

Ultimately, India will suffer!



WM correspondent

Main opposition UCPN (Maoist) seems determined in their 'crusade' to reclaim the endangered national independence of the country. It is

ceaselessly proceeding with its protests against the flagrant political and geographical encroachment of India in Nepal.

The ill-timed taste of the Maoists'

sincerity towards the national sovereignty is yet to be ascertained.

Common people are still in doubt whether the formal rebels are whipping up nationalistic sentiments just to

topple the current coalition for their own partisan interest.

Evidently, their perception vis-a-vis India often oscillates in a puzzling manner.

UCPN (Maoist) chairman Pusp Kamal Dahal told the Indian news agency 'Press Trust of India' that his party took the relations between Nepal and India in high regard.

"India is more close to Nepal both socially and culturally rather than China," Dahal said.

The Maoists are castigating and pleasing New Delhi concomitantly.

So, it is not unnatural to raise doubt whether the Maoists' struggle against the Indian expansionism carries any substance.

However, their movement of the party has definitely gained momentum.

Their demands for scrapping of the friendship treaty of 1950 and other unequal treaties apart from return of the seized Nepali lands are simply just.

According to Maoist chairman

Puspa Kamal Dahal, they have raised the issue of national independence politically as the diplomatic efforts failed to yield any positive result.

No need to reiterate, no government in the country has ever been found to sincerely alert the Indian establishment about its brazen political and geographical intervention in Nepal.

New Delhi is obviously indulging itself in capitalizing the fluid political scenario to fulfill its vested interest.

Kalapani, Susta and other parts of the country are being continuously seized from their motherland.

The southern neighbour is providing refuge to the wayward armed outfits operating in Terai to flare up chaos in Nepal.

The split of the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) only attests to the fact that the mandarins of New Delhi could bend to any extent to augment their unscrupulous clout in Nepal's internal affairs.

The latest bewildering agreement

between the MJF and Tharuhat Joint Struggle Committee (TJSC) to launch a joint movement for keeping the entire Terai a single autonomous state in the new federation is only a corollary of the Indian design to tear apart the country.

Even some Indian analysts have admitted that India wants to create fissures within the UCPN (Maoist), the largest political party, to ensure nimbleness in its unabated assaults against the national independence of Nepal.

The southern neighbour might have been fulfilling its coveted interest by pitting one force against the other in Nepal. But it may cost dearly to India in the long run.

It created the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka and the same group killed the Indian Prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi.

India does not want peace and stability in its neighbouring country. But only these two factors can help it to attain its dream of becoming a global power.

Ceaseless threat to national sovereignty

WM Correspondent

New Delhi has tried to coerce Nepal into signing a new extradition treaty and allowing its air marshals on board Air India's Kathmandu-Delhi flights.

Both diplomatic and security officials of the "polite" southern neighbour have been pushing hard PM Mahav Kumar Nepal and Home Minister Bhim Rawal in these two issues.

The India side has failed to give satisfactory answer as to how could the air marshals be managed if they had to step into to Nepali soil as a result of no flight due to specific reasons.

The Indian officials also reportedly warned the Home Minister Rawal that they would doggedly deploy the air marshals in case of a high possibility of airline hijacking.

As per the Indian proposal made one and a half year ago, the sky marshals will be in civil dress and will stay unseen by the passengers.

Recently, India has also magnified vigilance on airlines passengers bound to South Asian countries.

India desperately wants Nepal to agree on allowing the security officials of the both countries to go another country for investigation and take part



in hearings in each other's court.

Even the citizens of the one country should be handed over to another country as per the new proposal.

The demand of extraditing third country nationals is old plot of India. Nepal has been exhibiting reluctance to support this provision as it may hamper her relations with other countries.

Minister Rawal has himself admitted that the Indian capital had pressed on the above issue during his recent visit to India.

"I clarified that the country is yet to take decision on whether to comply with

the extradition proposition," he told the media.

Nepal wants national consensus especially at political level before going ahead.

China and Pakistan have also proposed for the extradition treaty with Nepal, according to Rawal.

India has been rancorously shouting at Pakistan claiming that the latter's nationals are working against India from Nepali soil.

