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Appointment of New Foreign Secretary



Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal has been appointed as new foreign secretary as per the decision of the Government of Nepal. Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal has served in the Ministry in different divisions and departments and Nepali missions in different capacities. Mr. Paudyal was Nepal's Ambassador to Pakistan with concurrent accreditation to Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Turkey as Nepal's non-residential ambassador from May 2012 to May 2016. Following his return to the Ministry in May 2016, he served as Joint Secretary in the United Nations, International Organizations and International Law Division and the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He has done Masters Degree in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands; Masters Degrees in Political Science and Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Law from Tribhuvan University; and, post graduate studies in diplomacy from the University of Oxford and University of Malta.

The entire family of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extends hearty congratulations to Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal and wishes for successes of his tenure to steer the Ministry and foreign policy in achieving its objectives.

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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SPEAKERS OF NEPAL AND CYPRUS

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Agni Prasad Sapkota held a telephone conversation with the President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus Mr. Demetris Syllouris on

8 October 2020. During the conversation, both the dignitaries congratulated each other on the 40th year of the establishment of bilateral relations between Nepal and Cyprus. They expressed

happiness on the existing bilateral relations between the two countries which have always been warm and cordial. Parliamentary friendship and exchanges between the two countries were also discussed.

SECOND BILATERAL CONSULTATION MEETING OF NEPAL AND GERMANY

The second meeting of Nepal-Germany Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held virtually on 30 September 2020. Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office Mr. Miguel Berger of the Federal Republic of Germany led their respective delegations.

In the meeting, the two sides took stock of overall state of the bilateral relations and cooperation between Nepal



Foreign Secretary leading Nepali delegation to Nepal-Germany 2nd BCM

and Germany, including sharing of experiences and exchanging views on the challenges as well as future

economic recovery plans in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEETING OF NEPAL-UK BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

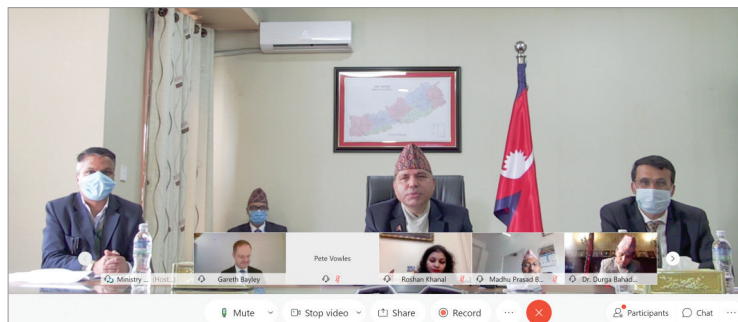
The fifth meeting of Nepal-United Kingdom BCM was held virtually on 12 November 2020. Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal

led the Nepali delegation. The meeting took stock of overall state of cooperation between Nepal and the United Kingdom at a cordial

atmosphere. In his opening remarks, Foreign Secretary Mr. Paudyal highlighted over two-century old close, cordial and cooperative relations

between the two countries and commended the UK as an important development partner.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on strengthening cooperation. The two sides reviewed the progress made in various aspects of the bilateral ties, including development cooperation, the British Gurkha matters, cultural relations, people-to-people contacts and educational cooperation. Matters of regional and global importance also figured



Foreign Secretary delivering opening remarks at Nepal-UK 5th BCM

in the meeting. The BCM renewed the commitment to collaborate on various matters of common interest at multilateral forums and work together to advance the agenda of addressing the

impacts of climate change with their substantive engagements in the COP26 as well as in *Sagarmatha Sambaad*.

NEPAL-EUROPEAN UNION JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

The 12th meeting of Nepal-European Union Joint Commission Union took place on 2 October 2020 via video conference. The Joint Commission was co-chaired by Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing

Director for Asia and the Pacific of the European External Affairs Service.

During the meeting, a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including development plans and priorities of Nepal, economic and development cooperation between Nepal

and EU were discussed. The meeting also focused on the current COVID-19 pandemic and the social and economic impacts in both Nepal and the EU as well on Nepal's effort in strengthening human rights, democracy, and climate change.

MEETING OF NEPAL-AUSTRIA BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

The first meeting of the Nepal-Austria bilateral consultation was held virtually on 14 October 2020. Joint Secretary of Europe and the Americas Division of the Ministry Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle and the Head of Asia-Pacific Department of the Federal Ministry of European

and International Affairs of Austria Ms. Gabriele Meon-Tschurtz led their respective delegations. The two sides exchanged views on the importance of high-level visits, the need for enhancing economic cooperation, and expanding and deepening engagements in trade,

investment, technology transfer, renewable energy and tourism. Both sides shared the importance of continued cooperation on matters of common agendas such as climate change and mountain development at various multilateral forums.

