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FORUM
Prabal Adhikari



ENVIRONMENT
Batu Uprety



VIEWPOINT
Sandip Poudel

NEW SPOTLIGHT

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FORTNIGHTLY



NAGDHUNGA TUNNEL BREAKTHROUGH

Significant Milestone

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The Emir of Qatar concluded his inaugural state visit to Nepal by signing several agreements. Meanwhile, the families of Bipin Joshi, who were kidnapped by Hamas in October, are still awaiting relief. Given Qatar's previous involvement in negotiating the release of hostages from Hamas, Bipin Joshi's relatives are hopeful for support from Qatar in securing the freedom of their loved ones. The absence of any mention in the official statement leaves uncertainty regarding the importance Nepal's government placed on the matter and Qatar's response. Nevertheless, our featured story this week highlights the Nagdhunga Tunnel Breakthrough. This tunnel marks a significant achievement in Nepal's road infrastructure, being the first modern tunnel of its kind constructed in over a century since the Churia tunnel. The Nagdhunga tunnel breakthrough is a pivotal moment in the longstanding relationship between Nepal and Japan. Despite the fact that the tunnel will not be open to the public for another year, the breakthrough of the tunnel is a crucial milestone that is set to revolutionize Nepal's transportation sector. The tunnel will help alleviate traffic congestion and reduce traffic jams in Nagdhunga, ultimately saving both energy and money. Given the significance of this breakthrough in Nepal-Japan relations, we have chosen to feature the Nagdhunga Tunnel breakthrough as our cover story for this week. Additionally, we will be covering other important issues of the week.

Keshab Poudel

Editor

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LATE SAMBHU PRASAD GYAWALI

Legendry Lawyer

Sambhu Prasad Gyawali, a renowned lawyer, is widely recognized for his significant contributions to Nepal's legal system. His legacy continues to be cherished as his invaluable impact on the country's legal framework is remembered

By A CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Ananda Mohan Bhattarai, the most senior justice of the Supreme Court, stated that the late Sambhu Prasad Gyawali, a distinguished lawyer, is a symbol of Nepal's contemporary judicial system. He highlighted Gyawali's efforts in establishing and institutionalizing the judiciary in Nepal, emphasizing that his legacy will be forever honored.

During a lecture commemorating the 25th Memorial Day of the esteemed late Shambhu Prasad Gyawali, a renowned constitutional lawyer, former attorney general, and law minister, Justice Dr. Bhattarai expressed that Gyawali played a significant role in Nepal's modern judicial system. He stressed Gyawali's invaluable contribution to the establishment and institutionalization of the judiciary in Nepal, noting that his impact will be everlasting.

In his presentation titled "Independent and Strong Judiciary in the Historical Context of Nepal's Legal History," former Supreme Court Justice Prakas Wasti highlighted Gyawali's various contributions. Wasti recognized Gyawali's efforts in modernizing Nepal's legal system and judicial institu-

tions during his tenure in various roles. He further elaborated on Gyawali's multifaceted role within the judicial system, emphasizing that his dedication to the law and his profession serves as an inspiration for lawyers and judges alike.

As a former member of the Human Rights Commission and a senior advocate, Wasti praised Gyawali for his efforts in preventing the politicization of the judiciary and opposing any actions that could compromise professionalism within the legal system.

Nepal is currently facing crucial periods, and the judiciary plays a vital role during these times, as highlighted by an individual. It was also mentioned that the legal fraternity should take pride in having had a personality like the late Gyawali. Gopal Krishna Ghimire, the President of Nepal Bar Association, stated that lawyers like him greatly benefited from the vast knowledge of the late Gyawali. He stressed the importance

for new lawyers to understand the contributions made by senior advocates like Gyawali.

Additionally, senior advocate Chandrakanta Gyawali emphasized the significance of lecture series in strengthening Nepal's legal system. The lecture series was organized by



Nepal Bar Council, and the chairman of the council and attorney General, Dr. Dinmani Pokharel, highlighted the need for Nepal's legal fraternity to remember the sacrifices and contributions made by the late Gyawali. He further mentioned that the Nepalese judicial system is currently facing numerous challenges, and the contributions of the late Gyawali will help overcome these crises.

During the gathering, which was attended by esteemed lawyers, legal practitioners, and family members, Prajwal Raj Gyawali, the grandson of the deceased Gyawali, delivered a speech on behalf of his grandmother Nalini Gyawali regarding the lecture series.

As a young lawyer, Gyawali emphasized the significance of young leaders being cognizant of the remarkable contributions made by renowned individuals like the late Gyawali in Nepal's legal framework.

Furthermore, a special edition of a book written by the late Sambhu Prasad Gyawali was revealed during the event, and Nalini Gyawali personally signed copies of the book that were available for purchase at the program.



NEWSNOTES

India Gifted 35 Ambulances And 66 School Buses In Various Districts Of Nepal

Embassy of India, Kathmandu, today gifted 35 ambulances and 66 school buses to various organizations, spread across different districts of Nepal, and working in the field of health and education respectively.

The keys of the vehicles were handed over by Naveen Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Nepal in the presence of Barsha Man Pun, Finance Minister. Mayors and Chairpersons of Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of various districts as well as representatives of various beneficiary organisations, political representatives, officials of Government of Nepal, and social workers were also present at the event.

Out of the total 101 vehicles gifted today, 2 ambulances were handed over on location in the earthquake-affected Jajarkot and West Rukum districts by the representative of the Embassy of India in the presence of district officials and local residents.

Government of India has been gifting ambulances and school buses on the occasion of the Independence Day and the Republic Day of India for 3 decades to various beneficiary organizations in different parts of Nepal, giving high priority to Nepal's health and education sectors.



The Ambassador stated during the event that this has been one of the long-standing initiatives of the

Government of India under the Nepal-India Development Partnership to bolster the efforts of the Government of Nepal to strengthen its infrastructure in health and education sectors. Ambassador further highlighted that this is a part of the robust and strong development partnership between India and Nepal and has a geographical spread throughout Nepal, touching people's lives and bringing out tangible progress in the development journey of Nepal.

Finance Minister Barsha Man Pun, in his remarks, appreciated Government of India's various ongoing developmental projects in Nepal and expressed that these will continue to strengthen people-to-people connectivity and bilateral relations between the two countries. He emphasized that this flagship programme is very beneficial for the people of Nepal.

Since 1994, Government of India has gifted 1009 ambulances and 300 school buses across Nepal, including those gifted today. It is part of Government of India's continued support for the efforts of Nepal to

strengthen its health and education facilities and to facilitate easy physical access to these services.

Japan Hands Over The Community Center For Disaster Prevention

The handover ceremony of the Community Center for Disaster Prevention by the Government of Japan to Indrawati Rural Municipality was held today in Sindhupalchowk District and Ambassador Kikuta attended the ceremony.



The new community center has been

constructed by the Government of Japan under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects scheme. The project is being implemented by Japanese NGO Japan Asian Association & Asian Friendship Society (JAFA) and aims to enhance disaster prevention capabilities of a rural municipality in Sindhupalchowk district with self and mutual help.

This project includes not only constructing a community center but also establishing disaster prevention committees, activities, public broadcasting, warehouses and conducting landslide prevention measures.

On the occasion, Ambassador Kikuta expressed his hope that the new community center will become the center of disaster prevention and improve not only the capabilities of disaster prevention but also regional revitalization.

Japanese Ambassador Kikuta And DPM Shrestha Shared The Views to Deepen Nepal-Japan Bilateral Relations

Ambassador Kikuta and DPM and Foreign Minister Shrestha shared the view to further deepen the bilateral relations between Japan and Nepal

Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, paid a courtesy call on Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu.

On this occasion, Ambassador Kikuta mentioned that Ms. KAMIKA-



WA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, had sent. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister her congratulatory letter on inauguration of Minister.

Ambassador himself expressed his best wishes for the success as the Foreign Minister, too. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shrestha expressed the appreciation for the congratulations.

Ambassador Kikuta and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shrestha exchanged their views to further enhance and deepen the friendly relationship between Japan and Nepal.

Ambassador Kikuta mentioned the breakthrough of the Nagdhunga Main Tunnel, which is Nepal's first road tunnel being constructed by Japanese companies and Nepali workers with the support of the Government of Japan, on April 15, 2024.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shrestha highlighted that Japan had been working with Nepal as one of the leading development partners for decades and it had cooperated with the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ambassador Kikuta stated that Japan and Nepal had long history of cordial bilateral relationship and Japan hoped to continue its cooperation with Nepal, overcoming the various challenges.

Foreign Secretary Lamsal Urged Bangladeshi To Explore Investment Opportunities In Nepal

The Third Round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Nepal and Bangladesh was held in Kathmandu. During the FOC, Nepali delegation was led by Sewa Lamsal, Foreign Secretary, while Bangladesh delegation was led by Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) of Bangladesh Masud Bin Momen.

During the FOC, the whole gamut of bilateral relations was reviewed. Both the Foreign Secretaries expressed satisfaction on the excellent bilateral relations that exist between Nepal and Bangladesh.

They discussed all the major issues of mutual interests and agreed to promote cooperation encompassing all sectors, especially trade and commerce, transit and connectivity, power and energy sector, tourism, culture and education. Both Foreign Secretaries emphasized the operationalization of the BBIN MVA framework to contribute to the individual country's economy not only by expanding trade and connectivity, but also by creating more opportunity to promote people-to-people contacts.

Foreign Secretary Lamsal stressed the exploration of the untapped potential in economic, cultural and educational areas and proposed to establish meaningful collaborative partnership including in the private sector.

She mentioned that Nepal would like to pursue more trade and investment cooperation with Bangladesh. She urged Bangladeshi side to explore investment opportunities in Nepal including in hydropower sector. She

also requested the Government of Bangladesh to eliminate the existing Other Duties and Charges (ODCs) levied on Nepali products being exported to Bangladesh. Nepali Foreign Secretary emphasized the exchange of visits at different levels.

Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Mr. Masud Bin Momen emphasized the expeditious conclusion of tripartite power agreement among Bangladesh-India-Nepal soon, which will help Bangladesh to import power from Nepal.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary thanked Government of Nepal for allocating land for the construction of a Monastery in Lumbini. He added that it would be a milestone in our relations and enhance people-to-people contacts between Bangladesh and Nepal in the days ahead.

Both Foreign Secretaries discussed regional issues of mutual interest.

They also underscored the necessity of revitalizing SAARC and strengthening BIMSTEC for promoting regional cooperation. Both Foreign Secretaries also agreed to cooperate with each other at various multilateral forums, especially at the UN to pursue common interests especially in the areas of LDC graduation, poverty alleviation, climate change and safety and security of migrant workers.

An MoU between the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh was also signed by the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries.

Later this afternoon, the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Mr. Masud Bin Momen paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Narayan Kaji Shrestha at the latter's office in Singha Durbar. On the occasion, discussions were held on issues of mutual interest between Nepal and Bangladesh.

Director General of Assam Rifles Lt Gen Pradeep Chandran Nair Holds Discussions With Nepal Army Chief

Lt Gen Pradeep Chandran Nair, Director General of Assam Rifles, paid a courtesy call on the Gen Prabhu Ram Sharma, COAS, NA at the NA headquarters.

He returned after completing his official visit to Nepal and was received at TIA by Col Amit Kumar Sharma, Defence Attaché of India to Nepal.



NEWSNOTES

The Gen visited BGSN Kathmandu, Pension Paying Office, Pokhara and Pension Paying Office, Dharan during his five days visit and addressed Ex-servicemen Rally of Nepali Domiciled Gorkha Ex-servicemen at Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dharan. He lauded the bravery of the Gorkha Soldiers and saluted their courage and



dedicated service to the nation.

The Gen reminisced the invaluable sacrifices of our gallant Gorkha veterans & affirmed the con-

tinued commitment of Assam Rifles, IA & GoI for their meaningful welfare.

The Gen called on Naveen Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Nepal at Embassy of India. He commended the DefWg team at Embassy of India for their astute professional conduct in furthering the bilateral ties of both the countries.

