

MOFA BULLETIN

Current Affairs

16 November 2020-13 January 2021 | Volume 5, Issue 3



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS	2
B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS	5
C. POLICY RELATED AFFAIRS	8
D. PROTOCOL AFFAIRS	9
E. SERVICE DELIVERY	11

A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

CHINESE DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS NEPAL

State Councilor and Defense Minister of the People's Republic of China Mr. Wei Fenghe paid a one-day working visit to Nepal on 29 November 2020.

During the visit, Mr. Fenghe paid courtesy calls on Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, the President of Nepal and Mr. K P Sharma Oli, the Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Nepal.



Mr. Wei Fenghe, State Councilor and Defense Minister of the People's Republic of China and his delegation paying a courtesy call on the President of Nepal



Mr. Wei Fenghe, State Councilor and Defense Minister of the People's Republic of China paying a courtesy call on the Prime Minister

Both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including the matters of further promoting traditionally friendly relations between Nepal and China.

The visiting dignitary also met with General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of the Army Staff of Nepal.

NEPAL AND CHINA ANNOUNCE NEW HEIGHT OF MOUNT SAGARMATHA

Nepal and China jointly announced the new height of Mount Sagarmatha/ Zhumulangma (8848.86

meters) amidst a special ceremony on 8 December 2020. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign

Affairs and Ms. Padma Kumari Aryal, Minister for Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty

Alleviation from the Nepali side and Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister, and Mr. Lu Hao, Minister of Natural Resources from the Chinese side jointly unveiled the new height.



Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation Announcing the New Height of Mount Sagarmatha

NEPAL RECEIVES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM CAMBODIA

Minister for Health and Population Mr. Hridayesh Tripathi, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, received medical assistance for combating COVID-19 pandemic from the Government of Cambodia. Mr. Ouch Borith, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister of Cambodia and Standing Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation handed over the medical supplies, including 2 million surgical masks, 1



Hand-over of Medical Equipments by Cambodia to Nepal

hundred thousand fabric face masks, 20 thousand face shields and 20 ventilator machines, among others,

during a ceremony organized at the Tribhuvan International Airport on 4 January 2021.

FOREIGN SECRETARY OF INDIA VISITS NEPAL

At the invitation of Foreign Secretary of Nepal Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Foreign Secretary of India Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla visited Nepal on 26-27 November 2020. During the visit, the two foreign secretaries held bilateral meetings, leading their respective delegations.

The meeting reviewed various aspects of Nepal-India relations covering trade, transit, connectivity, infrastructure, energy,



The Foreign Secretary of Nepal welcoming the Foreign Secretary of India.

agriculture, investment, culture, people to people relations, among others.

The two sides also reviewed with satisfaction the progress made with regard to bilateral

cooperation projects, including key connectivity projects and post-earthquake reconstruction works. They also discussed the boundary matters and exchanged views on completing boundary work in the remaining segments.

Both sides shared their experiences on the efforts made to fight against Covid-19 pandemic. The Foreign Secretary of Nepal



Working luncheon hosted by the Foreign Secretary in honour of visiting Indian Foreign Secretary

expressed appreciation to the Government of India for the support of Covid-19

related medical supplies and equipment to Nepal.

NEPAL AND CANADA HOLD BILATERAL CONSULTATION MEETING

The second meeting of Nepal-Canada Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held virtually on 11 December 2020. Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal and Assistant Deputy Minister of Global Affairs of Canada Mr. Paul Thoppil led their respective delegations.

A wide range of matters relating to bilateral relations and cooperation were discussed, while reviewing the progress made since the



Nepal-Canada 2nd Bilateral Consultation Meeting

first BCM meeting.

Both sides exchanged views on trade and investment, education, tourism and

people-to-people contacts. They agreed to continue cooperation through various mechanisms in the collective fight against the pandemic.

BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM MEETING BETWEEN NEPAL AND POLAND

The second meeting of Nepal-Poland Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held on 13 January 2021 through video-conference. Joint Secretary of Europe and the Americas Division of the Ministry Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle, and Director of Asia and Pacific at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland Mr. Witold

Sobkow led their respective delegations.

