stepped forward and declared his readiness to restart disarmament talks, much of the world's reticence to help him would fall away. And what better opportunity could he have, now that North Korea is president of the United Nations Disarmament Conference?

By Joel Brinkly
Joel Brinkly, a Pulitzer Prize-winning former foreign correspondent for the New York Times, is the author of "Cambodia's Curse: The Modern History of a Troubled Land." Ed.



-Surya Bahadur Thapa

Charter not possible by August 31, 2011, instead a comprehensive essay in offering

Questions

TGQ1: You used to talk to the media quite often. However, you appear to have taken a stoic silence of late? Why it is so Mr. Thapa? If the leaders observe silence, as it stands now, how the peace process will come to its logical end?

Thapa: Yes! You are correct. People have been saying like this to me. Look, at the moment, not only the politics, and the parties but also the political men's image have gone down. Politics is in a downward trend. Not only me, but others too have not been talking of late. Nobody talks of the state of existing real politics. Even the political parties are tentatively in a voiceless state. The entire politics is in a very difficult position since the past one month or so. I think such confusing state will not remain what it is at the moment for long in the coming few days. In my modest opinion, well within two weeks or so, the politics will take certainly a new course and then the political leaders and parties will begin ventilating their minds as usual.

As regards your tagged question, well, the peace process is not only a mere word but the word itself has several dimensions contained therein. The question thus is whether we will be honest towards the implementation of those hidden elements or not? The moment you talk of the peace process, it entails the processes of, for example, integration of Maoists and the question of the return of the seized properties. Whether you are ready to sort out these remaining tasks associated with the peace processes or not?

All have their own personal party stands. It is not that the peace process as such is related with other parties. It is definitely a task that is more closely associated with the Maoists. The Maoist party has to extend the demanded cooperation. But I don't think that the said party is in a cooperative mood. Maoists party Chairman recently talked in a somewhat flimsy manner as regards the completion of the peace process. He had exhibited his energy but in a very submissive manner. To boot, the Maoists party itself remains in a divided state as regards the Militia integration process. It should be the Maoists who must have exhibited its interests in sorting out the stalled peace process. Definitely, other parties have less to do with the peace process as such. There is the absence of an atmosphere wherein one can talk on the peace process topic-wise. When we listen to the talks that emanate from the Maoist party leadership, one can't believe that this process will get settled in the near future.

TGQ2: Chairman Prachanda is on record to have said that he expects a major breakthrough soon and that the five point agreement too will come into its implementation at the earliest? Moreover, militia integration is the main part of the peace process. It appears that the Maoists were interested more in settling the integration of the Maoists militias as and when they themselves lead the government on their own. Do you envision so?

Addressing a seminar at the UN in Geneva on June 9, 2011, the British parliamentarian George Galloway said, "Eighty thousand had died in the more than twenty year freedom struggle in the Indian held valley of Kashmir. Uncountable numbers had been wounded and maimed, mass imprisonment and exile and even the use of rape as a tool of occupation had been the lot of the Kashmiris and yet the only demand of the occupied people of Kashmir is for the right to vote." The topic of this seminar was, "Defending the Democratic Processes." George Galloway further said, "In the light of the promise made by the great Indian Prime Minister Mr. Nehru to abide by the UN resolution, a simple plebiscite is the only solution to this chronic problem". Angana Chatterji is Convener of the International People's Tribunal in Indian-administered Kashmir and Professor of Anthropology, California Institute of Integral Studies. In one of her articles published last year she said referring to the brutal rape and killing of two sisters Asiya Jan

Thapa: He may have talked in a highly excited mood which is a common phenomenon for him though he may have good intentions over what he says or said. Yet, there is no room for believing him at his face value. He keeps on talking as has been our own experience of the past. If one were to analyze his talks that he has made in the recent days and over the years, I don't believe that his talks will lead to a final solution.

Yes! The Militia integration constitutes a primary task of the peace process. But it is not that easy one as one may think it to be so. Maoists are in sheer trouble at the moment. Well, it has itself created these problems for the party. We can only ease their problems. We can take some initiatives but at the end of the day, it is the Maoists party which has to shoulder the burden. As Chairman of the party, Prachanda must shoulder the heavy political burden. It would have been nice if they themselves were in the government and settled the issue than by seducing others for settling the same subject. Yes! The Maoists may have the desire internally to be in power once again and settle this issue once and for all. It can't be denied. They may have such thinking. Because whenever one is in power, many things, even contentious ones, could be easily sorted out.