BILATERAL CONSULTATION MEETING BETWEEN NEPAL AND DENMARK

The second meeting of Nepal-Denmark Bilateral Consultation Mechanism

(BCM) was held on 9 November 2020 through video conference. Joint

Secretary Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle and Mr. Thomas Lehmann, Director for Asia at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark led their respective delegations. Matters relating to recent political-economic developments in both the

countries, partnerships in trade, investment and tourism sectors were discussed. The two sides also expressed the need to continue enhancing

mutual cooperation in culture, education, and people to people contacts.

VIDEO CONFERENCE ON NEPAL-CHINA JOINT PREVENTION AND CONTROL MECHANISM FOR COVID-19

The first edition of Nepal-China Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism at Joint Secretary-DDG Level was held on 25 September 2020 through a Video Conference. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Kali Prasad Pokharel, Joint Secretary and Head of North East Asia Division

of the Ministry whereas the Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Cheng Song, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

The matters pertaining to strengthening of bilateral cooperation in combating

COVID-19 pandemic, resumption of development projects, facilitation in the smooth movement of goods and peoples through well-regulated border ports, and effective border management, among others, were discussed during the meeting.

NEPAL CONCLUDES BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL AND OMAN



Bilateral Agreements signed between Nepal and Israel and Nepal and Oman

Ambassador of Nepal to the State of Israel Dr. Anjan Shakya and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel Mr. Gabi Ashkenazi, on behalf of their respective governments, signed three bilateral agreements between Nepal and the State of Israel. The agreements signed with the State of Israel include Agreement on the Temporary Employment of Nepali Workers in Specific Labour

Market sectors in the State of Israel; Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passports; and, an MoU on Nepal-Israel Cooperation on Agriculture Center of Excellence.

Similarly, Ambassador of Nepal to Oman Ms. Sharmila Parajuli Dhakal and Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Oman Mr. Mohamed bin Nasser Al Waihibi signed an Agreement on Mutual visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic, Special, Service and Official Passports between the two countries on 19 October 2020.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated with the relevant Nepali Ministries and Embassies for the finalization of all the bilateral agreements.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT MRS. BIDYA DEVI BHANDARI ADDRESSES THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (BEIJING+25)

President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari addressed the High-level Meeting on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference (Beijing+25) on 1 October 2020, held virtually under the theme of “*Accelerating the realization of gender equality*”

“Despite the steady progress achieved in twelve critical areas of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the gaps and challenges persist in the full realization of women’s rights”, the President mentioned.

address the economic and social needs of women and girls.

She also highlighted Nepal’s major achievements on women’s empowerment, including mainstreaming of gender agenda in the national



President addressing the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

and the empowerment of all women and girls”.

Addressing the Meeting, the President stressed that achieving women’s empowerment and gender equality are the only path to justice, peace, and progress.

The President also expressed concerns on the existing structural inequalities, further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and called for timely medical care, equal access to the vaccine, and robust recovery plans to

development, and underlined the need to continue the movement of women’s empowerment until gender stereotypes were eliminated, long-standing inequalities rectified, and full gender equality achieved.

PARTICIPATION OF NEPAL IN THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli led the high-level Nepali delegation to the **75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. The delegation comprised of Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Chief

Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Rimal, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Ambassador of Nepal to the United States of America, Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki, Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi,

Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations in New York, Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Head of the UN Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, and other senior officials of the Government of Nepal.



Prime Minister addressing the 75th session of UNGA through a pre-recorded video

The 75th UNGA was held under the theme of “*The Future We Want; the United Nations We Need: Reaffirming Our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism – Confronting COVID-19 through Effective Multilateral Action*”, in the mixed format of virtual and physical participation of the delegates due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing the UNGA on 25 September 2020, the Prime Minister stated that the impact of the pandemic on lives, livelihoods, societies, and economies has been colossal. The hard-earned development gains are at risk and the countries like LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs are facing the disproportionate challenges, he mentioned, underlining the need to ensure affordable and universal access to COVID-19 vaccine.

The Prime Minister underscored that the prospects of peace and sustainable development remained an unfulfilled aspiration in many parts of the world due to the challenges such as poverty, the arms race, geo-political rivalries, terrorism, trade

tensions, global inequality, and disasters.