It speaks about the sole motive behind the Indian insistence regarding extradition treaty.

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Federalization: A hard nut to crack

WM Correspondent

The concept of demarcating the country into 14 federal provinces has been endorsed with the support from UCPN (Maoist) and CPN (UML).

However, the decision irked other political parties and some segments of society.

The Terai-based parties warned to wage another movement against it. Given that such parties have been obsessed with the slogan of "One Madhes, one province", their anger is easily understandable.

However, as the proposed 14 states have been named on the basis of ethnicity too, it may invite ethnic conflicts.

There will be Libuwan, Kirat, Mithila-Bhojpur, Sunkoshi, Sherpa, Tamshaling, Newa, Narayani,

Tamuwan, Magarat, Tharuhat-Abadh-Lumbini, Karnali, Jadan and Khaptad provinces across the country.

The endorsed proposal has also given the backward community on the basis of ethnicity and language a chance to take a political leadership for two consecutive electoral terms.

Nepali Congress (NC) has opposed this provision saying that it was against the principle of equality.

The second largest party has also criticized the plan of federalization with 14 provinces.

NC and other parties are yet submit their respective skeleton of federalization.

There has been widespread criticism of the approved provinces at other levels too.

Limbuwan from the eastern hilly

region and the Tharus from the western plain have strongly opposed the proposed federal structure. Various groups related to the Tharu and the Tamsaling have also acted in the same line.

The vehement protest against demarcating the country into 14 provinces has only cast blight on the already enfeebled constitution writing process.

In fact, the UCPN (Maoist), the pioneer campaigner of federal structure, is facing challenges within itself regarding the modus operandi of federalization.

While finalizing federal structure Nepali political leaders must be aware of the recent tension in India that led the central government allow creating separate state in the Telangana state.

Reforming RBB, NBL: A Herculean task

WM correspondent

Even after remaining under the control of the central bank as well as the management of foreigners for eight years, the financial health of the country's two oldest banks-Rastriya Banijya Bank (RBB) and Nepal Bank Limited (NBL) is still alarming.

The then government started financial reform process in the two troubled banks way back in 2002 with an aim to enable them to tide over the problems of negative capital and non-performing loans (NPL).

Plans were made to reduce the NPL of both the banks below 10 percent within the two years of the start of the said process.

The current government is also making plans to recapitalize the two ailing entities, in which government's



stakes is huge, to turn their respective negative capital into positive and reduce the NPL to the lowest possible level.

The RBB's net worth is negative by a shocking Rs. 14.5 billion while the same of NBL stands at Rs. 5.5 billion.

The NPL of RBB and NBL stand at 15.4 percent and 5.9 percent respectively.

A bank with negative capital is considered as paralysed and, according to the Basel-II principals, the capital adequacy must be positive by

10 percent for any healthy bank.

The central bank has already implemented the principals in Nepal banks but has failed to apply the same vis-a-vis the banks with the huge government's stake.

The government is chalking out

strategies to recapitalize both banks within the fiscal year 2011/12.

Finance Minister Surendra Pandey has already said that the government would first recapitalize the NBL, the financial requirement of which is half than that of the RBB.

The finance ministry has calculated that some Rs. 24 billion is needed to recapitalize the two banks.

The recapitalisation of the RBB alone demands Rs. 16 while Rs. 8 billion is required in the case of NBL.

The ministry will be injecting the said volume of amount to cover their respective negative net worth, paid up capital requirement of Rs. 2 billion and reducing the NPL of the two banks to prevalent international benchmark.

The government is also contemplating to issue Further Public Offering (FPO) to recapitalize the NBL.

The general public and the government hold 49.94 and 40.49 percent shares respectively in the NBL.

The government aims to bring strategic partners through the issuance

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Editorial

Will it continue?

The Maoist top brass had vehemently said that their campaign in favour of the nationalism and national sovereignty would continue until India returns the encroached land.

Alluding to the flagrant seize of Nepali territories by Indian side, they even said though British left India years ago, the British mentality in India has not yet changed to see others on equal status.

