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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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MOFA BULLETIN

Current Affairs

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परराष्ट्र मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. Official Visit of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi paid an official visit to Nepal from 5-6 March 2018.



Figure 1 Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli with Pakistani Prime Minister

Mr. Abbasi paid a courtesy call to Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal and had a bilateral

meeting with Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal. During the meeting, matters related to enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of investment, trade, tourism, agriculture and human resources development were discussed. The two leaders agreed to hold regularly the meetings of bilateral mechanisms and also exchanged views on revitalizing the SAARC process in the spirit of the Charter.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan was accompanied by Secretary to the Prime Minister, Military Secretary to the Prime Minister and other senior officials of the Government of Pakistan.

2. Visit of the Minister of External Affairs of India

The Minister of External Affairs of India, Ms. Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Nepal from 1-2 February 2018. During her visit, the Minister paid separate calls on the President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and the Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.



Figure 2 The Minister of External Affairs of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj with the President of Nepal.

During the calls on, Minister of External Affairs of India expressed pleasure on behalf of the Government of India over the successful holding of elections of Local levels, Provincial levels and Federal Parliament in Nepal.



Figure 3 The Minister of External Affairs of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj with the Prime Minister of Nepal

3. Eighth Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the Development of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along Nepal-India Border.

The eighth meeting for development of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along India-Nepal border was held at New Delhi on 22 February 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. B.R. Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Mr. Deependra Nath Sharma,

Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal.

The meeting reviewed the status of progress in the construction of the ICPs at Birgunj and Biratnagar and detailed engineering Report for ICPs at Nepalgunj, Rupaidiha, Bhairahawa and Sunauli.

The ICP at Birgunj is about to complete and the meeting agreed on steps for operationalization of the ICPs at Raxaul and Birgunj by the middle of April 2018. Steps for the construction of the ICP at Biratnagar were also agreed.

Operationalization of ICPs would facilitate trade and transit between both the countries.

4. First Meeting of Joint Project Monitoring Committee (JPMC) on Strengthening of Road Infrastructure in the Terai Area of Nepal

The first meeting of the Joint Project Monitoring Committee on Strengthening of Road Infrastructure in the Terai Area of Nepal was held on 21 February 2018 in Kathmandu. The meeting was co-chaired by Er. Keshab Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport of Nepal and Dr. Ajay Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission of Embassy of India in Kathmandu. The meeting reviewed the progress made in implementation of various road packages of the Project. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the early completion of the project by providing the required facilitations and addressing the difficulties that may face in the implementation process.

5. Embassy of Nepal, Beijing Organizes a Seminar on Investment Opportunities in Hydropower Projects in Nepal.

Embassy of Nepal, Beijing organized a seminar on ***Investment Opportunities in Hydropower Projects in Nepal*** on 23 March 2018. The program brought together perspective within Chinese investors as well as senior officials of three hydropower-related companies of the Government of Nepal for interactions on facilitating Chinese investments in Nepal's hydropower sector. More than eighty

participants including representatives of the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China, and private sector companies, as well as government officials and media persons took part in the event.

In his opening remarks, Nepal's Ambassador to China Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal said that the year 2018 is a year of new beginnings in Nepal after the successful conclusion of three tiers of elections, paving the way for political stability and good governance. Highlighting the Government's policy of attracting foreign investment, he called on Chinese companies and entrepreneurs to utilize the opportunity for investing in Nepal's hydropower sector by taking full advantage of its enormous possibilities and the government's favorable industrial and investment policies.

The seminar featured presentations on various aspects of hydro-electricity development in Nepal and the areas for potential investments in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in the country. Dr. Surendra Kumar Upreti, Board Member of Electricity Generation Company Ltd, introduced the government's policies and legal instruments for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, as well as on the financing requirements and modalities of hydropower projects in the country.

In his presentation, Dr. Netra Prasad Gyawali, CEO of National Transmission Grid Company Ltd, focused on the investment potentials in the transmission networks to evacuate the power generated from hydropower generation stations in various parts of the country, and described the Government's Transmission Master Plan with a target of building 1500 transmission lines and 20 substations by 2025. Mr. Chhabi Raj Pokhrel, CEO of Hydro-electricity Investment and Development Company Ltd, outlined the strategies for resource mobilization and the company's business models for the development of hydro-electricity projects in the country.

The seminar had constructive discussions on streamlining legal, institutional and procedural mechanisms for further attracting foreign investments in Nepal's hydropower sector.

6. Destination Nepal, Presentation Program

The Embassy of Nepal in Seoul together with Seoul International Women's Association organized a "Destination Nepal, Presentation Program" in Om Restaurant Seoul on 1 February 2018. Participants representing various embassies, institutions and organizations in Seoul were present during the program. Mr. Arjun Jung Bahadur Singh, Ambassador of Nepal to the Republic of Korea welcomed all the participants, and delivering his address, he stated that Nepal is heavenly destination on the earth for all people to be at least once in lifetime.