He expressed Nepal’s enduring faith in multilateralism with the United Nations at the centre and called for reforms to make the UN more efficient, effective, inclusive, and transparent. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Nepal’s total and unwavering commitment to promoting human rights at national and international levels.

On 21 September 2020, Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli addressed the **High-level Meeting to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations**.

Addressing the Meeting, the Prime Minister expressed that

the UN was at a crossroads of continuity and transformation and that it was a collective responsibility of the Member States to strengthen and empower the UN as the centre of multilateralism to deal with the complex challenges confronting the world.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction on the ever-growing partnership between Nepal and the UN in all three pillars - peace and security, development, and human rights. “Nepal has been providing one of the most dedicated and professional services to the UN peace operations for over six decades”, he mentioned. He stated that there is no alternative to unity, solidarity and cooperation, and we must reaffirm these



Prime Minister addressing the High-level Meeting to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of UN

values and commit ourselves to move beyond rhetoric to action. He also emphasized timely reforms of the UN so as to enable it to build a just, fair, and rules-based international order.

Likewise, Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli addressed the **First SDG Moment 2020 on 18 September 2020**, which was organized in response to the Political Declaration adopted at the SDG Summit held in September 2019. In his address, the Prime Minister underlined sustainable development as the centre of Nepal's development vision, underpinning the national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali'.

Referring to the presentation of Nepal's Second Voluntary National Review Report, the Prime Minister also stated Nepal's achievements in key areas, including poverty reduction, food security, education, gender equality, basic sanitation, and energy access.

The Prime Minister expressed that the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated livelihoods, disrupted economies, and distressed the public health and social security systems.

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli also addressed the **United Nations Summit on Biodiversity** on 30 September 2020, held under the theme, "Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development". Delivering the



Prime Minister delivering his statement at SDG Moment 2020

statement in the Summit, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to strike a balance between people's rights over natural resources and sustained efforts in biodiversity conservation.

"Biodiversity protection constitutes a critical component of Nepal's aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali', and living in harmony with nature is a part of Nepali Culture", the Prime Minister mentioned. The Prime Minister also underlined the unique mountain ecosystem of Nepal as the true source of knowledge to inquisitive scholars, researchers, and scientists.

He further emphasized the implementation of urgent climate actions and the need to harmonize the efforts under multilateral agreements and internationally agreed development frameworks.

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli addressed the **"Leaders' Pledge for Nature: United to Reverse**

Biodiversity Loss by 2030 for Sustainable Development" on 28 September 2020, an event organized the planetary emergency and reversing the loss of biodiversity.

In his message, the Prime Minister stated that Mother Earth is in peril due to excessive exploitation and abuse and we must check it before it is too late. "If we fail to act in earnest at national, regional, and global levels, the future of biodiversity will be doomed. We must contain human-induced depletion to biodiversity," he added. Mentioning Nepal as the 25th richest country in biodiversity globally, the Prime Minister also expressed Nepal's commitment to protect the nature.

On 24 September 2020, Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli delivered his statement at the High-level Event entitled **"Poverty at a Crossroad: Using Leadership and the Multidimensional Poverty Index to Build Back Better"**, organized on the side-lines of the 75th UNGA.



Prime Minister Oli addressing the UN Summit on Biodiversity

“With only a decade left to achieve the 2030 Agenda, progress made in poverty reduction should be a primary indicator of assessing our overall development efforts”, the Prime Minister stated in his statement. The Prime Minister stressed the need for investing in people and preventing them from re-lapsing into poverty as a key challenge amidst the current health and economic crisis. He shed light on the Government’s targeted programs on reducing poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment, and outlined the efforts made towards improving the delivery of essential services including universal access to renewable energy, basic water supply and sanitation.

The Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli also addressed the **“High-level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond”** on 29 September 2020, on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries.

In his statement, the Prime Minister called for financial and technological assistance and concrete support measures to help the Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) recover better from the pandemic and address their debt vulnerabilities. The LLDCs were struggling in responding effectively to the current crisis because of the decline in trade and tourism earnings, reduced FDI, and servicing of external debts amid plunging foreign exchange inflows, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need for global coordination and cooperation mechanism for joint trade and investment promotion and addressing the special needs of the LLDCs including capacity development, trade, and structural economic transformation.

Mr. K P Sharma Oli, the Prime Minister of Nepal, addressed the **Climate Vulnerable Forum Leaders Event** on 7 October 2020 through a video message. Addressing the Event, the

Prime Minister underlined the existential threats posed by climate change such as rising temperature, rising sea levels, and melting of glaciers which have impacted the lives and livelihoods from the high Himalayas to the lowlands.