The two sides exchanged views on recent developments in both the countries including the challenges posed by COVID-19, importance of the exchange of high-level visits, economic partnerships in the area of

trade, investment, technology transfer and tourism sectors. In the context of increasing Nepali diaspora in Poland, the two sides also discussed people to people contacts, cultural and educational cooperation, and potential employment opportunities.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

MESSAGE BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE 36TH SAARC CHARTER DAY

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli extended warm greetings and best wishes to all the peoples and Member States of the SAARC on the occasion of the 36th Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In his message, Prime Minister Oli expressed that the SAARC Charter characterizes South Asia's shared vision, collective resolve and mutual pursuit to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region through eradication of poverty, accelerated economic growth and advancement in socio-cultural development. He said that SAARC has achieved several important milestones as a common forum for promoting

mutual understanding and cooperation in the region in its journey of thirty-six years.

The Prime Minister stated that while commemorating the Charter Day, Covid-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge affecting not only health and economy but also social life and livelihoods in the region and beyond. He said that the situation underlines the importance of more concerted efforts, collaboration and cooperation among the Member States of SAARC in order to collectively emerge from the pandemic. The Prime Minister also said that time has come to move forward with concrete action in the ground with needed political



The Prime Minister

will and commitment. Giving fresh impetus to the stalled SAARC process including through the early convening of the Summit can rekindle hope among our people and provide ground to move forward, he added.

The Prime Minister wished that the special day will inspire all of us to foster mutual trust, understanding and cooperation as well as to deepen regional integration for peace and prosperity.

FOREIGN MINISTER LAUNCHES HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2020

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali launched Human Development Report 2020 amid a special function organized by UNDP Nepal on 16 December 2020. On the occasion, the Foreign Minister highlighted that the HDI report 2020 has re-interpreted the concept of human development, incorporating the issues of climate change and environmental degradation. The report talks



The Foreign Minister launching Human Development Report 2020

about planetary and social imbalances, calls for a just transformation that extends human freedoms while

easing planetary pressures as a need for whole-of-society response, he stated.

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES THE PROGRAMME “BUILDING RESILIENCE OF MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES”

Foreign Minister addressed the programme “Building Resilience of Mountain Communities in the face of Climate Crisis” organized by Karnali Integrated Rural

Development and Research Centre on 12 December 2020. In his address, the Foreign Minister stressed the disproportionate impact of climate change on the

mountain and its ecosystem, while underlining the need for collective actions in building the resilience of mountain communities.

FIRST MEETING OF SAARC PLANNING MINISTERS CONCLUDES

The First Meeting of the SAARC Planning Ministers, organized by the Government of Pakistan with the theme, ‘Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia: Shaping the SAARC Vision-2030’ was held virtually on 25 November 2020. Vice-Chairperson of the National Planning Commission Dr. Pushpa

Raj Kandel led Nepali delegation to the Meeting.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation shared their experiences pertaining to the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic in implementation of SDGs in their respective countries and emphasized the collective cooperation and collaboration of the Member States to lessen the after-effects of the Pandemic

in the socio-economic development of the region.

The Meeting adopted the Report of the First Meeting of the SAARC Planning Secretaries held virtually on 23 November 2020 covering matters relating to contextualization of SDGs at the regional level, accelerated implementation of 2030 Development Agenda and development financing.

FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE OF SAARC

The 58th session of the Programming Committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was convened on 15 December 2020 in virtual mode. Heads of SAARC and Representatives from the Foreign/External affairs participated in the meeting.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal addressed the inaugural session and highlighted some important steps taken by the Association for promoting regional integration through trade, finance, transport, power, connectivity as well as people-to-people contacts. The Foreign Secretary stated that blessed with abundant



Nepali delegation in the 58th session of the Programming Committee

natural and human resources, South Asia holds a high potential for development and prosperity, and enhanced regional cooperation and deeper economic integration is a must to realize this potential.