Maoists must continue their crusade for national independence

The Maoist stalwarts even claimed continued encroachment of the border areas by the Indian side was the result of the incapability of the former feudal rulers.

That India has continued its geographical and political encroachment in Nepal ever since the signing of Sugauli Treaty goes without saying.

India surrounds Nepal from the East, West and South. There is a 1,808 km long border between Nepal and India, where 26 districts of Nepal adjoin Indian Territory, marking 54 areas of disputes altogether where the main ones include Kalapani- Limpiyahura, Susta, Mechi and Tanakpur.

The encroachment by India started right after the Indo-Sino border war of November 1962. After facing defeat the Indian army set-up a camp inside Nepali's territory at Kalapani to monitor the Chinese activities.

But now New Delhi unabashedly claims that the area belongs to it.

The other disputed area situated in the East of Naryani River, is the Susta area, which is the tensest area owing to encroachment. Some time back, over one thousand Indian villagers backed by Indian border police force (SSB) had forcibly entered the Nepali territory in Susta. They completely destroyed sugarcane in about ten hectares of land and also manhandled Nepali men and women.

The main reason behind the dispute in Susta is the changing course of Naryani River, over the past decades. The river has said to change its course towards the Nepalese side in the West. India has encroached about 14,000 hectares of the reclaimed land because of this. The intrusion happened in stages over a period of 73 years. Considering the situation, the people of Nepal had also launched a "save Susta campaign".

Susta is surrounded by Indian Territory on three sides -the North, South and East, and on the West it is the Naryani River. Hence, it becomes easier for India to seize Susta from its mother land.

According to the official records, Nepal covers a total area of 147,181 Sq Km. But in reality, the territory of Nepal is gradually shrinking because of the growing encroachment unleashed by malevolent southern neighbor called India.

The UPCN (Maoist), the largest political party, has been also been demanding scientific demarcation of the border land as per historical maps, return back of encroached territories to Nepal and the regulation of bilateral bordering area.

The nationalistic segment of the country is of the view the formal rebels must not cease from their crusade launched to reaffirm the national independence and dignity of the country at any cost.

Frosty welcome for India in Nepal

By Dhruba Adhikary

Those who rule India from their power base in Delhi may not be wrong to view Nepal as their closest neighbor as well as ally, but whether the denizens of this largely mountainous country sharing a northern border with China - through Tibet - agree to such a perception has been a contentious issue ever since the British left the subcontinent in 1947.

Although the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, concluded in July 1950, sought to institutionalize the assertive posture Delhi thought it had inherited from its colonial masters, the Nepalis have consistently challenged this pact, describing it as an unequal treaty from the very day it was signed. The treaty has often been compared with the pact the Soviets imposed on Finland in 1948.

The people of Nepal, although ethnically diverse and politically polarized, have always been against what they perceive as Delhi's bullying behavior. This week has been no exception.

First, Indian External Affairs Minister S M Krishna was greeted with black flags by those protesting against encroachment into Nepal's border regions. While Krishna's consultations with government leaders were to contain India's offer of assistance to Nepal during its current democratic transition, his meeting with the top Maoist leader, Pushpa Kamal Dahal (popularly known as Prachanda), was utilized to deliver a tough message to restrain anti-Indian rhetoric used to promote Nepali nationalism.

The customary joint press statement, issued on January 17 in Kathmandu at the end of Krishna's three-day visit, restricted itself to alluding to "age-old, multifaceted relations" between the countries. But Krishna's office in New Delhi released a separate statement saying the visiting minister "conveyed deep disappointment at the baseless attacks on India by the Maoist leadership". This statement is indicative of the tough talks that Prachanda had with Krishna.

The Maoist party Prachanda leads commands 40% of the seats in the 601-strong Constituent Assembly, which is working on a new constitution expected to be promulgated by May 28 this year.

Krishna's warning was not taken too seriously, as was evident at the start of

the four-day visit to Nepal of the Indian army chief, General Deepak Kapoor, starting on Tuesday. He, too, felt the heat from the outset at Kathmandu airport.