Second Edition Of Janakpurdham Cultural Festival Inaugurated

Saroj Kumar Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhesh Province, inaugurated the first session of the 2nd edition of Janakpurdham Cultural Festival as the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Manoj Kumar Sah, Mayor of Janakpurdham Sub-Metropolitan City, Janakpur was the Chief Guest during the evening's cultural event.

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC),



Embassy of India, Kathmandu together with the Consulate General of India, Birgunj and the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation (BPKF) or-

ganized the 2nd edition of the Janakpurdham Cultural Festival on April 13, 2024, coinciding with the Nepali New Year 2081 Bikram Sambat. The 1st edition of the Janakpurdham Cultural Festival was organised in April 2023.

The second session showcased musical performances of Bhajans based on the life of Lord Ram and Sita by the teachers and artists of SVCC. The special highlight of the second session was a performance by Ms. Menuka Poudel, a celebrated Nepali singer, who was also a top 10 contestant of Indian Idol 2024.

The events were graced by participation from Provincial Assembly Members of Madhesh Province, dignitaries, and the media, and were witnessed by a large audience.

International Conference On Agrobiodiversity 2024 Begins In Nepal

The leaders around the globe gathered to organize the International Conference on Agrobiodiversity 2024, commencing from 9 to 12 April 2024 in Pokhara, Gandaki Province of Nepal. This event aims to exchange innovative traditional and scientific knowledge on advancing agroecological practices, agro biodiverse planting materials, and climate-smart business and finance models that enhance nature and nutrition.

The International Conference, a collaborative effort between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Agroecology Coalition, and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, alongside support from the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), is proven as strong platform uniting diverse stakeholders, including Forest Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs), Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), and various supporting partners to facilitate discussions and innovative solutions aimed at advancing agrobiodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, and prioritizing inclusive development initiatives.

More than 150 representatives from government entities, experts, academia, NGOs, INGOs, private sector, over 30 countries including Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Gambia, Ghana, India, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, UK, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe are participating in the conference.

FAO Nepal is working with local farmers and indigenous communities in preserving traditional crop varieties. Luis Miguel Aparicio, Manager of Forest Farm Facility (FFF) highlighted (FFF) intervention in conserving agrobiodiversity and collaboration with FAO partners to empower smallholder farmers, indigenous groups, and local communities in sustainable forest and farm management to enhance agrobiodiversity both locally and globally.

The International Conference on Agrobiodiversity gathers Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs), Indigenous Peoples, local community groups, and various stakeholders to exchange knowledge and advance sustainable practices. With a focus on enriching nature and nutrition, the Session 1: Agrobiodiversity- What it is and why it matters., Session 2: How policies shape agroecology approaches that help to protect and manage agrobiodiversity for better or worse, Session 3: Traditional knowledge of agroforestry systems and knowledge exchange practices that maintain agrobiodiversity, Session 4: Seed and farm management techniques and innovations to sustain agrobiodiversity, Session 5: Enterprise



innovations that encourage diversification in what is planted and Session 6: Nature finance- improving flows to FFPOs and IPLCS offer delegates the chance to witness

innovative agrobiodiversity management practices at different level and shared cases of good practices from FFPOs to enhance resilience, biodiversity conservation, and community livelihoods.

This conference in presence of 200+ participants is strong platform for knowledge exchange and foster collaboration among FFPOs, governmental institutions, the private sector, CSOs and other stakeholders, to create synergies in promoting agrobiodiversity linked to forest and farm value chains.

Nepal Should Get Compensation For Damaged Caused By Climate Change: Minister Pun

Finance Minister Varshman Pun Anant has addressed the ministerial meeting of the V-20 group of countries that are in danger due to the effects of climate change.

Pun, who arrived in the US to participate in the spring joint meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, addressed the 12th ministerial level meeting of the V-20 held in Washington, DC.

Addressing the meeting, Pun said that the world community should be aware and serious about the problems faced by developing countries, including Nepal, which are at high risk of climate change.

He pointed out that there is a need for global collective commitment to avoid the risk of climate change. He said that due to the effects of climate change, especially the poor and marginalized people are being

persecuted in Nepal. Minister Pun clarified that their contribution to Nepal being at a high risk of climate change is minimal.

Addressing the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP-28) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates last year, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda recalled that even though Nepal’s role was zero, it drew the attention of the world community to the issue of high risk due to the effects of climate change.

‘At the COP-28 meeting, my Prime Minister had clearly said that Nepal has a very small role in climate change, Pun said, “I want to present the message of our Prime Minister here that developed countries need urgent financial and technical support from underdeveloped countries due to the disproportionate risk of the effects of climate change.” ‘

Minister Pun mentioned that he will strongly advocate for climate justice in the international world, saying that compensation due to the effects of climate change should be received.

He drew the attention of the world community to the rapid melting of snow in the Himalayas of Nepal due to climate change, the decrease in water flow in glaciers, the risk of explosion of snow lakes, and the increase in disasters such as floods, landslides and drought due to problems such as lack of rain and excessive rain.



Minister Pun said that due to the natural disasters caused by climate change, not only the sustainable development efforts of the front line of development, but also human health and livelihood are in danger.

Minister Pun emphasized that countries with developed economies should provide financial assistance for climate adaptation programs to third world countries like Nepal, which are at high risk even though they have a small role in climate change.

He mentioned that underdeveloped and Himalayan countries like Nepal should have the main rights in facilities such as compensation fund, biological diversity fund and adaptation fund established for damages caused by climate change.

Minister Pun reminded that developed countries should be honest in their commitments to save the world from the effects of climate change.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Nepal-Qatar Joint Business Council Formed

A Joint Business Council between Nepal and Qatar has been established, which includes the private sectors of both the nations.

An agreement was reached between the two chambers on Wednesday for the establishment of a council headed by President of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chandra Prasad Dhakal and President of Qatar Chamber, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Thani.

The agreement was signed by FNCCI President Dhakal and President of Qatar Chamber, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Thani in the presence of Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar and Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

The council will work in the areas of business expansion, investment promotion, technology transfer and tourism promotion, according to FNCCI.

The Joint Business Council will be a permanent mechanism for dialogue with Qatar, a Gulf country experiencing rapid economic growth.

The purpose of the Joint Business Council is to increase cooperation and understanding between the private sectors of Nepal and Qatar.

The council will play an effective role in attracting investments from Qatar and also expanding trade with the Gulf nation, which is known as a work destination for Nepalis.

There is a high demand for agricultural products, water, herbs, spices and spice products in the Gulf countries. As Qatar is an investment destination due to its rapid economic expansion, the Joint Business Council will play an effective role in attracting investments in Nepal.

The Council will also work in the field of tourism promotion.



After the establishment of the Council, cooperation between the two chambers is expected to further intensify and presidents of both the chambers are of the opinion that it will help in investment and business expansion.

"This agreement will further increase cooperation in the coming days,"

said Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Thani, President of the Qatar Chamber.

Meanwhile, FNCCI President Dhakal said that there would be more initiatives taken through the council to increase cooperation between Nepal and Qatar.

"The council will continue to work to benefit Nepal from Qatar's rapid economic development," said Dhakal.

He added that the establishment of the Joint Business Council would help in attracting more investments in hydropower, tourism infrastructure, agro-processing and information and communication technology sectors.

In addition, the agreement between FNCCI and Qatar Chamber has also been renewed.

The new agreement was signed by FNCCI President Dhakal and Qatar Chamber President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Thani.

This agreement was also signed in the presence of Sheikh

Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of Qatar, and Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. The first agreement between FNCCI and Qatar Chamber was made in 2005.

Madhu Kumar Marasini Has Been Appointed As The Newly Finance Secretary

Madhu Kumar Marasini has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary by the government.

The decision to appoint Marasini as the Finance Secretary was made during a cabinet meeting held on Monday.

Marasini faced corruption charges in the national payment gateway system, but was acquitted by a special court.

Following his acquittal, the Cabinet assigned him the role of Finance Secretary.

As a result of Marasini's appointment, the current Finance Secretary Krishnahari Puskar has been reassigned to the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers' office.

Marasini previously served as the Secretary of Commerce and Supply in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supply.



Global IME Bank And Hub International Educational Signed Loan Agreement

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Global IME Bank Limited and Hub International Education Pvt. Ltd. to facilitate the provision of educational loans to students pursuing higher education in India.

Under a loan agreement signed between Global IME Bank And Hub International Educational, the bank will provide educational loans to students pursuing higher education in India.

In the memorandum of understanding, the Bank's Deputy Chief Executive Officer Suman Pokharel and Hub International Education Pvt. Ltd. founder and chairman Uddhav Bahadur Khadka has signed.

According to the agreement, the bank will facilitate the necessary educational loans to the students recommended by Hub International Education Pvt.

This loan will be provided quickly, simply and easily after the students and parents recommended by Hub International Education apply to the bank's branch office along with the necessary documents and details.

Global IME Bank is the first commercial bank in the private sector with a network of branches in all the districts of the country. The bank has more than 1,100 service centers including 354 branch offices, 379 ATMs, 277 branchless banking services, 67 extension and revenue collection counters and 3 foreign representative offices.

Global IME Bank is a bank providing banking services for all, which has been providing excellent services to its more than 4.6 lakh customers through various services and facilities schemes.

The bank has been bringing in remittances from the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE,



Bahrain, Kuwait, India, Jordan, Hong Kong and other countries and making a significant contribution to the economy of the country.

A delegation Of Chambers Of Commerce And Industry Of Russia Mt With The Prime Minister

The delegation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Russia had a courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachand’ today.

In the meeting held at the Prime Minister’s residence, Baluwatar, the delegation discussed with the Prime Minister various aspects of Nepal-Russia relations and investment issues.

On that occasion, Prime Minister Dahal informed that the government is preparing for an investment conference with preparations to bring foreign investment into Nepal in various sectors and urged them to invest in Nepal.

“We have prepared an investment conference by focusing on businessmen and foreign investors,” Prime Minister Dahal said, “We have also amended some laws to facilitate foreign investment in Nepal. It is the government’s policy to support all those who are interested in investing in Nepal.”

Mentioning that Russia is continuously supporting the economic development of Nepal, Prime Minister Dahal said that Nepal has good opportunities for investment in the fields of roads, agriculture, hydropower and information technology.

Expressing his belief that the relationship between Nepal and Russia will be strengthened in the new situation, Prime Minister Dahal emphasized the need to further expand mutual co-operation and relations.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Russian Federation Sergey Katirin, Chairman of Nepal Confederation of Industry and Commerce Chandra Prasad Dhakal, Russian Ambassador to Nepal Alexey Novikov and others.



association of Industry and Commerce Chandra Prasad Dhakal, Russian Ambassador to Nepal Alexey Novikov and others.

World Bank Agrees To Manage Finances In Upper Arun

A theoretical agreement has been reached regarding the financial management of the 1,63 MW Upper Arun semi-reservoir hydroelectric project to be constructed in Sankhuwasabha

A theoretical agreement was reached in this regard in the talks held in Washington DC between Finance Minister Varshman Pun, who is on a visit to America, and World Bank senior leadership.

Minister Pun and World Bank’s Vice President for South Asia, Martin Razer, discussed the World Bank-funded projects in Nepal, including Upper Arun.

Krishna Nepal, a member of the visiting team of Minister Pun and the head of the International Financial Assistance Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance, informed that a theoretical conclusion has been reached regarding the World Bank leading the financial management in Upper Arun.

After the in-principle approval of the Government of Nepal, the agreement will be formalized and there will be an agreement regarding financial management

The Game Changer Project will be led by the World Bank in the financial management of the Upper Arun. In the co-financing of the World Bank, concessional loans from international financial institutions and 70 percent loan investment from domestic banks and

financial institutions, as well as 30 percent equity, are being prepared to manage the financial management. The cost of the construction of the project is yet to be decided.

Before flying to America, Minister Pun discussed with Minister of Energy Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Nepal Director of World Bank and Asian Development Bank about completing the financial management of Upper Arun as soon as possible and proceeding with the construction work.