Joint Secretary and Head of Regional Organization Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi chaired the Programming Committee Meeting.

BIMSTEC GRID INTER CONNECTION COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The First Meeting of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee was virtually held in Myanmar on 23

November 2020. The delegates from the Member States highlighted the importance of grid interconnection in the BIMSTEC region. Nepal

expressed its readiness to share its grid interconnection with the Member States.

WORKSHOP ON THEMATIC CIRCUITS TOWARD A BIMSTEC 2030 STRATEGY

A Consultation Workshop entitled “Leveraging Thematic Circuits Toward a BIMSTEC 2030 Strategy” jointly organized by the BIMSTEC Secretariat and the Asian Development Bank was

virtually held in Manila, Philippines on 25 November 2020. Nepali delegation along with participants from all Member States attended the workshop. The workshop deliberated on a preliminary

study report prepared by the ADB for the promotion of tourism in the BIMSTEC region.

INFORMAL MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE

Informal meeting of senior officials of Asia Cooperation Dialogue was held virtually on 13 January 2021 for the preparation of formal meeting of senior officials of ACD on 19 January 2021 and Ministerial Meeting on 21 January 2021.

The Nepali delegation to the senior officials’ meeting was led by Joint Secretary and Head of Regional Organization Division Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi. The meeting discussed matters relating to draft

Ankara Declaration, draft guiding principles for the functioning of the ACD Secretariat, 3rd ACD Summit, and other related issues.

SIX-COUNTRY WORKING GROUPS DISCUSS ON COVID-19 AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The first meeting of the Working Group on COVID-19, and the Working Group on Poverty Alleviation in the Context of COVID-19 among China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka was held at the level of Director-General/ Joint Secretary of the Foreign Ministries of respective countries on 6 January 2021 through a video conference.

During the meeting, the Working Group discussed extensively to build back better from adverse COVID-19 impacts through strengthened



Head of North East Asia Division leading the Nepali Delegation in the Discussion on Covid-19 and Poverty Alleviation

political consensus, mutual support and cooperation among the participating countries.

Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, Head

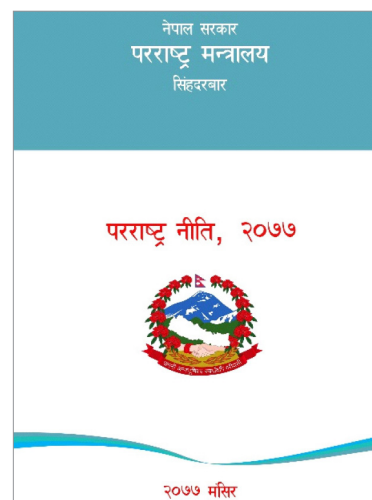
of North East Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal led the Nepali delegation comprising officials from the Ministry as well as relevant line Ministries.

C. POLICY RELATED AFFAIRS

NEPAL'S FOREIGN POLICY 2077



Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali speaking on Foreign Policy, 2077



Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali made Nepal's Foreign Policy, 2077 public amidst a programme organized at the Ministry on 6 December 2020. On the occasion, Minister Gyawali stated that Nepal's Foreign Policy 2077 is a consolidated form of policies of Nepal's foreign relations that were sporadically mentioned in various documents including the constitution of Nepal. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Gyawali highlighted the needs and relevancy of a unified policy document in foreign affairs to adopt to the changing political and

economic contexts. He said that the long-standing non-aligned policy of Nepal has not been altered; and the policy addresses the aspiration of the country with clear initiatives in economic diplomacy and issues of international and regional concern. The policy has established the spirit 'Amity with all, enmity with none' to steer its international relations on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual benefit and respect.