7. Opening of Korean Remit Companies

During the launching ceremony of Korea-Nepal Remittance Service from the Korean company called NNP Korea Co. Ltd, Nepali Ambassador to the Republic of Korea said that the Embassy of Nepal is always ready to support any activities that promote the sending of remittances to Nepal through proper and legal channels. He also expressed happiness over Korean government's recent decision to allow the operation of remittance sending companies and opening of many remit companies through undergoing agreements with Nepali banks for sending of remittances to Nepal. The company has launched its product called Himal Remit in support of Himalayan Bank Limited Nepal. Deputy Governor of Nepal Rashtra Bank Mr. Chintamani Siwakoti was also present at that occasion.

1. 37th Session of the Human Rights Council

A delegation of Nepal led by Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, participated in the 37th Session of Human Rights Council held from 26 February to 23 March 2018 in Geneva. Addressing the High-Level segment of the Session, the leader of Nepali delegation highlighted the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and 25th year of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action as the source of aspiration of mankind for a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. He further said that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

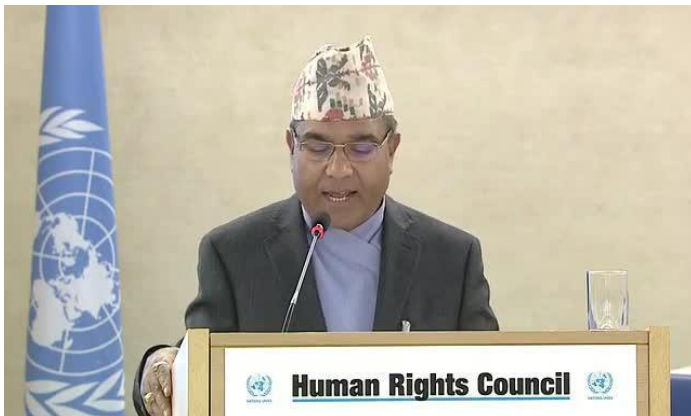


Figure 4 Foreign Secretary addressing the Human Rights Council

The Foreign Secretary underscored the centrality of the faithful implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development frameworks through enhanced partnership and collaboration to the protection of human rights everywhere.

He reiterated Nepal's total commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and shed light on the salient features of the Constitution of Nepal including inclusive democratic polity, pluralism, the rule of law, representative and accountable government, social and economic justice, and universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. He further reiterated the commitment of the Government of Nepal to fully addressing the issue of transitional justice.

It was ever first participation of Nepal in the Council as its member since her election last year by the UN General Assembly. Other members of the Nepali delegation consisted of Mr. Rajib Gautam, Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Mr. Deepak Dhital, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN in Geneva, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and Permanent Mission of Nepal in Geneva. Around 100 high-level dignitaries representing Member States of the Council and Observer States participated in the high-level segment

2. Meetings of Foreign Secretary with Executives of International Organisations Based in Geneva

During his stay in Geneva, Foreign Secretary also met with Ms. Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC); Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.

3. Visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez Morales to Nepal

The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez Morales visited Nepal on the invitation of the Government of Nepal from 29 January to 5 February, 2018. During his visit, Mr. Morales met with representatives of the Government of Nepal, the United Nations, civil society organizations, recruitment agencies, migrants and their families, recruitment agencies, domestic workers' training centers associations, pre-departure orientation centers associations, medical centers associations and skill training providers in Kathmandu, Kailali and Morang districts. The visit was focused on the issue of labor migration from Nepal and looked to the challenges of labor migration and sought to

maximize the benefits of labor migration and provided a set of preliminary recommendations.

4. Visit of the Under Secretary General of the United Nations and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States Ms. Fekitamoela Katoa 'Utoikamanu (17-19 March 2018)

Under Secretary General of the United Nations and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States Ms. Fekitamoela Katoa Utoikamanu visited Nepal from 17-19 March 2018.

The Under Secretary General called on the Prime Minister where the Prime Minister appreciated the work of the High Representative's office for the countries in special need, including Nepal, and expressed hope that the operationalization of Technology Bank for LDCs and International Think Tank for LLDCs would be useful for the countries aspiring development and prosperity. The Prime Minister underlined the existential impact of climate change to the mountainous and small island developing states which needs to be addressed through national and international efforts.

The High Representative underlined the activities carried out by her office to the implementation of Istanbul Program of Action for the LDCs, Vienna Program of Action for the LLDCs and Samoa Pathway. She expressed commitment for continued support to the countries in special needs and highlighted the establishment of the Technology Bank in Turkey and International Think Tank for the LLDCs in Mongolia as important steps forward.

During her visit, the Special Representative also called on Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Minister for Finance, Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada. In both the meetings matters relating to the implementation of SDGs and other internationally agreed development agendas were discussed. Foreign Minister Gyawali outlined the visiting Under Secretary General about Nepal's transition to stability and democratic order,

including the promulgation of the Constitution in 2015 and series of successful elections held for all three tiers of the Government.

C. REGIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Sixth SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave

The sixth SAARC Business Leaders Conclave (SBLC) was held in Kathmandu on 16-18 March 2018 under the theme '***Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration***'. The conclave was hosted by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies in partnership with the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC-CCI).