Over a dozen Maoist cadres were detained for several hours for waving black flags at the Indian visitor. On the same day, Maoists staged a rally and held a public meeting in front of the Indian Embassy. One of Prachanda's deputies, Narayananki Shrestha, told the audience that while the Maoists were in favor of maintaining normal, neighborly relations with India, what they opposed was Delhi's continuous interference in Nepal's internal affairs.

India officially always denies allegations of interference, but there have been occasions when such claims have proved true. One such occasion was in June 2006 - shortly after the April uprising against king Gyanendra's absolute rule. An Indian parliamentary delegation visited Nepal, and one of delegates, S Sudhakar Reddy, observed after returning home: "Nepal is at the political crossroads and should be allowed to decide its policies independently without any intervention." He did not mince words over where the interference was coming from. "Keeping in view the past experiences with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it is better that we keep away from the internal affairs of that country."

Unlike Nepal's other political parties, the Maoist party has displayed skill at winning over the public and arousing a sense of nationalism. The leadership has explained that it has no quarrel with India as a country and its people: its confrontation is with the rulers in Delhi representing the political elite, bureaucracy, defense establishment and intelligence agencies.

Kapoor's name surfaced precisely in this context. In a fiery speech he gave on the last day of a three-day nationwide general strike on December 22, Prachanda asked how the Indian army chief could "publicly advise" Nepal's army chief, General Chaitraman Singh Gurung, to reject a proposition aimed at integrating former Maoist combatants into the national army. (These combatants numbering

nearly 20,000 are sheltered in United Nations-supervised camps.)

It is a sensitive subject and is under official negotiations in line with peace accords signed ending the decade-long Maoist insurgency (1996-2006). There are serious apprehensions that if the integration issue is not resolved fairly, the whole plan for promulgating the new constitution on time might not be achieved. Nepal could face a constitutional crisis of an unprecedented nature.

After quitting the premiership last May amid controversy regarding his decision to sack the then army chief, Prachanda has toured various parts of the country, telling the people about Delhi's excesses with regard to Nepal. The issues he has chosen to raise include Nepal's notorious and mysterious palace massacre of June 2001, which claimed the lives of King Birendra, his queen and the crown prince. Echoing the perceptions of a section of the population, he said the monarch was killed for being a nationalist. Prachanda has also alluded to the death of another firebrand nationalist leader, Madan Bhandari, 16 years ago.

Kapoor's remarks to the media came at a New Delhi reception during his Nepali counterpart's tour of India in December. Although the Nepal army and its ministry did not react to Prachanda's objection, the Indian Embassy found it expedient to clear the air on the eve of Kapoor's reciprocating trip to Nepal. His remarks, an embassy press release said, did not "reflect the government of India's position" on the issue of "PLA integration" in Nepal army. The Maoists' annoyance was further exacerbated when their cadres intercepted a caravan of military vehicles "quietly" entering Nepal. This led them to accuse the Nepal army of importing weapons that could be used against them, defying provisions of the peace accords. Later, it was officially clarified that the fleet of 100 vehicles were carrying non-lethal equipment from India.

Indian media reports have said that New Delhi has been embarrassed more than once by Kapoor's publicly aired thoughts. A seminar speech in which he spoke of two-front war against China

and Pakistan was one such occasion.

MK Narayanan, until recently India's national security advisor, has also influenced political events in Nepal in recent years. Weeks before Nepal went to the polls in April 2008, he appeared on television saying that India favored the Nepali Congress party and its leader, Girija Prasad Koirala. This prompted other political parties to be apprehensive about Indian designs on Nepal. Narayanan's statement left room for speculation that Delhi had had a hand in the sudden creation of new regional parties in the southern plains bordering the Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh just a few months before the constituent assembly election.

That Narayanan, who worked as the chief coordinator of India's intelligence agencies, was involved in matters relating to Indian policies towards Nepal surfaced in a recent article in an Indian newspaper. "The Maoist menace at home and the mess in Nepal bear further testimony to his sterling abilities," said a reporter from The Pioneer in a January 17 piece reviewing Narayanan's performance.