The Prime Minister further highlighted the importance of Nepal’s snow-fed rivers that nourish the basins and clean the ocean ecosystems, serving as natural climate stabilizer and signifying the organic linkages between mountains and the oceans.

The Prime Minister, while appreciating the vision set by the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) in limiting the rise of global temperature to 1.50C and its good track record in leading the long-term sustainable solution to climate change, also stressed the need for full and effective implementation of the Paris agreement, and making climate issues top global political agenda during the COP26 next year.

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli led a high-level

Nepali delegation to the **31st Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic** held on 3-4 December 2020. The Nepali delegation comprised of Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Health and Population Mr. Bhanubhakta Dhakal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister Mr. Bishnu Prasad Rimal, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Secretary for Health and Population Mr. Laxman Aryal, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations in New York Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, and other senior officials of the Government of Nepal.

Addressing the Special Session, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli called for the genuine collective commitment to fend off the crisis, save lives, and protect societies. He underlined the necessity of universal access to COVID-19 vaccines once they are available. "They must be truly global public goods and cannot be the means of maximizing profit", the Prime Minister emphasized.

Prime Minister Oli also shared the responses of the Government of Nepal aimed at protecting people's lives, strengthening health care system, and building a sustainable and resilient recovery. He further stressed the need for global solidarity



Prime Minister at the Climate Ambition Summit 2020

and cooperation to tackle the pressing challenges such as poverty, hunger, rising inequality, climate crisis, and the global pandemic, especially emphasizing the need for greater support for countries in special situations.

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli addressed the **Leader-level virtual Climate Ambition Summit** on 12 December 2020 co-convened by the United Kingdom, France, and the United Nations in partnership with Chile and Italy to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

In his address, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli expressed Nepal's commitment to submit the enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by the end of this year and develop an ambitious long-term strategy on climate change to reach the net zero-carbon scenario by 2050.

The Prime Minister also urged the global community to recognize the value of

the Himalayas to maintain ecological balance in the oceans and control global warming and emphasized the need to march ahead together for a greener journey.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, addressed the **High-level Event to Commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** on 2 October 2020, held at the margins of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Addressing through a pre-recorded video, the Foreign Minister said that the world would never be a safer place as long as the spectra of nuclear weapons loomed large. He stressed that the financial resources spent on nuclear weapons should be diverted to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the overall security and wellbeing of humanity at large.

The Foreign Minister also reiterated Nepal's call for a time-bound, general, and complete disarmament of

nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, addressed the virtual **Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**, held during the 75th Session of UNGA on 17 September 2020.

The Foreign Minister, in his statement, underlined the far-reaching socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and natural disasters to the LDCs, including Nepal, and called for launching of a global stimulus package for the LDCs to be implemented with immediate effect.

He also emphasized the need to compensate the ODA shortfalls by lifting trade barriers, debt relief, transfer of technology and scaling up of aid for trade. The Meeting adopted a Ministerial Declaration at its conclusion.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressed the **19th Annual**



Foreign Minister addressing the virtual Annual Ministerial Meeting of the LDCs

Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) held at the margins of the 75th Session of the UNGA on 21 September 2020.

Speaking on the occasion, the Foreign Minister underlined the disruptions, challenges, and hardships faced by LLDCs, and said that LLDCs were struggling to fend off the double-edged sword of health and economic crisis.

The Foreign Minister welcomed Secretary General's roadmap for accelerating the implementation of

the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA) and called for effective partnerships among LLDCs, their transit neighbours, development partners, UN, and other stakeholders, and also highlighted Nepal's vision of becoming a land-linked country under the national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepal'.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, addressed the **Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** held virtually at the margins of the 75th session of UNGA on 9 October 2020. This year's theme was "Bandung+65: More Relevant, United and Effective NAM against Emerging Global Challenges, including COVID-19".

In his address, the Foreign Minister underlined the relevance of the Bandung Principles as time-tested and sacrosanct ideals for the peaceful global order. "With its numerical and moral strength,



Foreign Minister addressing the 19th Annual Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs

NAM should claim its rightful place and amplify the voice of the weak and vulnerable countries” he mentioned.

Foreign Minister also participated in the **G77 Annual Ministerial Meeting** held on 12 November 2020 through a pre-recorded video message. In the message, the Foreign Minister said that the G77 and China must do its part in upholding our collective interest and promoting a rule-based and inclusive global order. “The Group

should address the climate crisis through promoting the alignment of national plans with SDGs and the Paris Agreement”, he mentioned.