The conclave was inaugurated by Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, the Prime Minister of Nepal. In his remarks, he underscored the indispensable role of private sector in trade, investment and south Asian economic integration at large. Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Dr. Yubraj Khatiwada, Minister for Finance, Mr. Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Mr. Humayoon Rasaw, Minister for Commerce and Industries of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Secretary General of SAARC Mr. Amjad B.Sial, among others, had highlighted the importance of regional integration for maximizing socio-economic development in the region.

2. Tourism Minister Attends the Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Ministerial Conference

Mr. Jitendra Narayan Dev, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation attended the Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Ministerial Conference held in Beijing from 31 January 2017 to 1 February 2018.

The discussions in the seminar focused on devising innovative programs targeting the tourism market in China, and identifying the needs of Chinese visitors.

More than 30 participants including the representatives of China National Tourism

Administration (CNTA), World Tourism Alliance (WTA), China International Tourism Services (CITS), China Youth Travel Services (CYTS), China Chamber of Tourism (CCT), Travel and tour operators conducting travel business in Nepal and South Asia, and the media persons attended the event.

On 2 February 2018, Minister Dev attended Tourism Promotion Seminar organised by the Embassy of Nepal in Beijing where he invited Chinese tourists to visit Nepal for the unique experience that Nepal provides in the fields of adventure, culture and nature.

3. Meeting of SAARC Development Fund

The 29th Meeting of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) Board of Directors was convened at Thimpu, Bhutan on March 18-19, 2018. Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, SDF Board of Director of Nepal and Joint Secretary at International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance participated in the Meeting. The Meeting reviewed the action taken on the decisions of the 28th Board Meeting and the decisions related to SDF of the 54th Session of Programming Committee of SAARC. It discussed various issues such as Strategic Plan of SDF, final approval of projects under Economic and Infrastructure Windows, status of the implementation of ongoing Social Window projects, status of funds commitment under Social Window, Finance and audit, the social Enterprise Development Programme (SEDP) and SDF's budget for FY 2018.

4. SAARC Annual Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases

The First SAARC Annual Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases was held in Colombo from 31 March to 1 April 2018. The delegation of Nepal was led by Mr. Bhogendra Raj Dotel, Director, Primary Health Service Revitalization Division at Department of Health Services. The Meeting held

in-depth deliberation on matters related to Prevention and control of Non-communicable diseases. The delegates from the member states including Nepal made their country presentations highlighting different aspects and status of Non-Communicable diseases as well as challenges and measures being taken to address it. The Meeting also discussed the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the SAARC Annual Meeting of Non-Communicable Diseases.

5. Second BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs Meeting

The second BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs Meeting was held on 28 March 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Security Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Major General (Rtd.) Tarique Ahmed Siddique chaired the meeting. Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh, Prof. Chop Lal Bhusal led the Nepali delegation to the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the outcome document of the first meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs held in New Delhi, India on 21 March 2017. The meeting discussed on matters pertaining to maritime security, space security cooperation, formation of core group, establishing track 1.5 BIMSTEC Security Dialogue Forum, strengthens cyber security and information sharing among others. While delivering the country statement, Mr. Bhusal pointed out the need for joint cooperation to address the threats posed by counter terrorism and transnational crime at regional and global level and expressed Nepal's firm commitment to this end. He also highlighted the laws of Nepal related to this field.

D. NON RESIDENT NEPALI, PASSPORTS AND CONSULAR MATTERS

1. Non Resident Nepali (NRN) Related Services

The status of services delivery to Non Resident Nepali (NRN) during February-March 2018 is presented below.

S. N.	Services	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	20
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN.	2

2. Passport Services

2.1 Statistics Exhibiting Service Delivery Status at the Department

The status of service delivery of the department during the period is presented in the following table.

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received	60082	Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports Issued	58678	From districts
		2022	From Missions
		34732	From the Department
		95432	Total
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to Document Type)	29	Diplomatic
		86	Official
		50880	Ordinary
		13	Travel Document
		95432	Total
4	Passports dispatched	93104	
5	Emails responded including Social Networks	1918	
6	Grievance handled	1852	
7	Lost PP registered in the Interpol	4489	

8	Official Error	125	
9	Null and Void Passports	18	
10	Gratis Passports	612	
11	Feedback Forms Collected	1100	
12	Revenue Collected	33,67,75,000/-	

3. Consular Services

The issue wise details of the service delivery of the Department of Consular Services during the period under review are as follows:

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	Consular and Legal Counseling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour, World cycling tour and other	11
2	Recommendation for Indian education certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose	276
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	6
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepalese driving license on the basis of foreign driving license held by the Nepalese citizen.	736
5	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepalese citizens during their period of stay in India.	61
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	16
7	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit for vehicles to enter India.	3
8	Correspondence to the	9

	concerned authorities of Nepal regarding the citizenship renouncement of Nepalese citizens as per their application submitted to the Nepalese missions abroad	
9	Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepalese missions abroad	177
10	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	5
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens died abroad.	56
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals to the Nepalese Missions abroad	123
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad	42

14	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia.	0
15	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	6
B	Visa and Exemption Section	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	438
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	94
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	10
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	547
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	401
C	Attestation section	
1	Number of attested documents	59880