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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

NEPAL AND CHINA CELEBRATE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



President of Nepal



Prime Minister of Nepal



Foreign Minister of Nepal

Nepal and the People's Republic of China celebrated the 65th anniversary of establishment of their diplomatic relations. The two Presidents, the two Prime Ministers, and the two Foreign Ministers of Nepal and the People's Republic of China exchanged their congratulatory messages to mark the special occasion.

President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, in her message, noted with satisfaction over steady progress the two countries have made in their bilateral relations and collaboration and expressed confidence that the bond

of Nepal-China friendship based on the five principles of *Panchasheel* would be further strengthened in the days ahead.

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli, in his separate messages to President Xi Jinping and the Premier of the State Council of China Mr. Li Keqiang, expressed satisfaction over enhanced bilateral cooperation in multiple fields between the two countries. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of implementing broad consensus and bilateral agreements reached at the highest political level

of both the countries for mutual benefit of the two governments and peoples.

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali lauded China's consistent support and cooperation to Nepal's development endeavours and stressed the need for stronger solidarity and closer partnership in his message sent to his Chinese counterpart Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Councilor.

Nepal and China established diplomatic relations on 1 August 1955.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENTS OF NEPAL AND SWITZERLAND

President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari held a telephone conversation with President of Swiss Confederation Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga on 24 September 2020. During the conversation, the

two Presidents expressed satisfaction on the overall state of bilateral relations and discussed matters of global importance, including climate change. Views were also exchanged on the measures taken in their respective

countries to contain the spread of COVID-19. They expressed concerns to each other on the loss suffered by both the countries due to COVID.

VIRTUAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTER WITH THE BRITISH STATE MINISTER

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali held a virtual meeting with the State Minister of Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom Mr. Lord Ahmed on 27 August 2020. During the meeting, the two Ministers exchanged views on various matters of mutual interest, including cooperation in the context

of COVID-19. Mr. Gyawali, while thanking the United Kingdom for the support provided to Nepal's socio-economic development, stressed the importance of continuing partnership in the post-COVID recovery. Mr. Ahmed expressed commitment of the United Kingdom to continued cooperation to Nepal. The

United Kingdom, the host for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held in November 2021, looked forward to Nepal's active participation in this global dialogue. The two Ministers agreed to work together in areas of common interest.

MEETING OF NEPAL-INDIA OVERSIGHT MECHANISM

The Eighth Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism was held in Kathmandu through Video Conferencing on 17 August 2020. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Ambassador of India to Nepal Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

The Meeting reviewed the status of implementation of the on-going projects under Nepal-India bilateral cooperation, including Terai roads, cross-border railways, Arun-III hydropower project,



Eighth Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism

petroleum products pipelines, Pancheshwar multipurpose project, post-earthquake

reconstruction, irrigation, power and transmission lines, construction of Nepal

Police Academy, integrated check posts, Ramayana circuit, motorable bridges over Mahakali River, agriculture and cultural

heritages, among others.

Both sides underlined the need for the expeditious implementation of the

bilateral projects and agreed to undertake necessary measures to timely address problems and obstacles in the course of implementation.

VIDEO CONFERENCE ON JOINT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali attended Video Conference on Joint Response to COVID-19 on 27 July 2020. The conference was participated by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China, Nepal and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister

Gyawali underlined the importance of bilateral, regional and international cooperation for defeating the virus and building back better the global economy. Welcoming China's policy to treat COVID-19 vaccines as global goods, Mr. Gyawali stressed on further strengthening of multilateralism to better

cope up with the pandemic. Foreign Ministers of the participating countries expressed their commitment to enhanced level of solidarity and cooperation in the common fight against COVID-19 and for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

NEPAL AND CHINA HELD THIRTEENTH DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATION MECHANISM MEETING

The 13th Nepal-China Diplomatic Consultation Meeting was held on 12 August 2020 in a virtual format. Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, and Mr. Luo Zhaohui, Vice Minister of Foreign

Affairs of the People's Republic of China led their respective delegations to the meeting.

During the meeting, both sides held a comprehensive discussion on various matters

of mutual interests at bilateral, regional and global levels, and agreed to further strengthen traditionally friendly and multifaceted relations including cooperation in the fight against COVID-19.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

FIFTEENTH INFORMAL MEETING OF SAARC FINANCE MINISTERS

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali chaired the 15th Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers held virtually on 16 September 2020 on the sidelines of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Delivering his opening

remarks, the Minister for Foreign Affairs highlighted key initiatives taken by the Government of Nepal to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, resume the business and other activities, and strengthen the country's resilience. While stressing the need for finding common and innovative

ways to respond the adverse impacts of pandemic, he highlighted the necessity of creating regional synergy through recovery strategies, including creating improved investment climate by reducing the barriers to trade and promoting market access, among others. The Foreign Minister called for



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali in the 15th Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers

the joint efforts, meaningful engagements and collective resolve of the Member States to make SAARC more effective and result-oriented, and emphasized the need for proper functioning of the formal mechanisms of SAARC in the spirit of collaboration, partnership,

and shared roadmap to deal with the emerging challenges.

The Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation shared about the measures taken to fight and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic along with current status of economic progress achieved by them.

They also appreciated the contribution made by ADB in their economic growth and hoped that SAARC would make further progress to achieve its full potential for the benefit of peoples of the region.

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF BIMSTEC SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (SOM)

The 21st Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), comprising Foreign Secretaries of the BIMSTEC Member States, was virtually held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 2 September 2020. Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi led the Nepali delegation to the 21st SOM Meeting.

Delivering his statement, the Foreign Secretary underscored the need for taking strong measures to make a headway in the indentified areas of cooperation, including trade and connectivity and called for taking concerted efforts

to make BIMSTEC a robust the appointment of the next



Twenty-first Senior Officials Meeting of BIMSTEC

regional organization by way of widening and deepening the cooperation among the Member States. The Meeting took stock of progress made in various areas of cooperation under BIMSTEC; endorsed

Secretary General; finalized the draft of the BIMSTEC Charter; and, finalized the drafts of the Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Centres/Entities.

FOURTH MEETING OF BIMSTEC PERMANENT WORKING COMMITTEE (BPWC)

The Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) was held virtually in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 31 August 2020. Joint Secretary and Head of the Regional Organization Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi led the Nepali delegation. The Meeting deliberated on some important issues of institutional reforms, including finalization of



Nepal's Delegation to the Fourth BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee Meeting

organogram of the BIMSTEC Secretariat and BIMSTEC Procurement Procedure, among others.

C. PROTOCOL AFFAIRS

Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Immigration facilitated the entry of foreign nationals at the request of the

respective foreign embassies and in coordination with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation for flight

clearances of diplomatic and other chartered flights and for rescue and other logistical purpose.

D. POLICY RELATED AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PREPARES ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

In order to achieve efficacy in work and in line with the annual plan and programmes, and budget of the Government of Nepal,

the Ministry prepared and approved annual action plan for the Fiscal Year 2077/078. Divided into 17 activities and 37 milestones, the action plan

contains timebound targets with a clear demarcation of responsibility to the agencies of the Ministries.

E. ADMINISTRATION RELATED

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Ministry has been working in consultation with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction with regard to preparation of Concept Design of the Chancery and Embassy building of Embassy of Nepal, Muscat. Nepali Embassies in Canberra and Beijing also have initiated the process of constructing own Chancery buildings.

The construction of the Ministry's own multipurpose

building at Tripureshwor is in final phase. The Ministry has been monitoring the construction work with a view to ensuring early completion of the construction so that passport and consular services can be delivered in a more systematic environment from there. The Ministry is coordinating with the concerned Ministries, Departments and Embassies for timely completion of the construction projects.

APPOINTMENT OF THE HEAD OF MISSIONS

The Ministry coordinated and carried out procedural functions for the appointment process of Head of Missions including ambassadors

to Brussels, Pakistan and Germany and Consuls General in Consulates General of Nepal in Lhasa, Hong Kong and Chengdu.

PRESERVATION OF OLD & IMPORTANT ARTICLES

The Ministry's old and important materials of historical importance like old silver cooking utensils, silver

coins, maps/images and other important items were handed over to the Department of Archaeology in Kathmandu.

GRIEVANCE HANDLING

The Ministry coordinated with the concerned offices and officials and directed to sort out the grievances of Nepali citizens as received via Hello Sarkar Portal. Grievances are forwarded with necessary instructions to the concerned authorities under the Ministry seeking immediate attention and necessary action. The Ministry attaches high importance to the grievance handling.

RIGHTS TO INFORMATION

The Ministry has made the information available to the individuals upon their requests in accordance and compliance with the regulatory provisions regarding the Rights to Information.

F. 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 38,043 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	5

PASSPORT SERVICES

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Passports issued	23,304	From Districts, Missions and the Department
2	Total Number of passports issued (according to document type)	22,643	Ordinary
		49	Diplomatic
		69	Official
		535	Gratis
		8	Travel Document (TD)
		23,304	Total
3	Emails responded including social networks	116	
4	Grievance handled	68	
5	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	570	
6	Revenue collected (From the Department only)	1,72,07,500/-	

CONSULAR SERVICES

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	Consular and Legal Counseling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, religious tour, and others	3
2	Recommendation related to India for education/No Objection Certificate	51
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	1
4	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for character verification	52
5	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals and explosives	16
6	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit	1
7	Correspondence regarding citizenship renouncement	18
8	Correspondence regarding Power of Attorney	25
9	Correspondence regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	22
10	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepali citizens	42
11	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	94
12	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals abroad	142
13	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	5
14	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	3
15	Number of families receiving compensation amount	138
B	Visa and Exemption	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	146
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	72
3	Number of recommendations for exemption	389
4	Other correspondences and recommendations	508
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	28
C	Attestation	
1	Number of Files Registered for Attestation	2,480
2	Number of Documents Attested	5,651

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