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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

STATE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT TO BANGLADESH

At the friendly invitation of President of Bangladesh Mr. Mohammad Abdul Hamid, President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a state visit to Bangladesh on 22-23 March 2021 to attend the birth centenary celebrations of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

As the Guest of Honour, President Mrs. Bhandari attended the grand ceremony

marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, held at the National Parade Ground, Dhaka on 22 March 2021. On the occasion, the President delivered the statement on the theme of “Nepal-Bangladesh Relations and Bangabandhu’s Birth Centenary” highlighting various aspects of bilateral relations existing between

Nepal and Bangladesh. A Nepali cultural troupe also presented Nepali cultural performance during the programme.

On 22 March 2021, President Mrs. Bhandari held talks with President Mr. Hamid on various aspects of bilateral relations and attended the State Banquet hosted in her honour by the President of Bangladesh.



President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari delivering the statement during Bangabandhu’s Birth Centenary Celebration Programme



The Presidents of Nepal and Bangladesh during the bilateral talks at Bangabhaban

During the visit, Nepal and Bangladesh signed four bilateral instruments namely: Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation; Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Cooperation; Cultural Exchange Programme for 2022-2025; and Exchange of Letters on Designation of Rohanpur-Singhabad Railway Route as an additional transit route for movement of traffic-in-transit between Nepal and Bangladesh and also for third country transit trade.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Mrs. Sheikh Hasina and the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen paid separate courtesy calls on President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari on 22 March 2021. Matters of

mutual interest were discussed during the meetings.

On 23 March 2021, President Mrs. Bhandari visited Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and paid tributes to Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Earlier she also visited the National Martyrs' Memorial at Savar and paid homage to martyrs and war-heroes. She planted a Magnolia sapling there. Visiting the Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka, the President also interacted with the Nepali diaspora and Bangladeshi business community.



The President with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh during the Courtesy Call on

COVID RELATED ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL



Ambassador Ms. Hou Yanqi handing over a list of Covid vaccines and medical items to the Prime Minister

of Eight Hundred Thousand vaccines and other medical items to the Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli amidst a ceremony held at Baluwatar on 29 March 2021.

Nepal has also received covid related medical assistance from various other countries.

Nepal received the first batch of Eight Hundred Thousand doses of Sinopharm vaccines (Vero cell) provided by the Government of China under the additional grant assistance to Nepal.

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Nepal Ms. Hou Yanqi formally handed over a list



Medical Assistance received from Thailand

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND DOMINICA

Nepal and Commonwealth of Dominica established diplomatic relations on 30 April 2021. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of

Nepal to the United Nations, and Mrs. Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the United

Nations signed the Joint Communiqué to this effect in a brief ceremony held at the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, New York.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON JOINT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali led a Nepali delegation to a video conference of the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Joint Response to COVID-19 held on 27 April 2021. Addressing the conference, Minister Gyawali stressed on the enhanced level of regional and international cooperation for COVID-19 response and economic



Foreign Minister leading Nepali delegation to the video conference on Joint Response to COVID-19

recovery. He also underlined the need to strengthen the pragmatic cooperation to combat COVID-19 pandemic, reinvigorate economic recovery and protect people's lives and livelihood.

AN EVENT ON NEPAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, addressed an event on 'Nepal's Contribution to UN peacekeeping' organized by Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Consortium of South Asian Think Tank (COSATT), and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) on 19 April 2021. The Foreign Minister, in his address,