TGQ3: Is that possible? Also tell us what you think of the insertion of the word like 'people's war' in the programs and the policies of the

government? Your ideas please Mr. Thapa?

Thapa: Well, whether it is possible to do so or even if they try to have their own party government much depends upon the wishes and the preferences of other parties also. It is a matter that is associated with other parties. If the major parties lack 'seriousness and become myopic' then the Maoists can form the government on their own. It is not an impossible affair. But normally speaking, I don't think that this would see light at the end of the tunnel and come into its real existence. Being in power and the thinking that everything they could be sorted out is not that an easy task as may have been in their inner minds.

The use of the word, 'people's war', in the program and policies of the government is not an ordinary matter. Not so many people make speeches weighing the words and sentences to what they speak at various platforms. It is very difficult to locate such men in Nepali society. It is not that wise people do not exist in Nepal's political spectrum. They do exist. The word "people's war" does have some grave meaning contained therein. It has some ideological perceptions. There is definitely some reasoning for a debate on whether the insertion of the word 'people's war' should have been done or not. When you insert this word in the government policies and programs then it certainly demands the follow up of the very meaning of the word 'people's war'. The follow up will certainly demand some sort of recognition from all concerned. The insertion of a particular word, let's admit, does indicate something.

TGQ4: But Prime Minister Khanaal claims that he has no idea or whatsoever as to how the word 'People's war' got inserted in the programs and policies presented by the government? Don't you think that the incorporation of this meticulous word has even complicated more the politics? What say you?

Thapa: As prime Minister of the country, PM Khanaal remains accountable for this. He can't escape his responsibilities by

forwarding this or that fragile reasons. Yes! As regards the matters related with the national budget, it is a customary practice that the finance minister should explain about it. Can Khanaal escape by shifting the blame onto other heads? I think, the UML party which is his own party as such has several potential candidates who could draft the sketch of the national budget. Had it been left to the UML party members to draft the budget, this word would not have been introduced in the policy and the programs. There are scores of men inside the UML who could comprehend the meaning of this word better. The inclusion of this special word in the programs and the policies of the government is a deliberate one in order to make it a serious political issue in the days ahead.

Hundred percent. This would create Himalayan political problems. This word may be recorded in Nepali history as a dangerous statement or better say a devastating one. When you agree to that word on behalf of the government then you are automatically obliged to abide verbatim by the meaning underneath of this word as well. You can't brush it aside. You have to accept the entire process then. It is not an ordinary issue that could be dismissed so easily. The Prime Minister has done it deliberately. The notion that this word was inserted without keeping the Prime Minister in knowledge is a mere gaffe in strict sense of the term. Both the Prime Minister and the Maoists have kept this word knowingly.

TGQ5: Are you confident Mr. Thapa that by August 31, 2011, the preliminary draft of the new constitution will be made public as promised? Though nobody believes in that possibility but yet how you evaluate the situation thereafter August 31, 2011, if the constitutional primary draft is not awarded to the nation?

Thapa: It has already been forty days plus of signing of the five point agreements between the major political parties. Nothing so far has been done after the signing of the said five point covenant. At best, the political parties will forward whatever the text that has been so far compiled

by the constitutional committee as regards the constitution to the public. Tomorrow the parties will do the same when the political knot chanced them. Yes! They will bring the preliminary draft in the form of an "essay" which will be made public. They can give any name to any essay and claim that it was the preliminary draft what the people needed. They are free to do that. One of the points contained in the said five point agreement is regarding the militia integration and nothing has been done in regard to that which constitutes a very important element of the overall peace process. The issue has not even got its access as to whether we wish a democratic republic or a people's republic? The Maoists completely possess a different opinion in this regard. The Party's judgments and preferences do not match with what the democratic republic is. Such an enormous issue stands intact that demands urgent solution. In this situation, how will it be possible to provide the preliminary draft? I wonder.

