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and Nepali Diaspora Division**

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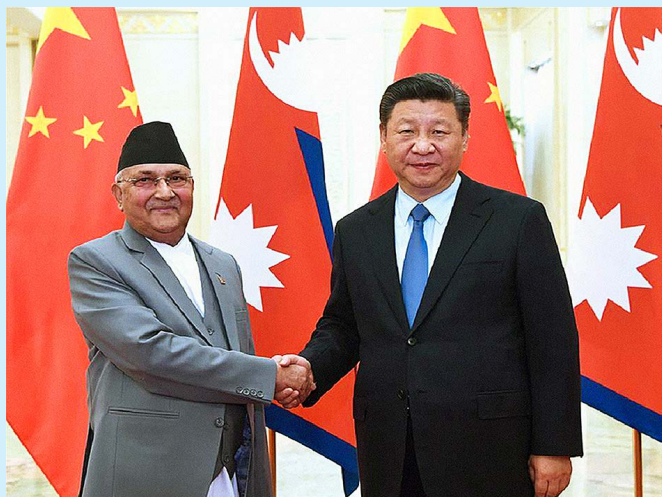
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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

**1. PRIME MINISTER PAYS AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO CHINA**

At the invitation of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr. Li Keqiang, Prime Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli paid an official visit to China from 19-24 June. The Prime Minister had delegation-level talks with the President of China Mr. Xi Jinping and the Premier Mr. Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People on 20 and 21 June respectively.



*Prime Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli Meeting with
Mr. Xi Jinping, President of China*

While reiterating Nepal's firm commitment to one China policy, the Prime Minister congratulated China on the successful conclusion of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China last year, and the 13th National People's Congress

and Annual Session of the CPPCC this year. He also appreciated President Xi Jinping's vision of 'building a community of a shared future for humanity' and greater cooperation among nations through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

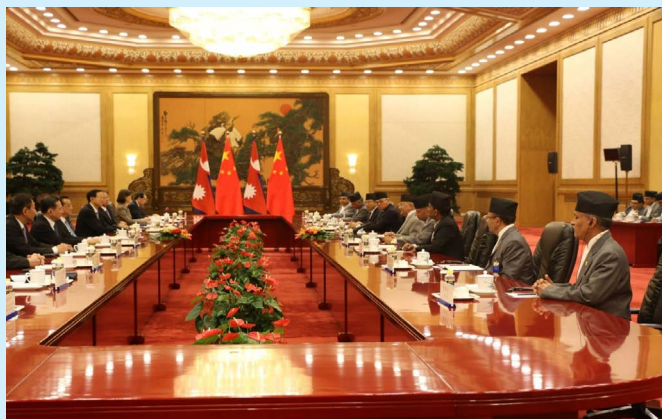
Likewise, Nepali side admired China's two centennial goals and expected that these goals would help realize China's objective of national rejuvenation. The Chinese side congratulated the Government and people of Nepal on the historic and epoch-making political transformation and expressed its full commitment to assist Nepal in realizing the goal of "Samriddha Nepal, Sukhi Nepali" ('Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali') within its capacity.



*Prime Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli meeting with
Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of China*

During the bilateral talks, both sides held in-depth

discussion covering all aspects of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitments to further widen and deepen the relations for mutual benefit in the days ahead. The two sides also agreed to intensify implementation of the *MoU on Cooperation under the BRI* to enhance connectivity, encompassing vital components as ports, roads, railways, aviation and communications within the overarching framework of Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network.



Delegation-level talks between Prime Minister of Nepal and the Premier of China

After the talks, the two sides issued a 14-point Joint Statement that has set directions to Nepal-China relations for the coming days.

Fourteen different agreements, understandings and letters of exchange were signed in the presence of the Prime Minister of Nepal and the Premier of the State Council of China. These documents encompass areas of cooperation on railway projects, energy, investment, human resources development, reconstruction, economic and technical cooperation and a facilitating mechanism for the implementation of China-Nepal cooperation programs and projects, among others. The signing of MoU on Cooperation in Railway Projects is the most important document. The MoU has paved the way for enhancing trans-border connectivity between the two countries in the long run.