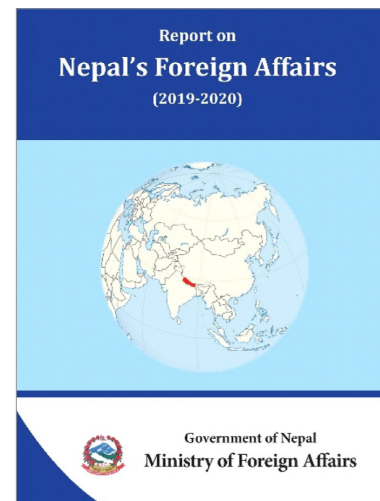
Foreign Policy, 2077 was endorsed by the Government of Nepal on 20 October 2020. The policy embodies clear guidelines on diverse spheres of foreign policy dimensions.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal highlighted various aspects of Nepal's Foreign Policy. He shared that Foreign Ministry and Nepali missions abroad would now focus on the implementation of foreign policy.

Joint Secretary Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Head of Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy and Nepali Diaspora Division of the Ministry made a power point presentation on the contents of Foreign Policy, 2077.

The programme was followed by an interaction with the media.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY



Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali launching the annual report

In line with keeping transparency and accountability to the activities conducted by the Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched its

annual report of the fiscal year 2076/77 amidst a media briefing on 6 December 2020. The annual report contains major events conducted by the Ministry

in the reporting year.

The annual report is also available in the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE

An orientation programme for ambassadors-designate was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

in coordination with the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) on 17-19 January 2021. Two ambassadors-

designate participated in the programme.

D. PROTOCOL RELATED AFFAIRS

APPOINTMENT OF NEPALI AMBASSADORS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs carried out necessary works relating to the appointment of Nepali Ambassadors to the United States of America,

United Kingdom and South Africa where Mr. Lokdarshan Regmi, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada and Dr. Nirmal Kumar Biswakarma were

Ambassador-designate to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and South Africa respectively.

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS

President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari received credentials from foreign ambassadors of

Bangladesh, Israel, Myanmar and Thailand on 3 December 2020. The Ministry carried

out necessary coordination and arranged the ceremony.



The President receiving credentials from the Ambassador of Israel to Nepal Mr. Hanan Goder-Goldberger



Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal Mr. Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury with the President during the credential ceremony



Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal Mr. U Sein Oo being introduced to high-level government officials after presenting his credentials to the President



The President with the Ambassador of Thailand to Nepal Mr. Vosita Vorasaph, his wife and the Deputy Chief of Mission in the credential ceremony

E. SERVICE DELIVERY

NON-RESIDENT NEPALI RELATED

S. N.	Services (Only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	13

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)	71485	Ordinary
		51	Diplomatic
		81	Official
		572	Gratis
		20	Travel Document (TD)
		72209	Total
3	Emails responded including social networks	986	
4	Grievance handled	1414	
5	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	4777	
6	Null and Void Passports	5	
7	Feedback Forms Collected	98	
8	Revenue collected (From the Department only in Rs.)	27,71,84,520/-	

CONSULAR SERVICES

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	<i>Consular and Legal Counseling Section</i>	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, religious tour and others	7
2	Recommendation related to India education No Objection Certificate	316
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	3
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepali driving license	12
5	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for character verification	69
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	22
7	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit	1
8	Correspondences regarding the citizenship renouncement	28
9	Correspondences regarding the Power of Attorney	60
10	Correspondences regarding authenticity of documents issued by Government of Nepal	9
11	Correspondences to District Administration Offices regarding compensation	168
12	Correspondences concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	90
13	Correspondences with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals abroad	70
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	229
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	62
3	Number of recommendations for exemption	593
4	Other correspondences and recommendations	700
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on Government of Nepal's nominations	46
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of Documents Attested	34502
2	Revenue Collected from the Department (in Rs)	1,72,51,000/-

Chief Patron: Hon'ble Pradeep Kumar Gyawali
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Patron: Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal
Foreign Secretary

Editorial Team

Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Joint Secretary
Mr. Krishna Chandra Aryal, Under Secretary
Ms. Bishnu Kumari Adhikari, Section Officer

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy and Nepali Diaspora Division
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel: 4200182-185, Fax: 4200061, 4200160, E-mail: ppdo@mofa.gov.np
This Bulletin is also available at <http://www.mofa.gov.np>