It is not that the constitution can't be made. They have talked of bringing the preliminary draft by that time. They may finally show us all an dissertation regarding the constitution by forwarding the lame excuse of scantiness of time. This much is left is what they will claim. Will not the people have to accept whatever they provide with? Had the political parties to take a tough and solid decision then what the hell they had been doing prior to May 28, 2011? To convince and assure the people, there should have been a break through much ahead of May 28, 2011. Why they did not take care of the situation prevailing then if at all it were in a disturbed state? It has been already stated that in the first three months these things will be accomplished and the rest will be gifted in the upcoming three months. This means that yet another three months extension is in the pipeline. Well, a sure shot voluminous essay will be presented to the people that will be coined as the preliminary draft of the Nepal Constitution. They will definitely take the people for a ride once again forwarding this or that unsustainable reasons. This we all know better. That's all,

A land of grief & sorrow

Prof Ali Sukhanver

surrender before the local and international pressure and hold a plebiscite. To avoid and counter this possibility the Indian authorities have started planning for the coming days. The release of an executive order in April 2011 by the State Government regarding the issuance of Dogra Certificates to residents of Jammu is an important proceeding in this context. This executive order has given a new identity to those whose forefathers had been the residents of Jammu prior to 1944. Irrespective of ethnicity, culture and language such people will be called the Dogras. This controversial executive order has invited much criticism from all the quarters in the Indian occupied Kashmir. "This fudging is aimed at disturbing the ratio of Muslim population living in Jammu and Kashmir to tip the balance in favour of Hindu community", says

Kashmir Media Service, "The hidden motive behind this order is nothing but to abolish religious identity of Muslims in Jammu and divide the State on ethnic lines, thus undermining the freedom struggle by restricting Muslims identity to Kashmir Valley only." Under the cover of this executive order the State Government has decided very cleverly to manipulate the figures by including Armed Forces and Para Military Forces personnel deployed in the region as part of population of IOK. With the help of this executive order, India has undertaken political and administrative measures to control unrest in Indian held Kashmir. India is playing a bloody game with the people of Indian held Kashmir particularly with the Kashmiri youth. On one hand certain political groups are being sent to the valley to have dialogue with pro-movement leadership but

on the other hand state machinery is busy in arresting, torturing and killing Kashmiri youth under Public Safety Act (PSA). This Public Safety Act allows police to detain a person up to two years without charge or trial if he or she is considered a threat to the State. Sadbhavana is another state-operated weapon which is being used to deceive Kashmiri youth. Under the cover of Sadbhavana program young Kashmiri students are being engaged in study tours, sports activities, special classes and prize distribution ceremonies. All these activities are an attempt to make the Kashmiri youngsters forget the Indian atrocities which have made the life of innocent people of the valley, a blazing hell. At present the innocent Kashmiris are passing through the ever-worst phase of their life but the International community has done nothing so far for them. Instead of helping out the distressed people of Kashmir, some of the western leaders are simply adding

salt to their injuries with their callous statements. A few weeks back the Chief of US forces in the Pacific, Adm. Robert Willard said talking to the media that turmoil in Pakistan and fragile governance in Islamabad hampers resolution of Kashmir dispute. The scenic paradise of the Indian Occupied Kashmir has been blazing with flames of fright and terror for the last many decades. Countless innocent Kashmiris have yet been injured and so many deprived of their lives. Schools, markets, offices, mosques and even the small mud-houses are presenting picture of a wasteland. Continuous curfew, non-stop strikes and much more Indian intransigence to delay meaningful dialogue on Kashmir and presence of its Army in the state are the main causes of delay in resolution of Kashmir dispute. The situation demands for a serious action including ban on draconian laws like AFSPA and PSA. The Kashmiris are a nation according to any definition. They must be given same rights which other nations are enjoying. The writer is a defence and strategic affairs analyst.

Opposition of Indian investment in Nepal's water resources is backed by sound logic

Pari Thapa
Communist Party of Nepal (Unified)

Q1: Let's start our conversation with the latest happening. While celebrating his 65th birthday, former King Gyanendra Shah said, "I had not quit the Palace thinking that the situation would be in this sorry state." What is your comment on the former King's remarks?

Thapa: One thing which we have to understand is that the Monarchy in Nepal was not ousted, it was ended. The institution was ended because its end had become a Himalayan urgency. The former King could have done anything if his attempt could have been able to save the institution which he represented. However, he did not see any hope to retain his throne and was compelled to vacate the palace unwillingly.

The remarks of the former King do not deserve any serious comment. He failed to save his throne and the Monarchy from former King Shah enjoys the freedom of expression as other ordinary Nepalese nationals do. It is his right to say that republican order was established in Nepal because of his magnanimity. We should not have to be serious over his fresh remarks.