Besides, the Prime Minister also witnessed the signing of nine Agreements/MoUs between Nepali public and private enterprises/companies and their Chinese partners. The Agreements/MoUs include areas of hydropower, energy, and production. The signing of these documents has also reflected the confidence of Chinese investors for their investment

in Nepal.

The Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Great Hall of the People and attended the welcome banquet hosted in his honour by the Chinese counterpart at the Great Hall of the People. While in Beijing, the Prime Minister also had a meeting with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Mr. Li Zhanshu.

The Prime Minister attended the reception hosted in his honour by the Ambassador of Nepal to China. He inaugurated 'Nepal-China Friendship Run' organized jointly by the Embassy of Nepal, the State General Administration of Sports and the Beijing University of Sports at the University, and also delivered a keynote speech in an interactive programme on the theme 'The Role of Political Party in Prosperity' at the China Academy of Governance.

The Prime Minister also visited Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China on 22-24 June where he held substantive discussions with the Chairman of the People's Government of the TAR Mr. Qi Zhala and attended the dinner hosted in his honour by the Chairman. The Prime Minister attended the reception hosted in his honour by the Consulate General of Nepal after the visit of China National Modern Agriculture Pilot Zone in Qushui County.

The Prime Minister met with members of the Nepali Diaspora in Beijing and Lhasa.

The visit has further strengthened bilateral relations and enhanced friendship, mutual trust and understanding between the two countries. A framework for a long-term economic cooperation has been prepared and the scope of cooperation has been further widened particularly in the areas of railways, energy, and physical infrastructure between the two countries.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS MONGOLIA

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited Mongolia on 10-13 June to participate in the Conference of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries

(ITT-LLDCs) which was convened in Ulaanbaatar on 11-12 June. During the visit, Foreign Minister Mr. Gyawali paid a courtesy call on the President of Mongolia, Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga.



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali meeting with the President of Mongolia Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga

He also held bilateral meeting with his Mongolian counterpart Mr. Damdin Tsogtbaatar. Both the ministers exchanged views on further strengthening bilateral relations.

They also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali meeting with the Foreign Minister of Mongolia Mr. Tsogtbaatar

3. NEPAL-INDIA MECHANISM

OVERSIGHT

The sixth meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 18 July to review the progress made in the implementation of bilateral economic and development projects. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Ambassador of India to Nepal Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri.

During the meeting, the status of implementation of all ongoing bilateral projects between Nepal and India was discussed. Both sides expressed their commitment to extend all necessary facilitation to ensure smooth execution of the projects within the specified timeframe and agreed to expeditiously address the problems faced by the implementing agencies.



The sixth meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism

4. VIDEO CONFERENCE BETWEEN FOREIGN SECRETARIES OF NEPAL AND INDIA

A meeting through video conference was held between the Foreign Secretaries of Nepal and India on 4 July. The meeting followed up on the action taken on the matters agreed during the recent exchange of visits by the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India in April and May 2018 respectively.

5. AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

At the Invitation of his Indian counterpart, Mr.

Chakrapani Khanal, Minister for Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives visited India on 19-22 June to hold a meeting under the New Partnership in Agriculture as agreed during the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in April 2018.

During the meeting, understandings were reached on advancing agricultural research and development, education, training and scholarship and collaboration between the relevant institutions of the two countries; providing chemical fertilizers by India to Nepal on G to G basis; and launching of pilot projects on organic farming and soil health monitoring in Nepal. The seventh meeting of the Joint Agricultural Working Group to be held soon will find the ways to advance and implement these understandings.

6. MEETING OF JOINT TECHNICAL TEAM OF CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF NEPAL AND AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

A meeting between Civil Aviation Authorities of Nepal and India was held in Kathmandu on 14-16 June. During the Meeting, it was agreed to provide additional air entry routes to Nepal, after detailed aviation safety assessment. A proposal to this effect has been forwarded to the authority concerned of the Government of India.