He stated that the economic and social consequences of COVID-19 have been catastrophic and more acute in the global South, and international cooperation is the only way to defeat this dreadful disease and restore the hope of repair and recovery.

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressed the Commemoration of the **75th Anniversary of the United Nations** organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on 26 October 2020. During the occasion, the Foreign Minister appreciated the significant roles played by the UN and reaffirmed Nepal’s commitment to multilateralism to create a just, inclusive, and fair world order.

NEPAL RE-ELECTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Nepal has been re-elected as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the term of 2021-2023, in the elections held at the UN Headquarters in New York

on 13 October 2020. Nepal was elected along with China, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan from the Asia Pacific region. Nepal has been serving as a member of the Council since January 2018.

The re-election in the HRC indicated the acknowledgement of international community of Nepal’s efforts in protection and promotion of human rights, both at home and across the globe.

INFORMAL MEETING OF SAARC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers

Nepal hosted the Virtual Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers on 24 September 2020 on the sidelines of the 75th session of the United Nations

General Assembly. Minister for Foreign Affairs and current Chair of the SAARC Council of Ministers, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressed the Meeting and

underscored the need to make the SAARC an effective and result-oriented regional organization capable of bringing visible changes in the lives of the peoples of

South Asia.

The Foreign Minister urged the Member States to explore all viable options to hold the 19th Summit at an

early date and to generate the new momentum and dynamism in the SAARC. He highlighted the need for deeper engagement of the

Member States to collectively fight COVID-19 and develop regional resilience to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

VIRTUAL MEETING OF SAARC MINISTERS OF EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel chaired the Virtual Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Education/Higher Education on education sector's response to COVID-19 on 8 October 2020. In his opening remarks,

the Minister mentioned the ways, by which Nepal's education sector responded to COVID-19, and stressed the need for joint efforts by the Member States to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic, especially in the education sector.

The Ministers and participating delegations assessed the disruption caused on the education sector by the pandemic in the SAARC countries and expressed how their respective governments have responded to it.

VIDEO CONFERENCE ON JOINT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, attended the Vice-Ministerial/Foreign Secretary level video conference of Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Joint Response to COVID-19 on 10 November 2020. In his remarks, Mr. Paudyal applauded China's

remarkable achievements in containment of the pandemic and development of COVID-19 vaccines and underlined the importance of unimpeded operations of international borders and strengthened multilateralism to minimize the impact of the pandemic on people's lives,

livelihood and economies.

The Foreign Secretaries of participating countries shared national experiences, successful models in the pandemic control, and emphasized close cooperation and partnership to fight the virus.

NEPAL ELECTED TO THE CEDAW COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND TERM

Nepali candidate Ms. Bandana Rana has been re-elected to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against

Women (CEDAW) for the second term in the elections held during the 21st Meeting of the States Parties to the

Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women in New York on 9 November 2020.

C. SERVICE DELIVERY

RESCUE AND REPATRIATION OF NEPALI NATIONALS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordination with High-Level Coordination

Committee for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 and COVID Crisis Management

Centre repatriated 79,768 Nepalis from major foreign employment destinations.

NON-RESIDENT NEPALI (NRN) RELATED SERVICES

S. N.	Services (Only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	2

PASSPORT SERVICES

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Passports issued	35,633	From Districts, Missions and the Department
2	Total Number of passports issued (According to document type)	33,565	Ordinary
		86	Diplomatic
		170	Official
		1,833	Gratis
		9	Travel Document (TD)
		35,663	Total
3	Emails responded including social networks	410	
4	Grievance handled	141	
5	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	1,765	
6	Revenue collected (From the Department only)	11,91,61,000/-	

CONSULAR SERVICES

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	Consular and Legal Counseling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, religious tour and others	8
2	Recommendation /No Objection Certificate	1,701
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	1
4	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for character verification	48
5	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	15
6	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit	1
7	Correspondence regarding citizenship renouncement	12
8	Correspondence regarding Power of Attorney	52
9	Correspondence regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	10
10	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepali citizens	73
11	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	108
12	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals abroad	62
B	Visa and Exemption	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	263
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	131
3	Number of recommendations for exemption	638
4	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	284
C	Attestation	
1	Number of Files Registered for Attestation	13,012
2	Number of Documents Attested	21,797

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Minister for Foreign Affairs
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