Q2: The peace process had shown some sign of improvement after signing of the 5 points deal. However, this couldn't last for long. Now, the entire peace process is at the state of a quandary. Mr. Thapa, could you please tell us which factors are primarily responsible for this situation?

Thapa: Peace process, constitution drafting process and Constituent Assembly (CA) are interlinked subjects. Our nation was engulfed in 10 years prolonged people's war. Thousands of people lost their lives. Around 10,000 peoples were killed from the government side where as about 5,000-6,000 were killed by the then Maoist rebel. After signing Seven Point Agreement (SPA) and

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), we have come to this point where we are trying our best for the successful conclusion of the peace process. We should not think this as a general situation. We are definitely experiencing it as to have been a critical phase. Extra attention and care should be paid from every possible quarter so that the ongoing peace process approaches to the logical conclusion and peace finally prevails in our country. We have overcome different hurdles and arrived to the today's point and I am very optimistic that things will move ahead in a positive manner.

The issue of the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatant is lingering the peace process. However, I don't think it as a complicated issue as such. At the time of insurgency, the state was vigorously planning to create an armed force of 2, 00,000 personnel. Now the size of Nepal Army (NA) is about 1, 00,000. If 19,600 Maoist combatants verified by UNMIN will be integrated in NA, it will not make any notable difference in the size, professionalism and integrity of the NA. Therefore, the so-called three big political parties, Unified Maoists, Nepali Congress and CPN-UML should not give extra importance to the number of Maoist combatants to be integrated in the national army.

Q3: Could you please offer further candid suggestion in this regard?

Thapa: Maoist combatants are politically indoctrinated. Therefore from the personal level, I suggest them to accept the rehabilitation package so that they can get involved in different political activities in the day ahead.

However, CPA and different other understandings reached between Unified Maoist and other political parties explicitly indicated the integration of Maoist combatants in the army. After the handover of combatants to the Army Reintegration Special

Committee, the combatants have already become a pure army and they are eligible to be integrated in NA. We should not further hang around on such peripheral issues.

Q4: The constitution drafting process is also being delayed. It is very unlikely that the preliminary draft of the new constitution will be charted well before August 31, 2011, as prescribed in the 5 point agreement. What is the root cause of this delay?

Thapa: The root cause is the power hunger of the so-called three major parties. These parties fear that they will fail to retain their present mighty position of they go through the fresh elections. Therefore, they are very reluctant to draft the constitution, formulate new laws, rules and regulation and announce the date of new election. In fact, none of the so called three big parties believe that they can sweep majority of the seats in the new election. Because of this fear, they are lingering the constitution drafting process. All the so called three big parties are keenly looking forward to satisfy their thirst for power by prolonging the ongoing transition period.

Q5: Communist forces in Nepal are advocating for the inclusion of Right to Self-determination in the new constitution. Could you please tell us about the relevance of such an advocacy?

Thapa: Indigenous community and the ethnic groups of Terai/Madhesh are in fact robustly advocating for the Right to Self-determination. Our party had theorized it and we have formulated the Principle of Self-determination instead of Right to Self-determination. The concept of Right to Self-determination was developed from Soviet Union. 17 countries were included in the Union and they were assured that they can split from the Union whenever they preferred. In fact, the Right to Self-determination means the right to secession.

However, Nepal has yet not become a nation-state in its real sense of the term. Therefore, I am against the inclusion of Right to Self-determination in the new constitution. The context of Soviet Union and Nepal are completely different. The society of Soviet Union was based on the notion of "coming together". However, Nepali society is based on the idea of "living together".

Q6: We are observing that different groups of Nepal are opposing Indian investments in Nepal's water resources. Do you support their views or you have some different ideas in this regard?

Thapa: The opposition of Indian investment in Nepal's water resources is backed by sound logic. We have plenty of reasons to oppose Indian investment. Look how Nepal is betrayed in the Koshi, Gandak and other several hydro power agreements signed in the past? According to these agreements, Nepal cannot utilize water of its own river for irrigation and other purposes. The monopoly of India in using Nepal's water resources is ensured through different agreements. The same situation prevails in the agreement of Sharada Bridge also.

The fault also lies with us for this pity situation. We failed to devise our foreign policy on the basis of equi-proximity and on reciprocity. Rather we favored special relation with our southern neighbor. We failed to remain united on the very issue even of nationalism and genuine national interests.