7. JOINT BY MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON INUNDATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT

The Nepal-India Joint Sub-group carried out a joint inspection of the areas having floods and inundation problems along Nepal-India border on 26-30 June. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Pradeep Thapa, Deputy Director General of the Department of Water Induced Disaster Management (DWIDM) and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Ajay Kumar, Director, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC). The joint team inspected seven rivers, identified the problems and suggested solutions to both the Governments.

8. SECOND JOINT WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM

The second meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Tourism Cooperation between Nepal and India was held in Kathmandu on 6 July. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Ghanshyam Upadhyaya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Suman Billa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.

The meeting agreed to officially recognize two circuits by both the governments, the Ramayana Circuit and the Buddhist Circuit. It was also decided to declare the pilgrimage routes in each of the circuits and to jointly promote it through common branding and marketing exercise.

9. SIXTH PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) AND THIRD JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON CROSS BORDER CONNECTIVITY ON RAIL LINKS

The sixth meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on Cross Border Railway Links along the Nepal-India Border was held in Kathmandu on 9 July. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Keshab Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport from the Nepali side and Ms. Namgya C. Khampa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs from the Indian side.

The Meeting agreed to address the issues related to shifting of the utilities, land acquisition, fast tracking customs clearance, and ensuring power supply, water supply and approach roads to railway stations. Likewise, the third Joint Working Group meeting was held in Kathmandu on 10 July to discuss the operationalization of the Nepal-India Cross Border Rail Links. The meeting discussed the operationalization of Nepal-India Cross Border Rail Links between i) Jogbani-Biratnagar and ii) Jayanagar-Bardibas.

10. LINE OF CREDIT (LOC) PROJECT REVIEW MEETING

The Line of Credit (LOC) Project Review Meeting between Nepal and India was held in Kathmandu on 11 July to review the progress of projects being undertaken under the Government of India LOC

extended to the Government of Nepal. Mr. Shree Krishna Nepal, Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal led the Nepali delegation and Mr. Prashant Agrawal, Joint Secretary (DPA-I), Ministry of External Affairs, GOI led the Indian delegation in the Review Meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity to assess the progress of projects, understand the problems and resolve outstanding issues for ensuring timely implementation of the projects.

11. DISCUSSIONS ON INLAND WATERWAYS CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA

The first meeting on Inland waterways connectivity between Nepal and India was held in Kathmandu on 15-16 July. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Madhav Belbase, Joint Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Pravir Pandey, Vice-Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India. During the meeting, the techno-economic aspects of inland waterways development were discussed.

It may be recalled that the two sides had agreed to advance cooperation in inland waterways during the State Visit to India by the Prime Minister of Nepal in April 2018.

12. THIRD MEETING OF THE INDIA-NEPAL CROSS BORDER TRANSPORT FACILITATION JOINT WORKING GROUP (CBTFJWG)

The third meeting of India-Nepal Cross Border Transport Facilitation Joint Working Group under the Nepal-India Motor Vehicles Agreement for regulation of vehicular traffic between Nepal and India was held in New Delhi on 20th July. Ms. Leela Nandan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport, Government of India and Mr. Keshab Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Nepal co-chaired the meeting.

Among other things, the meeting formalized the

Janakpur-Ayodhya Bus Route (520 KM), which was jointly launched by the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India on 11 May 2018.

13. FOURTH MEETING OF BCM BETWEEN NEPAL AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The fourth meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea was held in Seoul on 23 July.

Both sides comprehensively discussed on various aspects of bilateral relations. There was in-depth discussion on ways and means of advancing mutual cooperation on trade, tourism, civil aviation, and investment. Regional and international issues of common concern were also surfaced during the meeting. Both sides agreed to better enhance bilateral relations in the days to come. Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Joint Secretary and Head of North East Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Ms. Kim Eunyong, Director General for South Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea led the respective delegations.



Holding fourth meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea in Seoul

Prior to the consultation meeting, Joint Secretary Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal held a courtesy meeting with Mr. Yoon Soong, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the latter's office.

14. BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN NEPAL AND CHINA

The Ministry coordinated for and represented in the following bilateral meetings:

- a. The Eighth Meeting of the Nepal-China's Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee (NTTFC) was held in Kathmandu on 5-6 July. There was comprehensive discussion between the two sides on promoting bilateral trade. Discussion was also focused on ways and means of reducing trade deficit of Nepal with China through trade facilitation and enhanced access of Nepali products in Chinese market.
- b. The Third Meeting on Border Law Enforcement Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal and the Ministry of Public Security of the Peoples Republic of China was held in Kathmandu on 16 July. Both sides held substantive discussion on enhancing border law enforcement cooperation between the relevant agencies of two countries.
- c. The Second consultation meeting of Protocol to the Transit Transport Agreement was held in Beijing on 10-11 July. Both sides held constructive discussion on finalizing the text of the Protocol at an early date and agreed to hold the third Consultative Meeting in Kathmandu soon.

15. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISITS EUROPE

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali visited Portugal on 24-25 July at the invitation of his Portuguese counterpart Mr. Augusto Santos Silva. The two Ministers held a bilateral meeting in Lisbon on 25 July. They reviewed the overall state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further promoting bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, technology transfer and people-to-people relations.



Minister for Foreign Affairs in the bilateral meeting with his Portuguese counterpart

After his Portugal visit, Mr. Gyawali visited Belgium. On 26 July, Mr. Gyawali held a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium Mr. Didier Reynders in Brussels. The two discussed various aspects of Nepal-Belgium relations and deliberated on further promoting cooperation in trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contacts, among others. They also expressed satisfaction over the recent establishment of bilateral consultation mechanism between the two Foreign Ministries.



Minister for Foreign Affairs holding talks with DPM/FM of Belgium

On 27 July, Minister Gyawali addressed a talk programme on “Nepal’s Key National Agenda: Sustaining Political Gains through Socio-Economic Transformation” organized jointly by Embassy of Nepal and European Institute for Asian Studies in Brussels. In his address, he highlighted the recent political developments in Nepal and underscored the major plans and priorities of the present Government. He shed light on the motto of ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’ and stated that the Government’s focus was on economic development and growth. He also urged partners and friends of Nepal to support and extend cooperation to this economic orientation of the Government of Nepal.

Mr. Gyawali addressed the inauguration ceremony of the 11th European Regional Meeting of Non-Resident Nepalese Association (NRNA) organized in Luxembourg City on 29 July. He encouraged them to promote the interest of Nepali communities, contribute to building ‘national image’ of Nepal as well to orient their efforts to contribute to Nepal’s socio economic transformation. He also highlighted the development priorities of the Government of Nepal and appealed to all Nepali Diaspora Communities to forge partnership for productive and innovative use of their resources, knowledge, experience and skills to support the motto of ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’.

Similarly, on 30 July, Mr Gyawali held a meeting with Mr. Romain Schneider, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of Luxembourg in Luxembourg City. While expressing satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations, the two Ministers reviewed all aspects of Nepal-Luxembourg relations. They also stressed the need for further promoting economic engagements in the areas of development cooperation, trade, investment and tourism, among others.



Minister for Foreign Affairs with Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of Luxembourg

16. VISIT OF FOREIGN SECRETARY TO GERMANY

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi visited

Germany and held a meeting with Mr. Niels Annan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany at the latter’s office in Berlin on 29 June.

During the meeting, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations and deliberated on further widening and deepening cooperation in the areas of mutual interest, with particular focus on economic issues. They also discussed the importance of exchange of high-level visits.



Foreign Secretary with State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

The Foreign Secretary also inaugurated Nepal-Germany Friendship Cycle Rally organized by Embassy of Nepal in Berlin on 1 July to mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Germany.