Construction of 2 km tunnel and 21 km access road has progressed in preparation for Upper Arun. Land acquisition and distribution of compensation is almost over.

Upper Arun is a game changer project of Nepal which will be operated at full capacity for 6 hours a day during the 6 months of winter when there is a high demand for electricity. Four billion 53 million units of energy will be produced annually from this project. The generated electricity will be connected to the national transmission system through a new substation to be built at Haitar in Sankhuwasabha through a 6 km 400 KV transmission line.

The government has included the 635 MW Dudhkoshi hydropower project to be built at Bhunwaghat as a project of national pride.

In the meeting, there was a discussion about speeding up the work of other development projects funded by the World Bank. There was also a discussion about increasing the facility of the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank’s subsidized lending institution that Nepal has traditionally used, and diversifying the projects.

In that context, Minister Pun said that there is a need for foreign investment as internal resources are limited in building the development infrastructure of Nepal. He thanked the World Bank for the grants and subsidized loan assistance that the World Bank has been providing for Nepal since the time of malaria eradication and asked for more investment in the future.



FNCCI President Dhakal Urges To Invest In Tourism Infrastructure

President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Chandra Prasad Dhakal has requested to join the campaign for construction and promotion of religious and adventure tourism infrastructure.

Speaking at the Chaitrasthmi festival held at Kalika Temple in Baglung district on Tuesday, Dhakal said that due to the attraction of tourists in religious areas in Gandaki region, it was a must to focus on adequate infrastructure development in the province.

President Dhakal said that as Baglung Kalika had become a must-visit destination for Hindus and other destinations, sites including Panchakot and were becoming popular, investment in modern hotel and transport infrastructure should be increased.

He said that because of the development of bungee and other adventure destinations in the mountains for tourists coming to Pokhara, adventure and religious tourism can be promoted in an integrated manner in the Gandaki Province.



Dialogue On Mountains And Climate Change Planned



BY: BATU UPRETY

During Panchayat regime, speakers of any events were habituated to close their speeches by saying ‘Jay Desh, Jay Naresh’. It might simply be a respect to the monarch, loyalty, and trust on power. From 1990s to 2020s, leaders and followers of congress and communist say ‘Jay Nepal’ or ‘Lal Salam’. Whenever political leaders, activists or cadres meet they used to say ‘Jay Nepal’ or ‘Lal Salam’. In the recent years, climate change has been like ‘ending calls’ of speeches, and this is simply recalled with no commitments for actions. Mentioning climate change in speeches has been a ‘fashion’ both within and outside the country. Those who should lead for urgent actions urge for actions needed. It is not heard what and where actions are necessary and what the speaker is offering his/her service to address climate change impacts in key social and economic sectors.

Scientists have repeatedly confirmed that climate change is real and atmospheric temperature is rising in an unprecedented manner due to anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are implementing climate actions to reduce GHGs emissions and help climate vulnerable communities adapt to and build resilience to climate change.

Nepal has attended almost all meetings right from the adoption of UNFCCC. She attended meetings of the inter-governmental committee till mid-1992 and ad-hoc committees, and sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) and Conference of the Parties (CoPs) from 1995 onwards.

Many countries in climate negotiations send same person or a team of ‘seasoned’ negotiator(s) and new personalities, irrespective of the change in the government of any political parties. Same faces are repeatedly seen in climate change meetings.

Few negotiators might have continued from 1990s or 2000s. For example, previous (2022-2023) and current chairs of the LDCs Group are attending climate negotiations from the last two decades. In some cases, understanding and ‘verbal agreement’ would be translated into decision in writing in the following meetings. Multilaterals sessions

are specified well in advance and might need more discussions to come up with a compromise solution. In Nepal, continuity does not apply for the government delegate(s). In many cases, nomination is understood as an ‘incentive’ rather than obligation.

Between 2008 and 2016, Nepal represented negotiating blocs such as least developed countries (LDCs), or Group of 77 (G77) and China or Asia and the Pacific Region in some agenda items of SBs and CoPs. The then government nominated timely the concerned officials to participate in meetings. After the establishment of Climate Change Section in 2008 and Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) in early 2010, three joint secretaries led the division between 2010 and 2018. Establishment of the Ministry of Forests and Environment in 2018 facilitated officials to represent the negotiating blocs in 2023 and 2024 as well but participation has been discontinued. During 2019 and April 2024, three Joint-Secretaries have led CCMD. Non-participation of an official representing negotiating blocs in major meetings have questioned Nepal’s leadership in climate negotiation process.

Since April 2023, Nepal is the Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of 45 LDCs for three years. Now, Malawi is the chair of the LDC Group for climate change. In climate negotiations, the chair of the LDC group convene meeting normally twice a year (first and last quarters), taking note of the sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies and CoPs, to develop common positions on different negotiating issues. The LDC Chair speaks and negotiates as the leader of LDCs and submit statements to the UNFCCC. In the multilateral process, effort of a single country like Nepal might not bring the desired outcomes. Several parallel efforts might be required to influence the negotiating processes. For this, frequent change of negotiator(s) and discontinued participation would not benefit the country rather reduce trust.

As also flagged in previous notes, Nepal did not attend the ministerial conference of the LDC ministers held in Senegal before CoP28, 45th meeting of the LDC Expert Group (LEG) in February 2024, and LDC Group strategy

meeting in March 2024. It lost the opportunity to engage LDCs to voice and negotiate on the impacts of climate change in the mountains and people.

Visit and reflections of the UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres in Khumbu and Annapurna base camp and statement at the Parliament of Nepal before CoP28 drew international attention to further internationalise the impacts of climate change in the mountains, people and their livelihood. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal reiterated climate change impacts in the mountains, snow melting and glaciers retreating, and called for ‘compensation’ for the loss from climate- and water-induced disasters.

On 2 December 2023 during CoP28 at Dubai, Nepal organised a high-level roundtable discussion on “Call of the Mountains: Who saves us from the Climate Crisis?” under the chair and moderation of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal who urged, inter alia, to initiate a dialogue on mountain and climate change. This session was attended by the UN Secretary-General along with the Prime Minister of Andorra and climate negotiators of some mountain countries.

Two outcomes of the first global stocktake (GST1) at CoP28 on water, and mountains are considered recognition of our principal concerns for the time-being. Urging to enhance climate actions at home, GST1 recognised, inter alia,

the “critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring water systems and water-related ecosystems in delivering climate adaptation benefits and co-benefits ...” Para 181 of the CMA.5 (fifth session of the CoP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement) ‘requests the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to hold an expert dialogue on mountains and climate change at its sixtieth session (June 2024)’ which will be held at Bonn, UNFCCC Secretariat from 3 to 13 June 2024.

Participation and evidence-based sharing on climate change effects in the mountains, including vulnerabilities and risks at this expert dialogue may provide Nepal an opportunity to coordinate the mountain countries, explore possibilities to include mountains and climate change as an agenda of future SBSTA sessions and lead the negotiation process on mountain issues. Nepal may wish to make every effort to recognise ‘mountains and climate change’ a

theme of the LDCs and G77 and China and lead the theme. It takes time but it is possible. Recalling the previous efforts of mountain initiative (MI) launched by Nepal during the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in 2009, MI expert meeting at Kathmandu in 2010, sharing MI concerns through side-events from 2010 onwards for few years during the SBs and CoPs sessions, ICIMOD’s publications on climate change threats in the mountains, outcome of the international conference of mountain countries on climate change held at Kathmandu in April 2012, preparations to hold the first edition of Sagarmatha Dialogue in April 2020 on ‘climate change, mountains and the future of humanity’, and outcomes of the national events, continuity in participation, including of those who represent negotiating blocs, is most important and calls for special attention to reposition ‘forester’s image’ on environment and climate change.

The press conference of the Ministry of Forests

and Environment on 15 April 2024 about ‘International Expert Dialogue on Mountains, People and Climate Change’ to be held on 22-23 May 2024 provides hope to expedite a process to bring the mountain theme in the mainstream of climate change negotiations. This is a global agenda of mountainous countries. Being engaged in MI for nearly three years, Nepal needs to focus this theme beyond internationalising



it and take leadership in preparing science-based evidence to help negotiating blocs understand the real threats, vulnerabilities and risks from climate change to mountain people, ecosystems, natural resources, and infrastructures, and identify most pressing needs that require international priorities for urgent climate actions.

Recalling the statements at CoPs, Nepal may wish to select most prioritised thematic area(s) - water resources to project impacts on snow and glacier or river systems or drying up of water sources - and develop a permanent team for step-by-step negotiations to benefit her vulnerable and poor people from climate change regime. Practice of recording several issues at once and changing priorities along with the change of the delegate (s) may confuse partners in this herculean task of making climate negotiations in our favour.

QATAR AMIR'S STATE VISIT

Five Agreements

During the state visit of Qatar's Amir, several agreements were signed between Qatar and Nepal. The Amir returned home after completing a two-day visit, having inked multiple MoUs.

By A CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, has returned to his home country after completing a two-day state visit to Nepal. President Ramchandra Poudel personally went to the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) to bid farewell to the Qatari Amir. Unfortunately, for the family and well-wishers of Bipin Joshi, the visit ended in disappointment. Despite Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's earlier assurance that he would request the Qatari Amir to help secure the release of Nepalese student Bipin Joshi from Hamas custody, no mention was made of this matter after their meeting.

This visit marks the first time the Amir has visited Nepal since the two countries established diplomatic relations on January 21, 1977. Nepal opened its embassy in Doha on July 11, 2000, while Qatar established its embassy in Kathmandu in August 2011.

During his visit, the Amir of Qatar held bilateral meetings and engaged in discussions with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' this morning. They took the opportunity to assess the current state of relations between Nepal and Qatar, and both leaders discussed ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation and explore new avenues for partnership.

However, the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not mention anything about Qatar's facilitation in the release of Nepali student Bipin Joshi, who has been in Hamas custody since last October.

Following the discussions, the Prime Minister and Amir attended a signing ceremony for bilateral Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). The signing of these documents has opened up opportunities for increased cooperation and collaboration between the two nations in key areas.

Today, Nepal and Qatar have

signed six Agreements and MoUs. These include a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Fields of Culture and Arts between the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal and the Ministry of Culture of the State of Qatar, as well as an Agreement on Cooperation and Exchange of News between National News Agency, Nepal (RSS) and Qatar News Agency (QNA).

Additionally, there is a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Field of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the State of Qatar,





a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Youth and Sports between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the State of Qatar, a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Office of the Attorney General of Nepal and the Public Prosecution of the State of Qatar, and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Diplomatic Training and Education between The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) of the Government of Nepal and The Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

Two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were also signed between the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and Qatar Chamber today, further strengthening the collaboration between the private sectors of Nepal and Qatar. In a gesture of hospitality, the Prime Minister of Nepal hosted a luncheon in honor of the Amir of Qatar.

The diplomatic relations between Nepal and Qatar were established on January 21, 1977. Nepal took the initiative to establish its Em-

bassy in Doha, Qatar on July 11, 2000, while Qatar reciprocated by setting up its Embassy in Nepal in August 2011. Prior to this, the Qatari Ambassador residing in New Delhi, India was also accredited to Nepal.

Nepal and Qatar share similar perspectives on various international agendas and issues. Both countries are signatories to the Non-Aligned Movement and are active members of the United Nations. They have been working closely together in these international forums, playing pivotal roles in promoting peace, security, and development worldwide.

During the Fourth Labor Ministerial Joint Meeting held on December 2 and 3, 2021, in Kathmandu, the two countries agreed to review the Labor Agreement signed in 2005. However, the review process is yet to be initiated.

In 2005, an agreement pertaining to economic, trade, and technical collaboration was signed between the two countries. Following Nepal's agreement with Qatar in 2007 to eliminate dual taxation, Qatari investors have made investments in various sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure,

and energy.