The covetousness of our southern neighbor is another major reason responsible for such opposition against the Indian investments in Nepal. Geographically, India is very big and it is said that she is going to be third largest economy after 25-30 years. It is high time for India to make its heart big enough while dealing with the small neighboring country. This will ultimately benefit



OPINION

India itself.

Q7: But some analysts say that India is deliberately deteriorating its relations with the neighboring countries. The Chanakya Doctrine which Indian establishment is following since long observes that if a nation wants to expand its power, she should worsen its relations with those countries with whom it shares its border?

Thapa: This is an age-old and feudal thought. If India is to stick on such ideas, then it is high time for her to immediately abandon such policy. In this 21st century, no any country can progress if it fails to maintain cordial relations with its neighbors. Look what is happening in Europe? The European countries had shared bitter relations. They fought bloody war among themselves. However, they are now united for common benefit and for a common purpose. They are practicing the systems of same currency, and have the same parliament.

Q9: There is overwhelming majority of Communist in the Constituent Assembly body. However, they have failed to unite for common purposes. What might be the reason behind it?

Thapa: About 62 percent of the total lawmakers in CA are communists. But they are divided under the banner of different parties. Despite of the marked division, the communists are gradually increasing their base. This is very positive side of Nepali politics.

Division and split among the political parties of Nepal is not an uncommon happening. Not only communists, but Nepali Congress has also witnessed splits several times.

While talking about the communists, I think that the tendency of compromising in ideology is responsible for the recurring and frequent splits. The aim of the communist movement is economic and social transformation and its ultimate goal of the human liberation. However, the big communist parties of Nepal are being drawn in the bourgeois parliamentary system. The communists can compromise on the immediate policy, but ideologically they should remain in an united state. The communist parties should maintain their main stand which should be for the ultimate liberation of the mankind.

Interviewed by Sujit Mainali

Sinking...

taken as an India leaning man then Baidya finds himself closer to Beijing. This is Himalayan puzzle.

Even if the analysts, for the sake of convenience, take this coalition that it has only been structured for the ouster of Chairman Dahal then it becomes very hard to take on board this fact.

But yet the partnership is becoming stronger with each passing days.

Then should the analysts take that some forces beyond the Himalayan Asian region have been extending their tacit support to this Baidya-Bhattarai coalition?

This can't be so because Mohan Baidya will be more than pleased not to accept any support from the US and the countries of the European Union if that has a negative impact on Nepali politics. But Bhattarai will greet such a support.

The two differ but yet the combination is becoming a vibrant one.

All in all, the Maoists internal strife has stalled the Nepali politics. Half of the extended CA period has vanished in Kathmandu's ethereal medium and chances remain fair that the rest of the days too will have the same fate.

It is perhaps analyzing the current sorry state of Nepali politics; former King Gyanendra darily cut a Himalayan joke at the conduct of the current ruling elites and even collected the courage to let a select group of media that "when enough would be enough, I will not hesitate to bounce back to power".

At least this was the gist of his press note issued on the eve of his birthday celebrations.

Nepali Congress President Sushil Koirala is perhaps in New Delhi to listen to the instructions on how to correct the political aberrations in Nepal?

which bring political stability in Nepal.

Understandably, the Italian queen, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, will chart the fate of Nepal after August 31, 2011.

As of writing this story, Sushil Koirala is yet to be blessed by Mrs. Gandhi-Bharat Ki Bahu.

By the way, if Nepal Maoists split, it would shake the entire region which impact will both be felt in Delhi and Beijing.

How these two power centers have been looking at Nepali affairs will be more than rewarding for the observers here.

But will Chairman Dahal not bring to use some cards that may be still under his sleeves? Or he is already a sinking horse?

Prachanda...

Pun of Dahal panel.

As far as the question of who is going to lead the government, let it be clear that Chairman Prachanda will not lead the government, Pun told Annapurna Post.

Similarly, C.P. Gajurel of Baidya panel threatened that, "this time around too if our demands are not addressed by the central committee, we will once again submit our note of dissent".

Registering note of dissent has become a regular phenomenon inside the Maoists' Party.

"We will observe how Chairman Prachanda presents himself in the upcoming central committee meeting, his acts will eventually determine our future course of action", declared Gajurel who is no less a hardliner than the declared hardliner-Mohan Baidya.

On the other hand, claims another Maoists leader Dima Nath Sharma, "Party chairman will hold several rounds of discussions with the party leadership much ahead of the CC meeting".