Nepal-Germany Friendship Cycle Rally

17. REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF EUROPE BASED NEPALI AMBASSADORS

A regional conference of Europe based Nepali Ambassadors was held in Brussels, Belgium on 28 July. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressed the Conference. All nine Nepali Ambassadors based in Europe made presentations on the activities of their Missions and future action plans. Mr. Gyawali instructed the Ambassadors to promote Nepal's image through its own narrative of 'unique and home-grown peace process'. He also advised the Ambassadors to explore possibilities for making substantive contribution to Nepal's development efforts and to promote Nepal's national interests with special focus on economic engagements.

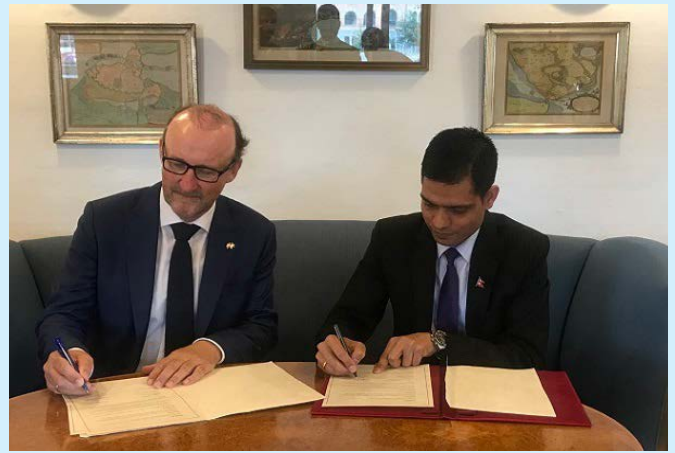


Regional conference of Europe based Nepali Ambassadors

18. SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) establishing bilateral consultation mechanism with Denmark, Belgium and Portugal were signed in this period under review.

An MoU on Establishing Bilateral Consultations between Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Denmark was signed on 11 June amidst a special function at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in Copenhagen. Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Head of Europe America Division of the Ministry, and Ambassador Mr. Erik Laursen, Head of Department of Asia, Latin America and Oceania of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Ministries.



Signing of MoU on Establishment of BCM between Nepal and Denmark

An MoU on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium was signed at the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium in Brussels on 27 June. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary of Nepal and Mr. Dirk Achten, Secretary General of Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium the signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Governments.



Signing of MoU on Establishment of BCM between Nepal and Belgium

Prior to the signing ceremony, the two Foreign Secretaries also held bilateral meeting. During the

meeting, they exchanged views on strengthening overall bilateral relations and cooperation as well as on the need for exchange of high level visits.

Similarly, an MoU on Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Foreign Ministries of Nepal and Portugal was signed in Lisbon on 25 July. Ms. Ambika Devi Luintel, Ambassador of Nepal to Portugal and Mr. Pedro Costa Pereira, Director-General of External Policy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal signed the MoU on behalf of their respective Ministries.



Signing of MoU on Establishment of BCM between Nepal and Portugal

19. BILATERAL/JOINT CONSULTATION MECHANISM (BCM) MEETINGS

The Ministry held meetings of bilateral consultations mechanism with Denmark, Switzerland the European Union in June.

I. First Meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and Denmark

Following the signing of the MoU Establishing Bilateral Consultations between Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Denmark, the first meeting of the consultation was held in Copenhagen on 11 June between the delegations from Ministries of Nepal and Denmark.

The delegations were led by Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Head of Europe America Division of the Ministry, and Ambassador Mr. Erik Laursen Head of Department of Asia, Latin America and

Oceania of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark. The overall state of bilateral relations between the two countries was discussed in the meeting. The two sides exchanged views on promoting cooperation in areas of trade, investment, education, tourism and people-to-people relations.

II. Second Meeting of Bilateral Consultations between Nepal and Switzerland

Second meeting of Nepal-Switzerland bilateral consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Federal Department for Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of Switzerland was held in Bern, Switzerland on 14 June. Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, joint Secretary and Head of Europe America Division and Mr. Johannes Matyassy, Assistant State Secretary for Asia and Pacific at the FDFA led the respective delegations. The two sides reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations and discussed the possibilities of enhancing cooperation in areas of trade, investment, tourism and consular cooperation. They also deliberated on the issues of multilateral cooperation including migration, human security, climate change and mountain partnership.