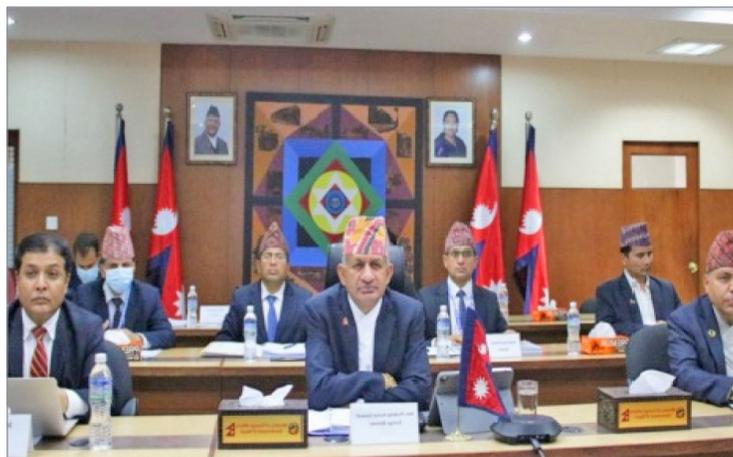


Foreign Minister speaking at an event on Nepal's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping

focused on aspects including Nepal's contribution and perspectives to peacekeeping along with the challenges associated.

SEVENTEENTH BIMSTEC MINISTERIAL MEETING

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali led the Nepali delegation to the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting hosted virtually on 01 April 2021 by Sri Lanka as the current Chair. Addressing the Meeting, Minister Gyawali emphasized the need to fight against poverty and hunger and ensuring of decent jobs and sustainable sources of livelihood for the people. He further mentioned that only a dynamic and resilient BIMSTEC can catalyze growth, spur innovation and propel development and prosperity taking into account of the special needs of LDCs and LLDCs. Stressing the need to focus on such core areas as connectivity, energy, trade, investment, tourism, and agriculture, Minister



Nepali delegation to the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

Gyawali also underlined the need to make the 5th BIMSTEC Summit successful in furthering and deepening the regional cooperation for a larger benefit of the region.

Prior to the Ministerial Meeting, Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Foreign Secretary led the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (S-SOM) held on 31 March 2021.



Foreign Secretary leading the Nepali delegation to BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting

MEETING OF SAARC FINANCE MINISTERS

Sixteenth Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was

held virtually on 5 May 2021 under the chairmanship of

Finance Minister Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel. The meeting

was held on the sidelines of the annual meeting of Asian Development Bank under the theme of “Economic Recovery from Covid-19: Towards Inclusive and Resilient Growth”.



16th Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers

ACD SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

Nepal participated in the virtual ‘Open-ended Informal Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)’ of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) organized by the Republic of Turkey as the current chair on 30 March 2021. Nepali delegation to the meeting was led by Mr. Tirtha Raj Wagle, Head of Regional



Nepali delegation in ACD Senior Officials' Meeting

Organization Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

NEPAL'S PARTICIPATION IN HIGH-LEVEL MULTILATERAL EVENTS

Nepal participated in a virtual High-level Debate on ‘Urban Safety, Security and Good Governance: Making Crime Prevention a Priority for All’, organized by the President of

the UN General Assembly on 22 April 2021. Leading the Nepali delegation in the event, Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa 'Badal' underscored Nepal's efforts aimed at making cities crime-free and safe.

Under the leadership of Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens Ms. Julie Kumari Mahato, Nepal also participated in the **65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women** held on 15-26 March 2021 under the theme of 'women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life'. Delivering her video message on 23 March 2021, the Minister highlighted Nepal's major achievements in the field of gender equality and women empowerment while also stressing on women's full and effective participation in public life and in decision-making processes.

Similarly, Minister for Water Supply Mr. Mani



Minister for Home Affairs addressing the UN high-level debate

Chandra Thapa led the Nepali delegation to the High-level Meeting on the **'Implementation of the Water-related Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda'**, convened by the President of the UN General Assembly on 22 March 2021. On the occasion, Mr. Thapa underscored the importance of Nepal's high mountains as 'water towers and custodians of ecosystems' and urged for global action to safeguard the health of high mountains and rivers in view of their organic link with biodiversity and the people. The event was held under the theme of 'Scaling-up multilateral cooperation and accelerating concrete actions to meet the water-related goals and targets of the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

Likewise, Nepal's participation in the **77th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)** was led by Prof. Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission. Addressing the event held virtually on 26 - 29 April 2021 under the theme of "Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific", the Vice-Chairman underscored Nepal's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 while focusing on protecting people's lives, strengthening the health-care system, and building

sustainable and resilient recovery of the economy. Earlier, the Vice-Chairman also participated in the **8th Asia Pacific Forum on**

Sustainable Development (APFSD) held in hybrid modality in Bangkok from 23-26 March 2021 under the theme of “Sustainable and

resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific”.