Additionally, Nepal and Qatar signed a bilateral air service agreement in July 2002, and a collaboration agreement in the tourism sector in 2011. The private sectors of both countries have also engaged in cooperation, with the Nepal Chamber of Commerce and the Qatar Chamber of Commerce signing a bilateral cooperation agreement in 2018.

The Doha Bank, a major bank in Qatar, established its contact office in Kathmandu in December 2018. Furthermore, Nepali industrialists have formed an organization called the Nepali Business Association Qatar, which was registered with the Qatar Financial Authority in March 2021. Over the years, there have been several high-level visits between Nepal and Qatar, including an official visit by the first President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, in 2011, and a state visit by President Bidya Devi Bhandari from October 30 to November 2, 2018.

NAGDHUNGA TUNNEL BREAKTHROUGH Significant Milestone

The achievement of the Nagdhunga tunnel marks a significant milestone in the development of road infrastructure in Nepal, while also serving as a noteworthy advancement in the bilateral relations between Nepal and Japan.

By PARMITA SHRESTHA

The Nepal-Japan cooperation partnership has reached a significant milestone with the completion of the Nagdhunga Main Tunnel. This tunnel, funded by Japan, will be the first of its kind to incorporate modern technology.

It is a momentous occasion for Nepal's road infrastructure, as the country has been waiting for over a century to utilize tunnels since the construction of the first road tunnel in Churia of Hetauda a hundred years ago. While some shorter tunnels have been built along the road, such as the ones in Tamakoshi and Marsyangdi, the Nagdhunga Tunnel will be the first to accommodate large vehicles and provide all modern amenities.

The final two-meter stretch of the main tunnel was cleared using

explosives, marking a breakthrough in its construction. The tunnel is expected to be open to the public in approximately one year.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has played a significant role in Nepal's transportation sector development, including the Sindhuli Road project that connects Kathmandu with the eastern Terai region. JICA has also provided technical cooperation for urban transport management in Kathmandu, among other initiatives. The Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project is the first Japanese ODA Loan Project for Nepal's transport sector, with JICA offering a concessional loan assistance of 16.63 billion Japanese Yen.

The Loan Agreement was executed in 2016, and the commence-

ment of construction took place in 2019. Nagdhunga Tunnel is set to become the first mountain road tunnel in the country, with the objective of enhancing the road conditions surrounding Nagdhunga pass.

This will contribute to the establishment of a seamless transportation network and promote commercial activities between Kathmandu and other key areas in Nepal. The tunnel consists of two lanes and spans a total length of 2.69 km. It is equipped with essential facilities such as an evacuation tunnel, access road with a flyover, and toll booths.

Once operational, it is anticipated to alleviate traffic congestion along the Nagdhunga-Naubise road section, while also reducing air pollution, saving travel time, and min-



imizing traffic accidents. Following the breakthrough, it will take approximately one more year to complete the entire construction before the tunnel can be opened for public use.

In addition to its significance in terms of infrastructure, the Nagdhunga tunnel represents a milestone in Nepali efficiency, as it marks the first time that Nepalese manpower has been employed in the construction of a highway tunnel. This project serves as an exemplary model for knowledge transfer in highway tunnel construction. Kikuta Yutaka, the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, expressed his heartfelt anticipation of hearing many Nepali engineers in the future proudly share their experiences with Nagdhunga, as conveyed by the Japanese project manager.

In the presence of Prime

Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda,' Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Raghur Mahaseth, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal Kikuta Yutaka, and officials from the Department of Roads, Embassy of Japan, and JICA Nepal, the breakthrough of the main tunnel was celebrated officially.

Okubo Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, expressed his congratulations to the Government of Nepal, including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, and the Department of Roads, as well as the Consultant Nippon Koei and its partners, the contractor Hazama Ando Corporation, and the sub-contractors for their exceptional work, immense efforts, and dedication in achieving the successful breakthrough of the Nagdhunga Tunnel.

Pride of Country

The long-awaited breakthrough of the Nagdhunga Tunnel has finally been achieved. The excavation of the 2,688m-long main tunnel has been successfully finished. Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, extended his congratulations to all those involved, both Japanese and Nepalese, for overcoming numerous challenges to reach this significant milestone, stating, "You are the pride of the country."

The Nagdhunga Tunnel is Nepal's first mountainous traffic road tunnel. Valued at Rs 22 billion, with three-quarters of the funding provided by the government of Japan through highly concessional loans to the Government of Nepal, the construction was entrusted to Japanese engineering companies, who exerted every effort for the development of Nepal.

COVERSTORY

Upon completion of the remaining interior work, such as lining and installation of equipment, traffic convenience will be greatly enhanced. This will have a profound impact on the local economy as well. The construction of the tunnel began in 2019. Excavating a tunnel in the Himalayan mountainous region, which is still rising and has complex strata, presented an incredibly challenging task.

The interior of the evacuation and main tunnels faced unexpected floods and collapses repeatedly during the arduous excavation work. Outside the tunnel, heavy rainfall triggered landslides on the slope faces, while the Covid-19 pandemic further delayed progress.

The Nepalese teams have been working together with the Japanese teams to address technical obstacles on the site, drawing from their expertise gained from the construction of Sindhuli road, popularly known as BP highway, which was also backed by the Government of Japan. This endeavor presents a distinctive chance to impart advanced Japanese skills to the budding Nepalese engineers, ultimately benefiting the people of Nepal in the long run.

PM Prachanda at Inauguration

A significant number of Nepalese engineers and technicians have received training in Japan with the assistance of the Japanese government. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal himself attended the breakthrough



ceremony of the Nagdhunga Tunnel, highlighting Japan's crucial support to Nepal.

During the event, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal emphasized that the completion of the tunnel marked a significant infrastructural milestone for Nepal, contributing to the achievement of national development and road expansion objectives. He mentioned plans to assess tunnels suitable for Nepali soil based on the Nagdhunga Tunnel, envisioning Nepal's entry into the 'tunnel age'.

Prime Minister Dahal expressed confidence that the tunnel would alleviate traffic congestion, reduce road accidents, and serve as a solution to natural disasters like land-

slides during the monsoon season. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport Raghuraj Mahaseth hailed the breakthrough as a major success, pledging the government's full commitment to timely project completion. He extended gratitude to the government of Japan and JICA for their support in Nepal's infrastructure development.

The Nagdhunga-Sisnekhola tunnel connects Dhading, where the lower end is situated, to Nagdhunga in Kathmandu, the higher end.

Japan has played a significant role in transforming Nepalese society through its unique support in various sectors such as hydropower, drinking water, disaster risk management, water resources, education, earthquake, agriculture, aviation, health, and human resource development. One notable example is the Kulekhani Hydropower project, which is the only storage project in Nepal supported by Japan, ensuring a stable supply of electricity during dry seasons. Additionally, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been a major partner in the construction of the Tanahu Hydropower project.

Another remarkable contribution is the construction of the Banepa-Sindhuli road, which has revolutionized Nepal's road sector by



COVERSTORY

In 2016, the Japanese government agreed to extend a soft loan of Rs15.28 billion for the construction of a tunnel, which will eliminate the need to take the circuitous route over the western rim of the Valley. This route serves as the primary overland connection between the Capital and the southern plains.

In the words of Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, Yutaka, the assistance provided by Japan, funded by the taxes of the Japanese people, is not considered charity but rather an investment in Nepal's promising future. This sentiment is further emphasized by the label "From the People of Japan" on Japanese ODA projects. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Nepal and Japan, the contributions of the Japanese government have been greatly appreciated for their significant impact on Nepal's development sector.



significantly reducing travel time for passengers from eastern Nepal. This improvement has not only facilitated transportation but also supported the commercialization of agriculture, thereby enhancing the livelihoods of the people. JICA has also provided financial support for the construction of a water treatment plant, which treats water from the Melamchi Project and supplies it to the Kathmandu Valley.

In the field of healthcare, Japan's support is evident through the establishment of the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Maharajgunj, the first medical college in Nepal. This institution has been instrumental in producing medical professionals, including doctors and specialists. Furthermore, Japan has contributed to the reconstruction of school buildings across Nepal after the devastating earthquake, including a new building for Bir Hospital.

Japan's involvement in the agriculture and horticulture sector is notable, with support provided through the implementation of the "one village one product" schemes. Additionally, Japan has helped enhance the quality of Nepal's civil services by offering JDS scholar-

ships. Moreover, Japan has equipped Tribhuvan International Airport with modern navigation equipment, ensuring safer operations for aircraft.

Overall, Japan's unique support in various sectors has made a significant impact on the development and transformation of Nepalese society.

Upon the completion of the project, travelers on the Nagdhunga-Naubise route will have the advantage of bypassing nineteen hairpin bends and sharp curves along an 8 km stretch of the road. A 2015 preliminary study revealed that it currently takes approximately 34 minutes to traverse the 8 km section using the existing road alignment.



On The Breakthrough Of The Nagdunga Main Tunnel - For The Development Of Nepal



BY: KIKUTA YUTAKA

On 15 April 2024, the main tunnel of the Nagdunga project was finally penetrated. This is a symbol of Japan's advanced technology and indomitable spirit, along with the cooperation of the Nepali side. It is not the words or the promises that matter, but the delivery. Japan is a country that keeps its words. This is an infrastructure project worth Rs 22 billion, three-quarters of which Japan is supporting through highly concessional loans to the Government of Nepal.

This is Nepal's first traffic road tunnel, and when it is completed after interior work such as lining, connecting the equipment, the convenience of traffic will be greatly improved, which will be extremely significant for the promotion of the local economy as well. I would like to express my sincere

congratulations and respect to all those involved in overcoming numerous difficulties to reach this point.

To begin with, digging a tunnel in the Himalayan mountainous region, which is still growing and has intricate strata, is an unimaginably difficult challenge. The inside of the evacuation and main tunnels are repeatedly hit by unexpected floods and collapses during the extremely difficult excavation work. Outside the tunnels, heavy rains caused landslides on the slope faces and the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the progress. In

addition, there were also human factors such as securing the supply of materials and the understanding of the local community. Against this backdrop, the Japanese companies that undertook the work continued to take on technical challenges, based on their experience in constructing the Sindhuli road, known as BP highway and on the belief that it would surely benefit the Nepali people in the future. For the Nepali engineers who are

working with them, this is a unique opportunity to be transferred advanced Japanese skills on site. I remember that my heart was moved to hear from the Japanese project manager that he was looking forward to hearing many Nepali engineers in the future say that they had experienced Nagdunga.

Japan has been promoting co-operation projects with the Government

of Nepal in various sectors, such as education, health, and institution building to improve governance, as well as in the infrastructure sector, with JICA as the implementing agency. I believe that one of the strengths of Japan's economic cooperation is that it has a variety of schemes that can deliver assistance not only between governments, but also through various actors.

In the past one year, I signed five new projects for the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP), which provides direct assistance



to rural communities, and the Embassy conducted 16 handover ceremonies, which had been stalled due to the Covid-19. Japanese NGOs with support of the Embassy are also engaged in steady activities in various regions and in various fields. Cooperation with international organizations has also proved effective, especially in this country with logistical challenges. A notable example is the delivery of Japanese vaccines to various parts of Nepal in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic with the cooperation of UNICEF, and the emergency response to the Jajarkot earthquake in November last year, which was made possible thanks to a cooperation project on the spot with UNDP.

So why does Japan support Nepal? It is because Japan is convinced that it can be useful for the development of this country.

As both are mountainous countries and have faced the harsh natural environment since the beginning of time, they share many common challenges, including natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters as well as climate change. Nepal can learn a lot from Japan's experience such as post-war reconstruction, democratic development, and disaster management. The rapidly growing presence of Nepali in Japan today is a valuable support for Japan's declining birth-rate and ageing economy and society, but I sincerely hope that the knowledge and experience gained in this context will also be utilized for Nepal's future. The Nepali in Japan who came to assist the victims of the Noto Peninsula earthquake at the beginning of this year said that it was just a way of saying thanks for the Japanese support after the Gorkha earthquake in 2015. We have a bilateral relationship where we find mutual benefit in helping each other.