III. Tenth Meeting of the Joint Commission between Nepal and the European Union

The 10th meeting of Nepal-EU Joint Commission was held in the EU headquarters in Brussels on 28 June. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Deputy Managing Director at European External Affairs Service (EEAS) Ms. Paola Pampaloni.

Overall state of relations between Nepal and the European Union (EU) was reviewed in the meeting. There was discussion on the successful holding of local, provincial and central level elections in Nepal in 2017 and the EU congratulated Nepal on this major political milestone. The EU informed the Nepali delegation of recent political development in the EU, including the new multiannual Financial Framework and the EU Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the field of security and defence and other policy initiatives. The Nepali side shared plans and priorities of their Government for

the forthcoming period. The Nepali delegation also outlined its strategies of graduation from Least-Developed (LDC) status.

The two sides also discussed the ways and means of further promoting economic cooperation with particular focus on trade, investment and development assistance. On the occasion, Nepal and the EU also signed the Financing Agreement worth Euro 40 million as EU Contribution to Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) in Nepal.

The Nepali delegation included Ambassador of Nepal in Brussels Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, Joint Secretary at Ministry of Finance Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary at Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies Mr. Toya Narayan Gyawali as well as officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Nepal in Brussels. Similarly the EU delegation consisted of EU Ambassador to Nepal Ms. Veronica Cody and senior officials from various Directorates General of the European Commission.

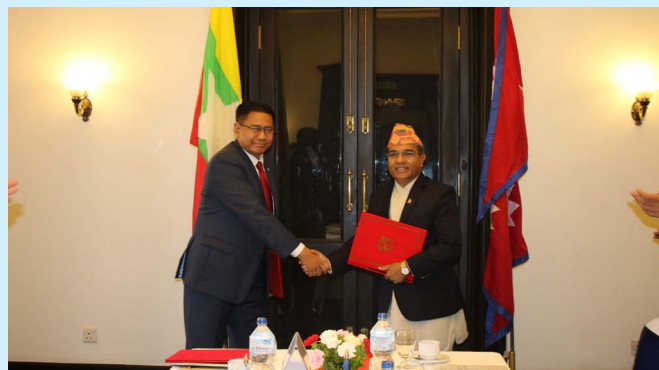
The Joint Commission Meeting was preceded by the Second Meeting of the Sub-Commission on Development between the two sides that was held on 27 June. During the meeting, the overall state of development cooperation between Nepal and the European Union was discussed. The Sub-Commission on Development was co-chaired by Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary at Ministry of Finance and Ms. Raffaella Iodice, Head of DG DEVCO F1 at Directorate General of International Cooperation and Development.

The EU also disbursed Euro 19 million under the budget support modality to the treasury of Nepal. This support constitutes the EU support to Nepal's School Sector Development Plan.

20. ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM BETWEEN NEPAL AND MYANMAR

Nepal and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and an Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for the holders of Diplomatic and Official (Special) Passports on 30th July.



Foreign Secretary of Nepal and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signing the MoU on the establishment of BCM

Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary of Nepal and U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the MoU on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on behalf of their respective ministries.

Similarly, Mr. Tapas Adhikari, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Nepal and Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Lin, Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal signed the Agreement on the Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official (Special) Passports on behalf of their respective governments.

Following the signing of the MoU and Agreement, the first meeting of Bilateral Consultation between Nepal and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held on the very day. Foreign Secretary of Nepal Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led their respective delegation.

B. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

I. Nepal and Burundi

Nepal and Burundi established diplomatic relations on 6 June. A Joint Communiqué establishing formal bilateral diplomatic relation between the two countries was signed by Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and Mr. Albert Shingiro, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations (UN) in New York.

On the occasion, a joint letter informing the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres of this development was also signed.