HANDOVER OF COLOMBO PROCESS CHAIRMANSHIP

Nepal handed over the Chairmanship of Colombo Process to Afghanistan on 20 April 2021. Mr. Gaurishankar Chaudhari, Minister for Labour and Employment

and Social Security of Nepal, handed over the chairmanship to his Afghani counterpart Mr. Bashir Ahmad Tahyanj, Minister for Labour and Social Affairs of the Islamic

Republic of Afghanistan amidst the presence of other Ministers and senior officials. Nepal had chaired the Colombo Process since 29 March 2017.

UNITAR ONLINE TRAINING ON CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLOMACY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with UNITAR, Geneva co-organized the UNITAR Online Training on Climate Change Diplomacy on

26-28 April 2021. Altogether 24 participants, including those from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Forest and Environment and Ministry of Industry,

Commerce and Supplies took part in the virtual training. The training focused on the climate negotiation and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

C. PROTOCOL RELATED AFFAIRS

APPOINTMENT OF NEPALI AMBASSADORS

President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari appointed Mr. Ramkaji Khadka,

Ambassador of Nepal to the Republic of Germany as the non-residential Ambassador

to the Holy See on 2 May 2021.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY AMBASSADORS

On 16 April 2021, President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari received credentials from residential Ambassador of

Japan to Nepal Mr. Kikuta Yutaka; and from non-residential Ambassadors Mr. Freddy Syane of Denmark,

Mr. Dionyssios Kyvetos of Greece and Mrs. Elonora Dimitrova of Bulgaria.



*President receiving credentials from the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal
Mr. Kikuta Yutaka*



*President with the Ambassador of Denmark to Nepal Mr. Freddy Svane
after the credential ceremony*



*President with the Ambassador of Bulgaria to Nepal Mrs. Elonora
Dimitrova during the credential ceremony*

D. SERVICE DELIVERY**NON-RESIDENT NEPALI RELATED**

S. N.	Services (Only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	5

PASSPORT RELATED

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Passports issued	92,497	From Districts, Missions and the Department
2	Total Number of passports issued (According to document type)	92,034	Ordinary
		97	Diplomatic
		103	Official
		249	Gratis Ordinary
		14	Travel Document (TD)
		92,497	Total
3	Emails responded including social networks	1,207	
4	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	-	
5	Null and Void Passports	-	
6	Verification of Citizenship records and letter of in-approval	228	
7	Revenue collected (From the Department of Passport only in Rs.)	23,03,09,250/-	

CONSULAR RELATED

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	<i>Consular and Legal Counselling</i>	
1	Recommendation for medical treatment, religious tour and others	12
2	Issuance of No Objection Certificate for education	688
3	Recommendation for pension	1
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepali driving license	17

5	Recommendation for character verification	44
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	33
7	Recommendation for issuing vehicle permit	6
8	Correspondences regarding the citizenship renouncement	18
9	Correspondences regarding the Power of Attorney	72
10	Correspondences regarding authenticity of documents issued by Government of Nepal.	2
11	Correspondences to District Administration Offices regarding compensation	144
12	Correspondences concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	157
13	Correspondences with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals from abroad	27
B	<i>Visa and Exemption</i>	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	251
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	58
3	Issuance of SAARC visa sticker	0
4	Issuance of recommendation letters for exemption	516
5	Other correspondences and recommendations	324
6	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on Government of Nepal's nominations	48
C	<i>Attestation</i>	
1	Number of documents attested	49,261
2	Revenue collected from the Department of Consular Services (in Rs)	2,46,30,500/-

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