"He will try to take party leaders into confidence", so hopes Sharma.

"High-level consensus has already been reached to elevate Bhattarai as the country's prime minister", also claimed Dhanath and added, "The central committee

meeting will ratify the decision in Bhattarai's favor."

Talking to the media in Chitwan district, another vice chairman Narayan Kaji Shrestha said that positive discussions have taken place in the party paraphernalia in favor of Babu Ram Bhattarai.

"Our formal decision will favor Baburam ji."

Haribol Gajurel of the Dahal panel tells Naya Patrika Daily that the newly found unity between Bhattarai and Baidya panel is an apolitical alliance.

Many believe it to be so but the alliance between two differing political poles remains intact.

He claims, "On ideological and political ground they have been always at the opposite ends but they surprisingly come to terms when it comes to sharing of the power." "Isn't it an apolitical alliance", he concludes.

In love and war, everything is possible and more so politics itself is defined as "art of the possible", opine political observers.

But the substance is that Dahal is being cornered by his own long time associates. Must have some reason.

Albeit every unnatural height has a fall ultimately.

Gurung blasts at Dahal: "The Chairman himself favors Babu Ram Bhattarai as the country's next prime minister. It is logical while awarding Bhattarai the PM post Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal should quit from the post of party parliamentary delegation head", opines Dev Gurung of Mohan Baidya Kiran Panel in Unified Maoists Party.

"We want to clip Dahal's role in the party because he has already abandoned party's structured policies. He has done so in the constitution drafting committee meetings", Gurung tells Annapurna post, July 12, 2011.

"There is no alternative than to decentralize power", Gurung adds.

"He is already in a minority in the party's parliamentary delegation", Gurung declares and continues, "We very much expect that Dahal will try to tilt to prove his majority in the Central

Committee through his ambitious, individualist and authoritarian plans."

The Unified Maoists' Party central committee is scheduled to begin, Wednesday July 13, 2011.

The Dahal panel has begun alleging that the unity between Baidya and Bhattarai as an apolitical alliance. Look what says Gurung in this regard.

As and when Prachanda takes the side of Bhattarai and Narayan Kaji, the alliance becomes holy, when Comrade Baidya unites with Bhattarai the alliance becomes unholy. This is nothing but a puzzling analysis", Gurung declares.

Hated against Chairman Dahal is increasing.

Is Upendra...

penalty he was awarded with was harsher than the faults he had actually committed deliberately or just the otherwise, talking on relative terms.

The crime committed against the country by the present day ruling elites are much more serious than what I may have committed while in power, the former King might also think.

Anyway, to cut the story short, when the first Madhesi uprising in the history of Nepal was picking up under the vibrant leadership of Upendra Yadav, Madhesi leaders from all possible quarters wanted to join the Yadav camp, in the manner much similar to how Mahavir Kumar Nepal had tendered his application for the post of prime minister at Gyanendra's doorstep, if one were to recall.

Bijaya Kumar Gacchedhar, Sarat Singh Bhandari, Jay Prakash Gupta quit the Nepali Congress to join the party led by Yadav. Other political creatures had also quit the United Marxist Leninists party to join the Yadav camp. Leaders affiliated with Nepal Sadwawana Party too preferred to work for Yadav. Yadav welcomed them all. He was a hero.

In less than five years time, the Madhesi Forum led by Upendra Yadav has at least five splinters.

Some more are in the pipeline. Gacchedhar and his ilk have their own parties.

Yadav- the then hero is now portrayed as a villain and also being propagated as someone who is against the Madhesi population.

It was only the other day some five central committee members of the Forum led by Yadav quit the party for good to join the splinter led by Jay Prakash Gupta. Grand decay well within a short span.

Those who quit the party alleged that Yadav had failed to do justice to the plight of Madhesi population. Gupta on the other hand welcomes the MJF-Nepal defectors in all smiles.

"This is politics! Bad Politics! But Yadav may bounce back. There is always some space in politics.

Pressure...

Dahal for marginalizing vice chairman Babu Ram Bhattarai in the party. They also alleged that Chairman Dahal was trying to ignore Bhattarai's views. Those who were formerly considered as representing Baidya and Dahal panels in the party were also present in the meeting.

A regional bureau chief opined

पत्रकार आचारसंहिताको
पालना गरौं पत्रकारितालाई मर्यादित
र स्वस्थ राखौं ।



नेपाल सरकार
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय
सूचना विभाग