II. Nepal and Rwanda

Nepal and Rwanda established formal bilateral diplomatic relations on 20 July. Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, and Mrs. Valentine Rugwabiza, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations, signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in New York.

Also, they signed a joint letter informing the UN Secretary-General about this development.

The number of countries having diplomatic relations with Nepal has now reached 161, which constitute 83 percent of the current Member States and Observers of the United Nations.

2. UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING, MR. JEAN-PIERRE LACROIX VISITS TO NEPAL

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix visited Nepal from 26-28 June. During his stay, Mr. Lacroix paid a courtesy call on the President Ms. Bidya Devi Bhandari, the Prime Minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, and called on Mr. Ishwor Pokharel, Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister for Defence, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa, Minister for Home Affairs on 27 June.

Matters relating to Nepal-UN cooperation for the maintenance of international peace and security, the reform initiatives of the UN Secretary-General in peace and security pillar, ongoing United Nations peace operations across the globe and Nepal's contribution to UN Peacekeeping over past sixty years figured during those meetings. Mr. Lacroix conveyed thanks and appreciation of the UN Secretary-General for Nepal's consistent support to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

He also visited the Birendra Peace Operations Training Center in Paanchkhal, and observed the various training programmes.

Minister for Foreign Affairs hosted a dinner in honour of Mr. Lacroix and the members of his delegation on 27 June.

3. NEPAL'S CANDIDATURE FOR RE-ELECTIONS TO THE HUMAN RIGHT COUNCIL FOR THE TERM 2021-2023

The Government of Nepal has decided to present Nepal's candidature for re-election to the UN Human Right Council for the term 2021-2023.

Nepal has been actively serving as the member of UNHRC for the term 2018-20 since its term of membership began from 1 January 2018. Nepal was elected to the HRC by overwhelming majority of votes in October 2017.

4. NEPAL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Nepal participated in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the theme of "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies". This annual conference was organized under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9-18 July. The Forum is designed to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda's

implementation and follow-up.

Nepali delegation was led by Prof. Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission. Nepal participated in the Opening meetings on 9 July and on different panel discussions as well as in the closing of the first week of HLPF on 13 July. The Vice-Chairman delivered Nepal's national statement in a plenary meeting, where he highlighted on Nepal's efforts to implement the sustainable development goals.

5. NEPAL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE THIRD UN CONFERENCE TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Nepal participated in the Third United Nations Conference (RevCon3) to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action (POA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects held in New York from 18-29 June.

Nepal was elected a Vice-Chair representing the Asia-Pacific region to the RevCon3. Nepali delegation participated in the informal meetings preceding the Conference, formal and informal negotiations of the outcome document and the meetings of the Bureau of the Conference.

The outcome of the Conference is expected to contribute constructively in the international disarmament regime. Nepal urged the international community for the full implementation of the program of action (POA) on small arms and light weapons. Nepal also urged for the national capacity development of the least developed countries stating that effective implementation of POA supports in the timely achievement of sustainable development goals.

6. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE TO NEPAL PRESENTS LETTER OF CREDENCE

The newly appointed UNHCR representative to

Nepal presented her Letters of Credence to Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at a programme held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 15 June.

After the presentation of the credentials, Ms. Halepota called on Minister for Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, she expressed gratitude to Nepal for hosting a large number of refugees for a long time. Minister said that Nepal has been providing support to refugees on humanitarian ground. He also appreciated the UNHCR for its support to refugees in Nepal. UNHCR activities in Nepal, resettlement of Bhutanese Refugees, and other refugee's matters were also discussed on the occasion.

C. REGIONAL AFFAIRS

1. VISIT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)

The Executive Director of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Gong Jianwei visited Nepal on 1 June. During the visit, the Executive Director called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meetings, the Executive Director briefed about the various activities of CICA including the role of CICA in areas of economic, environmental and human dimensions as well as the confidence building measures initiated by the CICA to fostering peace, security and stability in Asia.

CICA was established in 1992 and has headquarters in Astana, Kazakhstan.