This year, 2024, marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's entry into the Colombo Plan in 1954, when it stepped from being a defeated country to a country extending assistance. The year 2026 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal. Towards this new height, I would like to continue my efforts to promote

development cooperation and personnel exchanges including visits by dignitaries.

In this context, I cannot help but hope that the people of Nepal will make good use of Japan's assistance. I often receive words of gratitude from Nepali people that as a long-standing friend, Japan supports Nepal from disinterested motives. I, however, respond each time that Japan is interested in Nepal, Japan's interest is peace, stability, and development of Nepal. I



also tell them that Japan's assistance, which is funded by the blood taxes of the Japanese people, is not charity but an investment in Nepal's bright future.

You may have noticed that Japanese ODA is marked 'From the People of Japan'. That is my work. When I was a young administrative officer in the Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), I came up with this idea to convey the fact that it is the goodwill of the Japanese people that supports Japan's ODA.

The cooperation of the Nepali federal and regional governments and communities is essential to ensure that the assistance provided by Japan for the sake of Nepal is not wasted. I would like to ask for the cooperation of all concerned.

Kikuta Yutaka is the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal

TBM'S POPULARITY

Upper Arun And Dudhkoshi Next

MD Ghising says Upper Arun And Dudhkoshi Hydropower Projects Will Use TBM, With Parallel Construction Of Other Infrastructure

By A CORRESPONDENT

With two successful models of its use, everyone is taking about the use of Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) to dig tunnels. However, hydropower and irrigation projects are not only digging tunnels. They involve other equally important construction.

Delay in other construction can make successful use of TBM irrelevant. Two tunnels are examples. With his vision, Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity, agrees to use TBM with conditions to start other work in parallel. This kind of visionary thinking makes MD Ghising a successful manager of Nepal's largest public utility.

Looking at two successful experiences of using Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) to dig the tunnel in time and schedule without much hasel, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) Kul Man Ghising has also started using TBM.

However, Mr. Ghising does not want to repeat the situation of Bheri-Babair Diversion and Marin Diversion. Though the tunnel of Bheri-Babai Diversion was completed three years ago, it remains unused in the absence of other works like canal, hydel and diversion.

Similarly, the construction of Marin Diversion is on the verge of breakthrough. The process of construction of diversion dam, hydropower plant and transmission line has not yet started.

In order to learn the experience of using TBM and observe the work, the high-level team from NEA recently visited the Marin Diversion project sites.

The team discussed the technical aspects of TBM, problems and challenges in its use, geological complexity, cost and time, quality of work, efficiency and other issues after discussing with the project management and construction experts.

Mr. Ghising, Executive Director of the Authority, said that the

neling by TBM at Bheri Babai and Sunkoshi Marin.

“Since the length of Sunkoshi Marine Diversion and Dudhkoshi main tunnel is the same, we have advanced the process by digging it by TBM, there is a problem with the access road to reach the TBM in Upper Arun, TBM will also



time taken to dig the tunnels of the two irrigation projects using TBM was short and the work was of good quality, so the two hydropower projects with large tunnels will use this technology.

Ghising said that as the financial management of Upper Arun and Dudhkoshi hydropower projects has reached the final stage and they are about to invite tenders for construction, the tender documents are being prepared to take into account the problems and experiences of tun-

be used in the project where it is possible to bring the machine,” Ghising said.

“Although it looks a bit expensive in terms of one-time investment, it is seen that the use of TBM will be cheaper and more effective considering the fact that when digging a tunnel through TBM, there is no need to build other access tunnels, less environmental and social issues, and less time required for construction.” He mentioned that the overall management of the project

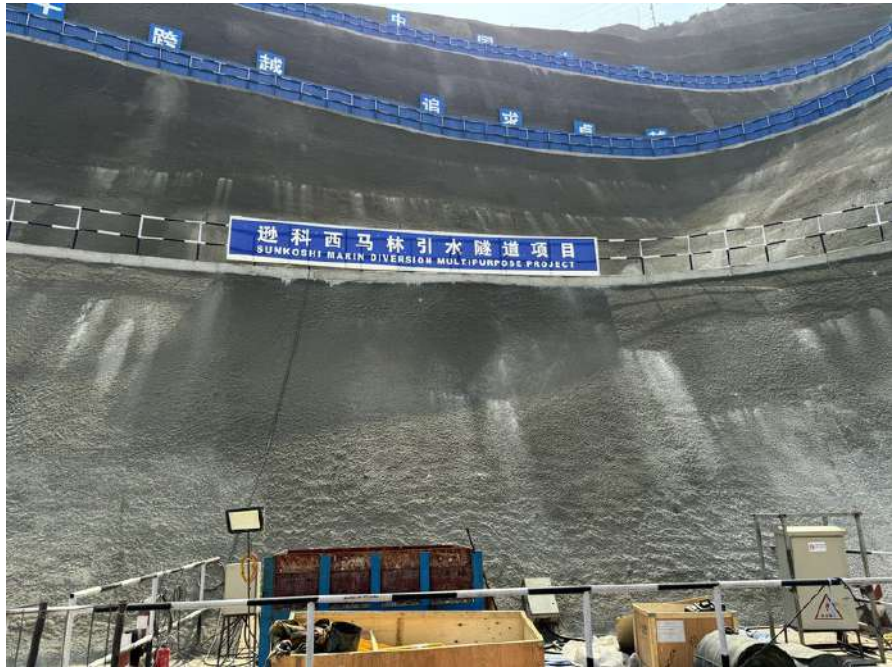
should be done at the beginning so that the tunnel construction can be completed quickly by using TBM, but other structures cannot be completed.

As the Nepal Electricity Authority has started preparations to use Tunnel Boring Meshing (TBM) for tunnelling of the 1063 MW Upper Arun and 635 MW Dudhkoshi hydropower projects, the objective of the mission is to understand the technical and other issues of TBM.

After the successful and effective tunnelling of Bheri Babai and Sunkoshi Marin Diversion Multi-Purpose Project by TBM, this technology will also be used in Upper Arun and Dudhkoshi Hydropower Projects.

The length of the main tunnel of the Upper Arun Semi Reservoir Hydropower Project is 8.4 km. The length of the tunnel of the Dudhkoshi Reservoir Hydropower Project is 13 km. The tunnels of the hydropower projects, which take most of the construction time, are currently being constructed by drilling and blasting using explosives.

A team consisting of Executive Director Kulman Ghising, Managing Director of Upper Arun Hydro-Electric Ltd. Fadindraraj Joshi,



Managing Director of Dudhkoshi Jalvidyut Company Ltd. Bimal Gurung inspected the Sunkoshi Marin project site and was briefed about the TBM excavated tunnel.

The length of the main tunnel is 13 km and the length of the two access tunnels to be constructed is 5 km. The total length of tunnels to be constructed in the Dudhkoshi project is 18 km. There is no need to construct adits when excavating with TBM. The approximately 7 km access road needed to reach the adit tunnel is not required.

Under the leadership of Upper Arun World Bank and Dudhkoshi Asian Development Bank, the construction is progressing by attracting investments. At the price of 2019, the estimated cost of 1 billion 750 million dollars (about 2 trillion 14 billion) including interest during the construction period and price increase will be raised in Upper Arun, 70 percent of which will be financed by debt and 30 percent by equity.

In the co-financing led by the World Bank, a plan has been made to manage the financial management by raising funds from international financial institutions and domestic banks and financial institutions.

The estimated cost of the Dudhkoshi project is 2 billion 200 million US dollars (approximately Rs. 2 trillion 25 billion) including interest during the construction period. Of this, 1 billion 680 million US dollars will be raised through debt and the rest through equity to manage the finances.

Under the leadership of ADB, various international financial institutions will invest one billion dollars in concessional loans in the project. Of this, ADB has committed to invest \$550 million in concessional loans for the project.



STRIFE IN NEPAL'S ENERGY SECTOR: Unlocking the Power of Hydropower



BY: PRABAL ADHIKARI

A dark shadow of sham patriotism in harnessing natural resources for hydropower looms over Nepal as it prepares for implementation of Energy Development Roadmap and Action Plan, 2023-2035, which envisions the export of 15,000 MW of surplus electricity to the neighboring countries of India and Bangladesh. Since the dry season of Nepal undergoes severe decline in hydropower production attributable to global climate change phenomena, especially the glacial retreat of our Himalayas, the power sector immune of the country cannot be considered good owing to the absence of its self-healing capacity. Around 600 MW of power deficit and, in terms of energy, around 40 percent of the daily electricity consumption of the country during these dry season months are fulfilled through import from India. Nepal's present installed capacity tending to touch 3,000 MW, around 95 percent of which is hydro-based, has introduced energy insecurity in the country in terms of electricity suggesting the state and the private sector that they need to ramp up their efforts for more capacity addition in upcoming years. It clearly unfolds the reality that more resilience and extra efforts are to be exerted on the supply side to produce encouraging results for downsizing the quantum of power import from India during the lean-hydro season. Given that geopolitical dimensions are always inherent in some forms of the bilateral system between any two countries, the reason being that absolute diplomacy doesn't exist anywhere in the world, Nepal should strategize itself in terms of energy security as a critical component of national security to overcome the ongoing setbacks in our demand-supply chain of power before they emerge as major upheavals to destabilize overall economic performance of the country. We should rejoice the accomplishment of the private sector in hydropower production in the country since the Electricity Act 1992 and the subsequent Hydropower Development Policy 2001 invited and encouraged private sector, both domes-

tic and foreign, to come into the hydropower industry. It made a visible difference to the sector though the stride was not completely bereft of turbulences in various realms such as policy fragility, fund crunch and infrastructure constraints. We should admire and recognize the accomplishment of the private sector and encourage them to be further ready to embark on the next chapter of their journey for their increased participation in larger scale hydropower projects for promoting self-reliance in electricity.

Nepal also needs to fast-forward its pace of hydropower generation to accelerate the nation's net zero agenda with 2045 as the benchmark year for achieving the same. It means that we need ample hydropower generation to achieve twin objectives of ensuring energy security and energy transition. We can't have leverage to spend a longer time in this activity because we all know that the impact of climate change is already knocking at the door and our hydropower resources are highly vulnerable to it. Furthermore, other renewable energy sources and technologies may outperform hydropower in both cost and time in future. With the advancement in technologies and other innovative measures including, inter alia, labor economy, efficient process and decrease in material costs, the price of solar electricity is poised to continue precipitous drop, whereas its variability leading to output fluctuations and possible grid outages may be fairly supplemented by pairing it with battery storage system, for which the world is striving hard to make it financially feasible in future.

Government of India has already embarked the supportive initiative for installing battery energy storage systems to fight intermittencies caused by excessive integration of solar and wind power into its grid by invoking financial instruments such as concessional green finance accessed by itself and the viability gap funding up to 40 percent of the capital cost of the project, with the

condition that the project must be commissioned within 18 to 24 months. Towards this end, it has already issued National Framework for Promoting Energy Storage Systems.

However, it is deplorable to note that Nepal has not declared energy (electricity) crisis in the country in spite of our dependence on the Indian market by about 40 percent of our daily electricity consumption in its dry season. If so, the legislature could pass sunset laws to be enforced by the Government so that less bureaucracy and fast-tracked decisions would accelerate the power sector activities until the crisis prevails and some laws, particularly pertaining to forest clearance and land acquisition – thought to be more burdensome and time-consuming, could be replaced by simplified procedures or exceptional rules by adopting the temporary suspension of those laws or rules which create obstacles in expeditious development of hydropower projects or transmission infrastructures within a stipulated time. At this moment, besides solar power promotion, at least, Government may create favorable environment for those hydropower projects which have already entered into implementation phase through necessary, positive interventions required to fast-commission the projects and it may even call



for the steps up to the extension of Required Commercial Operation Date (RCOD) stipulated in the power purchase agreements since they may trigger penalty provisions to the projects. Financing agencies are reluctant to make disbursement of funds to them in case RCOD is not extended, further slowing down the projects without required funds on time.