2. EIGHTH MEETING OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BIMSTEC PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The eighth meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat was held in Colombo, Sri

Lanka on 10 July. Delegations from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Thailand participated in the meeting.

The Meeting considered the finalization of the administrative and financing mechanisms for the establishment of the BIMSTEC Centers, recommended various matters related to the Framework Memorandum of Association (MoA) to harmonize administrative and financial matters, structure, reporting mechanism and other issues, establishment of a BIMSTEC Fund, Procurement Procedure of the BIMSTEC Secretariat, Administrative and Disciplinary Rules of the BIMSTEC Secretariat, strengthening of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat to the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM).

The meeting also agreed that Joint Working Group on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat may be replaced by BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee. This Committee shall consist of the Joint Secretary/Director General acting as the National Focal Point of each BIMSTEC Member State. The Meeting emphasized the importance of completing all necessary internal procedures to endeavor to sign various BIMSTEC Conventions/MoA/MoUs at the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit.

Apart from these two meetings, the Public-Private Partnership to Develop Agricultural Value Chain, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 30-31 July and the First Meeting of the Governing Board of the BIMSTEC Center for Weather and Climate and a one-day workshop on "severe Weather/Climate Disaster warning for BIMSTEC Region", New Delhi, India on 30-31 July were also held. Detail report of these meetings is yet to be circulated by the Secretariat.

3. SECOND MEETING OF CORE GROUP ON IMMIGRATION AND VISA EXPERTS

The Second Meeting of Core Group on Immigration and Visa Experts was held at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on 28 June.

Mr. Ram Krishna Subedi, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs chaired the meeting.

SAARC Consultant on this matter briefed the meeting about the revised Request for Proposals (RFPs).

The Meeting directed the secretariat to initiate the bidding process to operationalize the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) Project at the earliest.

4. FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE SAARC PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE



Participants in 55th session of SAARC Programming Committee

The Fifty-fifth Session of the SAARC Programming Committee was held in Kathmandu on 6 July. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Krishna Prasad Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

The Committee recommended the structure, and the period of revision, of existing salaries and allowances to the Standing Committee for consideration.

The Committee also made recommendations on the necessary adjustments of the balance amount received from the closed/merged Regional Centers to the contributions to be made by the Member States in 2018.

D. NON RESIDENT NEPALIS, PASSPORT AND CONSULAR MATTERS

1. Non Resident Nepalis (NRN) Related Services

The status of services delivery to Non Resident Nepali (NRN) during June-July is presented below.

S. N.	Services	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	23
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN	4

2. Passport Services

The status of service delivery of the department of Passport during the period is presented below:

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received	46875	Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports Issued	28524	From districts
		1248	From Missions
		14742	From the Department
		44514	Total
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to Document Type)	46	Diplomatic
		223	Official
		44230	Ordinary
		15	Travel Document
		44514	Total
4	Passports dispatched	42505	
5	Emails responded including Social Networks	2328	
6	Grievance handled	2154	
7	Lost PP registered in the Interpol	4661	
8	Official Error	154	
9	Null and Void Passports	3	

10	Gratis Passports	8919	
11	Feedback Forms Collected	1322	
12	Revenue Collected	15,43,86,500/-	

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 Counselling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour, World cycling tour and other	9
2	Recommendation for Indian education certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose	335
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	2
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepalese driving license on the basis of foreign driving license held by the Nepalese citizen.	591
5	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepalese citizens during their period of stay in India.	74
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	16

7	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit for vehicles to enter India.	1
8	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding the citizenship renouncement of Nepalese citizens as per their application submitted to the Nepalese missions abroad	61
9	Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepalese missions abroad	188
10	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	107
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens died abroad.	28
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals to the Nepalese Missions abroad	183

13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad	65
14	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	133
15	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	66
16	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	17
B	Visa and Exemption Section	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/ official/gratis visa	628
2	Issuance of diplomatic/ official ID Card	68
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	13
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	607
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	317
C	Attestation section	
1	Number of attested documents	30,021
Total		33,530