However, it is irony that more installed capacity of hydropower plants added to address the energy portfolio of the lean-hydro season means that it also leads to a difficult situation having to cope with extra power surplus in the country during the high-hydro season. We can visualize the installed capacity effect on the surplus front in Nepal's context through the lens of an operational power plant, say, Upper Tamakoshi Hydroelectric Project, Peaking Run-of-River by scheme, which is the largest capacity plant in Nepal with the units of total 456

MW installed capacity. The seasonal impact has so drastically diminished its operational performance that the present output in the last week of March is just 50 to 65 MW on average and, energy wise, it may, upon estimation, meet only about 65 percent of the monthly contract energy as tabulated in the Power Purchase Agreement during the ongoing Nepali month of Chaitra and this energy output will be about 11 percent less than that in the corresponding month of the previous year. Interestingly, this figure of 11 percent exactly matches with the Government of India's report that about 11 percent fall of hydro generation in India was recorded in the first half of the fiscal year 2023-24. It speaks of the truth that Nepal's hydropower generation and consumption pattern urges us to cope with two contradictory situations in a same year - power surplus during wet season requiring cross-border market for power export and power deficit

during dry season requiring power import from the neighboring countries.

Now-a-days, many sections of the Nepalese society seem to perceive that Nepal has already become a power surplus country and it is doing a great charity or beneficence to India by the act of exporting green power to India. It's merely a wrong perception. India's power system is so terrifically immense in comparison to ours

that its peak demand met in the past is about two lakh forty thousand Megawatts, which is expected to reach up to two lakh fifty thousand Megawatts in the period from April to June, 2024, as per an advisory issued recently by Government of India to all generation companies including Independent Power Producers for timely import of coal for blending purposes and maximizing production in captive coal mines. If the share of the quantum of power, 690 MW, likely to be exported during the wet season from Nepal to India based on the project wise approval of Government of India received so far is calculated, it is just around 0.29 % of India's peak demand. It is, of course, just a drop in the ocean. However, it is so big for us that had we not been able to export this power to India in the last wet season months, we would have lost the energy revenue of around 15 billion Nepali Rupees, thereby issuing non-dispatch orders to the pow-



er generators and spilling the valuable water in rivers in vain. That is why cross border power trading should be considered as mutually beneficial act meant for fostering power sector cooperation between the countries.

Power export to India has been pilloried by some so-called ultra-patriotists in Nepal. They advocate that electricity should be solely consumed inside our country and it should not be exported at all. However, in Nepal's case, until Nepal enters into round-the-year power surplus, the present situation of seasonal surplus and seasonal deficit in homegrown power will continue to exist for at least 4-5 years, if everything goes well. Currently, only the generation projects of around 3,500 MW, mostly from the private sector and hydropower, are under construction after achieving the financial closure, whereas generation projects of around 3,700 MW have been seemingly loitering in search of funds or implementing agencies. At any situations, when Nepal strives to increase its hydro-installed capacity considering its dry season deficit, system produces more and more surplus power which makes power export inevitable. If it remains unsold in the external market, the story does not end there. It will be followed by financial upheavals and its waves will destroy the environment of further hydropower development. First, it will shatter NEA's financial status since it, as an off-taker, has signed long-term Take-or-Pay basis PPAs with IPPs. Second, a struggle for IPPs' survival awaits when NEA reaches a climax of financial hardship to make payments. Third, a bleak picture surrounds the banks and other financial institutions which will be deprived of loan-and-interest payments. Fourth, country's whole economy will start sweating in havoc because hydropower projects are highly cap-

ital-intensive industries and socio-economic agitations and cascading effect will lie in the avalanche of widespread social agitations because many people have bought shares of hydropower projects with the reckoning that they all lay gold eggs. It is not important to consider who speaks what, but the reality is that electricity is a product and all products need market. When our domestic market of electricity is small and limited and cannot grow overnight, we must sell our product in the external market. Simple economics is enough to understand it; no advanced calculus is required to explain the same. Hence cross border power trading is of paramount importance through several perspectives including energy security, energy transition and economic prosperity.

However, a dark side of geopolitics looms over South Asia as we are moving forward for seamless power trading in the region. This geopolitics introduces strategic interpretation of electricity and its trans-boundary trading. Hydropower is harnessed from water resources where national interests may not always coincide, especially when trans-boundary water governance issues arise. Then, bilateral cooperation becomes difficult because of the proclivity of the countries for their national interests. Such trans-boundary river issues, national security concerns, border disputes and political differences, inter alia, have been eroding the prospects of cooperation in power sector and that is why South Asia, despite being rich in diverse natural resources, has continued to be one of the least integrated regions in the world. Coming closer, in the BBIN sub-region itself, geopolitical-instincts are hovering over cross-border power trading between India and the neighboring countries. Indian policies have targeted Chinese-owned or controlled hydro-

power projects in Nepal to repel the Chinese investors from the sector by restricting the purchase of electricity by India from such projects, without naming China but still giving a clear message to a third country, land-bordered to India and yet not having a bilateral agreement on power sector cooperation with her. If it doesn't sound appealing, relaxation to it is couched in the provisions by means of consultation by the Designated Authority of India with Ministry of Power and Ministry of External Affairs, thereby providing a silver lining which may be activated in Nepal's context through proper diplomacy, mutually beneficial cooperation and impactful dialogues with India.

In the ongoing geopolitics in this part of Asia, China-India tension, of course, is a prime factor for determining peace and stability in general and advancing economic agenda in particular. Since India feels security challenge from China in the light of animosity which welled up since 1962 China-India war, India continues to consider China as a potential threat.

Dr. Ivan Lidarev, a foreign policy analyst and expert on Asia security, while writing for *The Diplomat*, has pointed out in his article that the 1962 war represented an important watershed in India's foreign and security policy. Against this backdrop, also hav-



ing agreed with the situation that many Chinese developers have been involved in the development of different hydropower projects in Nepal, we are to bound to understand India's reluctance to consider all land-bordered countries equally while framing its eligibility criteria to import power from the neighboring countries.

However, there is room for positive thought that that Nepal can look forward to signing power sector cooperation agreement, except three existing MOUs, one day between China and India since some sort of treaties or agreements on the trans-boundary rivers like Brahmaputra, Indus and Sutlej, though it's our wish only, could help ameliorate their water conflict. Along with India's ambitious initiative of 'One Sun One World One Grid', we can also hope that China will be joining the International Solar Alliance one day as India's Minister for Power and Renewable Energy, Mr. R. K. Singh, stated

that China was welcome to be part of the Alliance, as the membership of the 116-country compact was open to all. On top of that, as an option stated in India's own power import/export procedures, Nepal can also skip the eligibility criteria for power import by India from the power plants located in the neighboring countries by politically and diplomatically convincing India that Nepal deserves the relaxation of the restrictive provision for various reasons including river-based treaties, power trading agreements and, over all, centuries-old friendly relations which are well understandable to both countries.

In this context, India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishanker's opinion expressed on a recent podcast with Saurav Dwivedi, an Indian journalist, looks brilliant. He has emphasized the need for creation of permanent collaboration between the countries to prevail over politics which will go up and down in neighborhood

and, he thinks, that is part of how politics takes place. His words—we need to find solution beyond politics — are quite relevant in our context since it will underpin the relevance of beyond-politics solution in fostering broader economic outcomes through mutually-beneficial energy partnership between Nepal and India. Yes, Nepal's hydropower will

be valuable to India in its mission toward clean energy transition and decarbonization of the economy. Likewise, Nepal should keep in mind that cross border power trading with India has garnered significant benefits to Nepal also, especially in alleviating power cuts during the dry season months and exporting surplus power after meeting domestic demand of the country during the wet season months for making money of it, which will further grow in future vis-à-vis Nepal-India long-term power trade agreement carrying ten-thousand-Megawatt milestone. This is called cooperation which should go on without interruption. In cooperation, there is no need to abandon national interests, but still both sides can win through a trust-building process.

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Private Sector Investment: Opportunity And Challenges In Nepal



BY: SANDIP POUDEL

The private sector plays a crucial role in driving economic development, both domestically and globally. In Nepal, it accounts for a significant 81 percent of the national GDP and is responsible for generating around 87 percent of employment opportunities. Through innovation, the adoption of new technologies, business management expertise, entrepreneurship, and efficient allocation of financial and human resources, the private sector contributes to economic growth. These contributions ultimately enhance production and productivity in the market for goods and services.

However, despite these impressive contributions, there is often dissatisfaction and discord among the private sector, government, and consumers. This can lead to a blame game, with the private sector feeling marginalized and unfairly targeted as the sole cause of economic issues. Such conflicts directly hinder the creation of a conducive business ecosystem and environment.

Nepal, despite its small market size for large investments, offers significant strategic market opportunities. These opportunities arise from its close proximity to emerging global markets like India and Bangladesh, as well as its potential as a future business transit route between Nepal and China. The large populations of India and China could also become future markets for the private sector. Globally, there is a growing trend of rising labor costs, coupled with the increasing use of artificial intelligence and robotics in the industrial sector, which directly impacts labor forces in various ways. Compared to countries like Vietnam, the Philippines, and Bangladesh, Nepalese labor costs remain relatively low. Sectors, which include tourism, hydroelectricity, infrastructure, mega projects, outsourcing services, information technology, agriculture, food processing, herbs and medicinal products, as well as the hotel and hospitality industry, hold great potential for investment. Additionally, sectors like medical education, transportation and warehousing, and financial markets, including foreign direct investment, are also promising areas for private sector investment.

Despite the various opportunities available, there are several questions that need to be addressed. Why are private sector entities hesitant to increase their investments? Why is foreign direct investment not growing as

expected? Why is our economic diplomacy failing to attract foreign direct investment effectively? Do we have the capability to understand the needs and desires of private investors? Are the overall governmental mechanisms, such as bureaucracy, rules, policies, and instruments, conducive and professional towards the private sector in establishing a favorable business ecosystem at the macro level? Do we have policy consistency?

In general, the private sector primarily expects two things from the government and society: a favorable investment environment and a business-friendly ecosystem. They also seek ease in repatriating investments or profits once their business ventures are completed. However, these two issues remain significant obstacles, leading to a lack of confidence among private sector entities to increase their investments through foreign direct investment (FDI). Issues arise from project selection, terms and conditions, agreement and implementation modalities, registration and taxation, as well as nationalistic debates in our context. As a result, investors feel demotivated to invest. The process of resolving these issues involves lengthy procedures, involving different departments, bureaucracy, and negotiations with politicians behind closed doors.

There have been numerous instances of hydro projects being delayed in Nepal, serving as evidence of the challenges faced in the country's business environment. Issues such as tax-related problems, labor management, and trade union conflicts persist one after another. These factors have even led to the closure of a major garment industry in Nepal. The case of NCEL, with its profit extraction and investment withdrawal from Nepal, exemplifies the impact on the investment climate for the private sector. It is important to note that the government and politicians should not be solely blamed for these issues; the private sector also bears responsibility for their corporate governance systems. While profit maximization is their primary objective, they should refrain from engaging in unethical business practices.

It is crucial for them to foster a corporate culture based on ethics, consumer and societal loyalty, and fulfill their corporate social responsibility to contribute to the development of a business-friendly ecosystem. Evidence suggests that large private sector entities and business houses often play significant roles in corruption, the misappropri-

ation of public assets and land, and tax-related problems. Financial institutions, despite obtaining substantial soft loans for inclusive economic development from development organizations, frequently impose exorbitant interest rates on marginalized sectors and lack transparency in their lending processes.

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supply (MoICS) has a dual role within its portfolio: overseeing the industry sector and promoting its growth. Effective administration and promotion require distinct skill sets, knowledge, and approaches. It is impractical to expect one individual or officer to effectively manage both responsibilities with equal proficiency. Regrettably, our bureaucratic culture tends to prioritize administrative duties over promotional efforts. Upon examination of policies, laws, regulations, procedures, and guidelines, it is apparent that they are more focused on control rather than fostering growth. The prevailing mindset within the bureaucracy is not conducive or supportive towards the private sector. Internationally, bureaucratic cultures often thrive on intricate rules and regulations, which burden investors with unnecessary hurdles.

Entrepreneurs, already grappling with the complexities of running a business, prefer to concentrate on their core activities and production. These obstacles not only raise production costs but also hamper productivity.

In my opinion, it is essential to have clear role divisions, with specific departments dedicated to administration and promoting the private sector, including attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in various sectors, each with their own set of objectives. This allocation of responsibilities would encourage a more collaborative business environment through joint efforts between the government and private sector, ultimately fostering a more conducive business ecosystem.

At present, the primary responsibility for policy advocacy and demand lies with business member organizations and associations. This highlights the necessity for increased involvement from governmental bodies to ensure the development of policies that genuinely support and enhance private sector expansion.

Looking ahead, it is imperative that inclusive eco-

nomics development becomes a top priority, with a focus on empowering youth, women, returnees, and marginalized communities in rural areas through entrepreneurship development programs. This includes providing access to business services, affordable financial services, business information, marketing support, product branding assistance, technological resources, and innovative business development models like incubation and bootcamps. Currently, many initiatives supported by development partners are concentrated in Kathmandu, overlooking the untapped resources and potential value in rural areas.

It is of utmost importance to expedite and extend these programs to rural areas in order to cultivate an entrepreneurial culture and

attain inclusive economic growth by specifically targeting women groups. Regrettably, it is evident that only a select few have been reaping the benefits of these initiatives in urban areas.

In conclusion, the private sector plays a pivotal role in propelling economic development, making significant contributions to GDP and job creation in Nepal. Despite its significance, there is often discord

between the private sector, government, and consumers, impeding the establishment of a conducive business environment. Efforts are required to address these challenges and establish a favorable investment climate, with a focus on transparency, policy consistency, and corporate governance. Both the private sector and government must fulfill their responsibilities in fostering a business-friendly ecosystem, promoting ethical practices and corporate social responsibility. Ultimately, collaborative endeavors between the private sector, government, and development partners are indispensable in achieving inclusive economic growth and creating a conducive environment for business expansion in Nepal.

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Solar Irrigation System

The three-day SoLAR Global Science-Policy Forum organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Kathmandu has attracted the participation of more than 200 scientists, policy makers, and experts from 20 countries

By KESHAB POUDEL

The issue of climate change poses a significant challenge globally, particularly for countries in the South that are experiencing extensive climate variability and facing high risks due to inadequate climate preparedness and heightened fragility. To address this concern, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) convened an international conference on Socially Inclusive Solar Irrigation Systems aimed at mitigating these risks.

The SoLAR Global Science-Policy Forum, inaugurated by Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, commenced in Kathmandu, where solar irrigation systems were extensively shared and deliberated upon. Minister Basnet emphasized in his opening speech that Nepal's water resource policies prioritize solar irrigation as a means to enhance productivity and ensure food security.

Expressing gratitude to IWMI for organizing the international conference on solar irrigation in Nepal, Minister Basnet expressed optimism that this initiative would significantly benefit farmers worldwide, particularly in South Asia. Dr.

Danielle Meuwly, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal, highlighted the importance of the 3-day Global Forum on Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience in South Asia, emphasizing the valuable discussions held among 150 stakeholders on the

issues that persist. The reliability and scalability of solar irrigation have not yet reached their full potential. Therefore, the organization of the three-day international conference by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and its partners, the Global

Forum, under the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) funded project SoLAR, is of great importance.

Dr. Mark Smith, Director General of IWMI, has emphasized that solar irrigation systems can play a crucial role in sustainable development, enhancing resilience in water, energy, food, and



role of solar applications in agriculture and the exchange of ideas and strategies for a sustainable future.

Despite the potential to explore groundwater for irrigation, farmers are encountering challenges in utilizing it due to the lack of electricity and the high operational costs associated with diesel-powered water pumps. Nepal's experience over the past few years has shown that solar-powered pump sets can help overcome these obstacles. However, concerns about the excessive extraction of groundwater in vulnerable ar-

climate.

He highlighted that IWMI's solar project in South Asia is leading the way towards sustainable solutions, ambitious policies, and inclusive investments. Keshab Kumar Sharma, Secretary of WECS in Nepal, stressed the importance of science-policy dialogues like this conference in promoting global cooperation and bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and implementation. Sharma emphasized that recognizing solar irrigation as a priority is essential to ensuring food security.

Dr. Manohara Khadka, the country representative of IWMI, warmly welcomed the delegation members and emphasized the significance of international conferences on solar irrigation systems. She highlighted that solar-powered irrigation technologies are beneficial for women farmers as they are user-friendly and help save time, ensuring energy for water security.

During her presentation, Dr. Darshini Ravindranath, the project leader of SoLAR at IWMI, discussed the solarization of agriculture in South Asia, considering the rapidly changing climate.

Dr. Pema Gyamtsho, the Director General of ICIMOD-Nepal, expressed that solar irrigation systems are a practical solution for irrigation in South Asia. He mentioned that ICIMOD has been actively involved in this field.

Asghar Ali Helepoto, the Chief of the Water Resources Section at the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives in Pakistan, also shared his thoughts on the program. Additionally, Sunil Kumar Ambast, the Chairman of the Central Groundwater Board in the Government of India, and Munira Sultana, the Chairman of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority of Bangladesh, spoke about



the benefits of solar-powered irrigation.

Shisher Shrestha, the country lead for SoLAR in Nepal, emphasized that solar irrigation is a proven climate-smart solution. He emphasized the importance of collaboration with policymakers to enhance its scalability, inclusivity, and sustainability. This approach can transform farmers' livelihoods while actively mitigating and adapting to climate change.

In Kathmandu, over 150 stakeholders have gathered to discuss and strategize on the implementation of inclusive and sustainable solar irrigation. This important event, known as the Global Science-Policy Forum,

is being organized by the Swiss Development Cooperation. Dr. Danielle Meuwly, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal, expressed her support for the project "Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience in South Asia" through a tweet.

The need for transitioning to solar panels in the irrigation sector is evident, considering the declining process and the importance of energy security. With more than 200 participants from approximately 20 countries, the three-day forum aims to address this issue and explore potential solutions.

Irrigation has proven to be an effective strategy in building resilience, particularly in South Asia. It has helped mitigate the impact of changing rainfall patterns, improved crop yields, and provided opportunities for livelihood diversification. However, access to irrigation remains a challenge for women and marginalized farmers due to various factors.

Climate change poses a significant global challenge, particularly for countries in the Global South. These countries face climate variability on a large scale and are highly vulnerable due to low levels of climate readiness and high levels of fragility. The agricultural sector, in particular, is at risk due to its dependence on weather and climatic condi-





tions. Climate change directly affects crop yields, livestock, soil and water resources, thereby impacting food and livelihood security.

At the same time, agriculture contributes significantly to Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) both directly (through on-farm emissions related to production, such as diesel irrigation) and indirectly (through changes in land use due to agricultural expansion).

Irrigation has proven to be an effective strategy for building resilience in many regions of the Global South, particularly in South Asia. It has helped reduce vulnerability to changing rainfall patterns, increase crop yields, and enable the diversification of livelihoods. However, there are various factors that limit access to irrigation, especially for women and marginalized farmers.

In certain parts of East/West Africa and MENA, there is a lack of accessible, clean, and affordable energy for irrigation purposes. In South Asia, irrigation is becoming increasingly energy-intensive, with groundwater irrigation alone accounting for 11-12% of the region's agricultural emissions.

Solar energy, specifically the use of solar irrigation pumps (SIPs), provides a reliable alternative to unreliable power supply and expensive, high-emission diesel pumps. There is emerging evidence that demonstrates the transformative potential of SIPs

in terms of livelihoods, agri-food systems, and empowering women and marginalized groups in climate-resilient irrigation practices that create opportunities for livelihoods. Communities that have adopted these systems have reported higher crop yields, longer growing seasons, and increased income generation. With a consistent water supply, farmers can diversify their crops, improve food security, and enhance their economic well-being.

However, questions often arise regarding the actual impacts on mitigation and adaptation, which can truncate the optimism surrounding the use of Solar Irrigation Pumps (SIPs). The challenges of equity and inclusion in accessing and controlling SIPs persist due to the high costs and technical requirements involved, as well as the limited understanding of SIPs from various perspectives. Concerns about the potential over-extraction of groundwater in vulnerable areas also remain a significant issue, hindering the replicability and scalability of solar irrigation. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and its partners are hosting a three-day Global Forum supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) under the project Solar Irrigation for Agricultural Resilience in South Asia (SoLAR). This event will convene 150 key stakeholders worldwide to deliberate on the growing body of evidence on solar applications in agriculture in South Asia. The forum aims to share experiences, insights, and promote collaboration among countries in the region, as well as scale up global efforts towards the

effective and sustainable use of solar energy in agriculture. By leveraging lessons from South Asia, the forum will offer valuable insights on the role of solar irrigation in managing water, energy, food, and climate in a sustainable manner.

The event will showcase how governments utilize field evidence to create and implement ambitious policies and programs on solar irrigation to meet nationally determined contributions (NDC) while promoting climate-resilient, gender-equitable, and socially inclusive agrarian livelihoods. Scope and Objectives

The primary goals of the forum include: 1. Presenting key insights from South Asia on the effectiveness of solar irrigation in sustainable agri-food systems. 2. Providing a platform for policymakers, public and private sector partners, and scientists to share ideas and experiences on overcoming barriers and seizing opportunities in solar irrigation adoption, with a focus on gender and social inclusion. 3. Sharing innovative approaches for fostering south-south collaboration to globally expand equitable and inclusive solar irrigation, along with suggestions for future research.

Throughout the three-day conference, there will be plenary and parallel sessions featuring presentations and diverse panels covering four main thematic areas such as groundwater sustainability, adaptation and mitigation, business models of SIPs, and scaling up solar irrigation. The discussions will also delve into the roles of communities, capacity building, gender, equity, and social inclusion, as well as the development of effective policies for solar energy transitions.

As the first day of the meeting concluded, IWMI anticipates that the forum will address various topics, including capacity building, gender equity promotion, and social inclusion.

BIPIN JOSHI

Call For Release

Nepali Parliamentarians Call For The Release Of Bipin Joshi And Other Captives Held By Hamas

By A CORRESPONDENT

The call for the release of Bipin Joshi and other hostages by the families has gained momentum. After a prolonged period of silence, Bipin Joshi's family recently gathered in the capital for a comprehensive meeting. The meeting was attended by Members of Parliament, civil society members, human rights activists, and foreign diplomats based in Nepal.

Despite more than six months passing since Bipin Joshi, a Nepali student studying in Israel, was kidnapped by Hamas along with other individuals, including Israeli citizens, the Nepal government has shown little initiative in recent times. The international community has also been less active in advocating for the release of these innocent hostages, including Nepali nationals. In light of the increasingly uncertain situation, Bipin Joshi's family, including his father, mother, sister, and relatives, recently met with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal at his office. They were accompanied by their representatives and the chief whip of the Nepali Congress, Ramesh Lekhak. During the meeting, Prime Minister Dahal assured Bipin's family that the government is fully committed to utilizing all its resources and institutions to secure the release of Bipin Joshi. Prior to the family's meeting with Prime Minister Dahal, the Israeli Embassy in Kathmandu and Ambassador Hanan Goder had already taken steps towards securing the release of Bipin Joshi.

Addressing a gathering at the ambassador's residence, ambassador Hanan Goder expressed, "Both Nepalis and Israelis hope for his swift and secure return home." He emphasized the importance of international support in securing the release of Bipin Joshi and other hostages, stressing that this is a humanitarian concern.

The family of Bipin Joshi, who is being held captive by Hamas, urged the Nepal government and the international community to intervene and ensure the immediate release of Bipin and the other 133 hostages under Hamas' control. Bipin Joshi's father, Mahananda Joshi, mother, Padma Joshi, and sister, Pushpa Joshi, made a heartfelt plea for his prompt release from Hamas' captivity.

Ambassador Goder, together



with Bipin's family, made a joint appeal at his residence in Bishalnagar for the international community to take action for the safe return of Bipin.

In the presence of the British Ambassador, EU Ambassador, Ambassador of Finland to Nepal, and Deputy Chief of the Mission of the US Embassy, Ambassador Goder conveyed his condolences to the families of the 10 Nepalese students who lost their lives in the Hamas attack in Israel on October 7.

Ambassador Goder, who has been actively working to alleviate their suffering, provide medical care to the 6 injured Nepali students, and secure the release of Bipin, who was held captive, emphasized the need for international support in addition to Nepal's efforts for Bipin's safe return.

During a gathering, former

minister and House of Representatives member Prabhu Sah criticized the government's actions regarding Bipin's release, pointing out that hostages from other countries are being freed while Nepalese citizens are still in captivity.

Ramesh Lekhak, the Chief Whip of Nepali Congress for the House of Representatives, has made a request to both the government and the international community. He urged them to put in more efforts towards ensuring the safe

release of Bipin. In a program, Mahanand Joshi, Bipin's father, expressed his distress by stating that he hasn't heard his son's voice for six and a half months.

Despite being imprisoned for a year, there has been no news about him. Mahanand Joshi pleaded with Hamas and the government to send his innocent son back home. Bipin's mother, Padma Joshi, shared that she was mentally disturbed upon seeing her son's condition. Pushpa Joshi, Bipin's sister, appealed for someone to take the initiative in securing her brother's release.

Bipin's sister, Pushpa Joshi, expressed dissatisfaction with the government's diplomatic efforts, stating that they did not result in her brother's safe return. She highlighted the government's positive relations with Qatar and Egypt.

"Is Ismail Hania, the leader of Hamas, residing in Qatar? Has the government made any attempts to contact him?" she inquired. Joshi urged the government to enhance their diplomatic endeavors to secure Bipin's release. Despite the release of some hostages, including a foreign national held by Israel, it is reported that Hamas still holds 133 prisoners from various countries, including Bipin Joshi.

CLA

Samriddhi For Skill Development

In the absence of suitable training and job prospects in their home country, numerous returning migrant workers were grappling with the decision of either going back abroad or starting a new self-venture in Nepal. Jointly implemented by International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Ministry of Industry, Commerce And Supplies of Nepal Government, Samriddhi's Community Livestock Assistant Training (CLA) Level I (390 hours) provides these migrant workers with the opportunity to pursue a future in their traditional occupation

By KESHAB POUDEL

Krishna Bahadur Shrestha, a 48-year-old man, spent more than two years in Afghanistan and over 10 years in Kathmandu. However, he decided to return to his birthplace, Dawa of Bhojpur Municipality ward 4, with a strong determination to pursue a livelihood in livestock and agriculture.

Unfortunately, Shrestha faced a setback when he lost his investment in poultry due to the culling of 3000 chickens infected by bird flu in Kathmandu. Despite this, he returned home amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and embarked on establishing a modest commercial agriculture farm.



During the process of starting his venture, Shrestha was fortunate to be selected for CLA training

by Bhojpur Municipality, based on the recommendation of his ward. After successfully completing the 390-hour CLA levels, he became a certified veterinary technician authorized to administer primary-level medicines to cattle.

Prior to starting his poultry business in Kathmandu, Shrestha had no formal training in the field of livestock and agriculture, which resulted in significant economic losses. However, after completing the CLA course, he acquired valuable skills and gained minimum knowledge about various diseases' symptoms and the administration of appropriate medicines. Additionally, Shrestha also learned about the state of the supply chain for agricultural products and livestock.





Currently, Shrestha is content with his work, earning approximately 800,000 (US\$6000) annually through the cultivation of off-season vegetables, oranges, goat rearing, and maintaining a flock of around 500 chickens

Shrestha expressed that if

he had received training and knowledge earlier, he would not have experienced significant financial loss. Now that he has completed his training, he no longer has to worry about seasonal diseases affecting his chickens, goats, and cattle.

He also gained basic knowl-

edge about agriculture. Shrestha owns 30 ropanies of land with three tunnels, where he cultivates off-season vegetables, has 300 orange trees, 10 goats, two cows, and a den to house 300 chickens at a time. He was nominated for CLA training by the Livestock Division of Bhojpur Municipality, along with 20 other individuals from his ward.



After completing the training, he is now a certified Community Livestock Assistant with a CTVT certificate. Another individual, Govinda Khadka, 38, who had returned home after working in Qatar for a decade, also completed CLA training after being nominated by the ward office. Despite his years as a migrant worker, CLA was his first formal training with a certificate to administer basic med-



icines and vaccines to cattle, goats, pigs, and chickens.

Khadka, who cultivates off-season vegetables and raises 13 goats, two cows, and 150 chickens, earns approximately Rs.700,000.00 (US\$5000) annually. The training has been instrumental in enhancing my understanding of agricultural practices, plant diseases, market chains, and the production of compost and non-toxic herbal pesticides.

Shrestha and Khadka, along with 20 others, have gained significant technical knowledge through the training. These trainees have now become valuable assets for the municipality's livestock division. Recognizing their skills, the division has included them in a technical group to be deployed during emergencies. Last year, Bhojpur Municipality faced an unexpected outbreak of lumpy skin disease among cows, oxen, and buffaloes in the region.

Despite causing panic nationwide, the disease had a severe impact on the eastern region, particularly Bhojpur. Upon identifying the trainees who completed the Level I (390-hour) CLA program under the SAMRIDDI Project, the mu-

nicipality deployed all 40 trainees from two separate events to control the disease outbreak. "These trainees, who were close to finishing their course, played a crucial role in providing essential care and treatment to over 250 cattle," stated Santosh Katuwal, the veterinary officer of Bhojpur Municipality.

The Livestock Section of the municipality played a crucial role in the success of this innovative approach by providing supervision and guidance to the field trainers. By administering medicine and injections based on the identified

symptoms, they were able to save the cattle from the risk of death. This approach not only showcased the potential of local human resources as valuable assets for the local government during times of need but also highlighted the importance of their contribution. Mayor Kailash Kumar Ale acknowledged the significance of the trainees in bridging the gap of technical manpower for livestock. Without their assistance, it would have been extremely challenging to reach a large number of at-risk cattle within a short period. Shrestha emphasized that the lack of skills and techniques in cattle rearing, as well as knowledge in various agricultural aspects, had previously hindered their production. However, with the implementation of this approach, they can now efficiently manage time, increase production on smaller areas of land, and provide timely treatment to their livestock.

From the hillside farmer in Bhojpur, Koshi Province, Birendra Chimariya, a resident of Malan Tole in Chandaur Municipality ward 9, located approximately 9 kilometers south of the East-West Highway in Rautahat District of Madhesh Province, has gained essential knowledge



from the level 1.

Chimariya, who raises 2000 chickens at a time, is a returnee from abroad and earns around one and a half million rupees (US\$ 60,000) annually by employing three local youths. He is considered a pioneering chicken grower in the municipality.

Having returned after an eight-year stint in Malaysia, Chimariya came back home four years ago and began raising broiler chickens.

“After completing the training, I acquired new skills and techniques that have helped me increase my income. In comparison to the previous two years, my earnings from chicken farming have risen by 20 percent. The training has been very beneficial for me. I am now able to administer vaccines and basic medicines, as well as recognize symptoms of certain diseases,” he stated.

Similar to Shrestha and Khadka, Chimariya is collaborating closely with the Livestock Division of Chandrapur Municipality. “I am actively involved in the municipal platform to offer essential services to other poultry farmers in the region,” Chimariya mentioned.

Shrestha, Khadka, and Chimariya, all of whom are returning migrant workers, have exemplified how skills have helped them en-



hance their income.

Samridhi aims to bridge the gap in technical workforce through vocational skills in rural terai and hilly areas of eastern Nepal, where shortages of technical workforce in agriculture and livestock hinder the sectors’ progress,” stated Project Manager Saroj Prasad Guragain.

Despite various efforts, Nepalese rural farmers still lack access to modern techniques and scientific knowledge. Agricultural vocational skills training plays a crucial role in bridging the gap of technical workforce by equipping individuals with practical skills and knowledge,” mentioned Dr. Prabin Manandhar, country director of Helvetas-Nepal.

By providing vocational trainings in needy areas, aspiring

professionals can be empowered with the necessary expertise to address emerging challenges, adopt new technologies, and contribute to the development of the sector. “In the last

two years, we have trained a large number of farmers, mostly migrant workers under CLA.

This training is helping to build a pool of human resources at the local level and support returnee migrants to integrate into society through skills,” explained Sandip Poudel, team leader of Helvetas Nepal’s Decent Job component.

Samridhi’s training has already enhanced productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness, benefiting farmers and their overall economy. In collaboration with the Supply Chain sub-component (Farmer Group Members) - In the year 2023, 972 individuals (280 males, 692 females) were trained in 5 different occupations. Whereas total 2652 individuals have been graduated in 7 different occupations of Agriculture like Village Animal Health Worker, Community Livestock Assistant, Off Seasonal Vegetable Farming, Community Agriculture Assistant, Herbal Farm Worker, Vegetable Farming, Junior Poultry Technician from 2019 to 2023 in total.



लामखुट्टेबाट सर्ने रोगबाट बचाऔं।

औलो (मलेरिया), डेंगी ज्वरो, कालाजार, जापानिज इन्सेफलाइटिस जस्ता संक्रामक रोग लामखुट्टेको टोकाईबाट हुने गर्दछ।

यसबाट बच्न,

- झुल लगाएर सुत्ने,
- पूरा शरीर ढाक्ने गरी लुगा लगाउने,
- शरीरका खुला अङ्गमा लामखुट्टेले नटोकोस भनी सचेत रहने,
- घरको झ्याल तथा ढोकामा जाली राख्ने,
- घर वरिपरि, बगैचा र सार्वजनिक स्थानमा पानी जम्न नदिने र खाल्डाखुल्डी पुर्ने,
- ढल, नाला खुला नराख्ने,
- पोखरी, दह तथा नालामा लामखुट्टेको लार्भा खाने माछा पाल्ने,
- सुंगुर, बंगुर, हाँस घोडाजस्ता पशुपन्छीहरू व्यवस्थित ढंगले पाल्ने,
- मानिस बस्ने घरभन्दा पशुपन्छीको खोर टाढा राख्ने।



नेपाल सरकार
विज्ञापन बोर्ड



नेपाल राष्ट्र बैंकको अनुरोध

WhatsApp, Viber, Messenger जस्ता मोबाईल एप वा ईमेल वा फोनबाट बिभिन्न किसिमका चिट्ठा परेको, पुरस्कार जितेको, धन सम्पत्ति वा सुन फेला परेको, अपुताली सम्पत्ती फेला परेको वा छोटो समयमै धेरै प्रतिफल पाइने योजना उपलब्ध भएको जस्ता बिभिन्न बाहनाका सन्देश पठाई सो रकम वा सम्पत्ति प्राप्त गर्न केही रकम पठाउनु पर्दछ वा खाताको जानकारी दिनुपर्दछ भनी सर्वसाधारणलाई आर्थिक प्रलोभन देखाई ठगी गर्ने घटना संसारभर हुने गरेको छन् । यी सबै घटना वित्तीय ठगीका उदाहरण हुन् ।

यस्तो सन्देशलाई विश्वास गर्ने, हुँदै नभएको वा आफूले भाग नलिएको चिट्ठा वा पुरस्कार जितेको कुराको पछि लाग्ने वा चिन्दै नचिनेको व्यक्तिका भुटो कुराको विश्वास गरी लहैलहैमा लागेर पैसा पठाउने वा खाताका विवरण उपलब्ध गराने कार्य नगरौं ।

वित्तीय ठगीबाट आफू पनि बचौ, अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं ।

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