In the initial years of Nepal's political crisis, which was accentuated by the royal coup in early 2005, Delhi, Washington and London used to consult Kathmandu to find a durable solution. But, over time, both Washington and London perhaps thought it wise to "outsource" the job to Delhi. And Delhi's political masters apparently found it useful to depend on the works and reports of agencies headed by persons like Kapoor and Narayanan.

Is India alone to be blamed for the political crisis in Nepal? Experienced politicians admit that it is often the Nepali side which, unwittingly or otherwise, leaves space for India to intervene. One such person is Prakash Chandra Lohani, a former foreign minister. Some of the politicians have gone out of the way to "invite" interference, he recently told a radio interviewer.

Who then bells the cat? Maoists claim they can, and they think they actually have. Regardless, Nepal is entering a crucial phase ahead of the May 28 deadline for issuing the new constitution.

Sri Lankan president reelected

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa has got a landslide victory in the country's sixth presidential election.



Rajapaksa called the election two years ahead of schedule with his main challenger being former Army Commander Sarath Fonseka.

Sri Lanka, which saw a presidential election on Tuesday with the two main candidates being the incumbent Mahinda Rajapaksa and former Army Commander General Sarath Fonseka.

The island's sixth presidential election was held largely free of violence on Tuesday with turnout estimated to be over 70 percent except the Northern Province which had been under the control of Tamil Tiger rebels for decades before it was recaptured by the troops in May 2009.

The Department of Elections said 14,088,500 Sri Lankans were eligible to cast their votes at 11,098 polling stations from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time

(0130 GMT to 1030 GMT) to choose their next president mainly from Rajapaksa and Fonseka though there are 22 candidates.

Fonseka, battle hardened soldier, whom Rajapaksa hand picked to command the Army to destroy the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2005, had declared "war" to challenge his former boss several months after the LTTE was defeated.

The manifesto of Rajapaksa, who is in politics for over 40 years and seek the people's endorsement for his second term, is totally a plan to drive the country for development. He who claims a development par with defeating the LTTE contest to get another six year stay to put more of his efforts to make the country Asia's best.

The main advantage for him is his achievement of keeping the main pledge — defeating the rebels — within four years. While giving the leadership to continue military offensives until the Army killed LTTE leader V. Prabhakaran at the Nandi Kandal lagoon in the north, Rajapaksa initiated mega power projects, ports, fly-overs and infrastructure facilities around the country.

The main topic of his 103 page manifesto has given more weight on economic growth and steps to double the per capita income from 2,000 U.S. dollars to 4,000 dollars, to maintain an 8 percent growth rate and to transform Sri Lanka into an aviation, naval, financial and knowledge hub of Asia in four years of his second term.

The score sheet of Rajapaksa had high marks as he was able to fulfill the major pledges during his first term. It is easy to criticize but not easy to develop over 2,200 km of highways of the country, which is equivalent to the total highway development done in the previous 20 years, during a period of four years while pouring a massive sum of money to defeat the LTTE.

In his manifesto there is no utterance about the much-demanded change to the 17th amendment of the constitution to free the vital state institutions like the Election Commission and police from political influence, eradication of bribery and corruption, devolution of power etc. Though they were not in writing, Rajapaksa pledges in political stages to curb corruption at his best during his next term.

"Believable change" is the main slogan of Fonseka who claims that he shed uniforms not to have a luxurious life but to fight to rekindle the fading democracy, end corruption and Rajapaksa dynasty in politics. These may be the plus points that people will vote for this novel politician with a political experience of few months.

His manifesto based on 10 themes promises of implementing the 17th amendment, de-politicizing state institutions, ending wastage and corruption, and solving the Tamils' grievances.

Fonseka plans to end corruption — the GDP loss amount to 350 billion to 400 billion rupees (3 billion to 3.48

billion U.S. dollars) annually — and pass this saving to the public. So by this plan monthly salary of each public servants will increase by 10,000 rupees (about 87 U.S. dollars).

His plans for the welfare of the private sector employees, unemployed youth and elders are spelt in the manifesto.

Fonseka also promised the abolition of executive presidency, which is the main slogan that made the main opposition — the United National Party and the People's Liberation Front, who were main rivals — to get into the same stage.

Rajapaksa and his family voted at the rural Mulkirigala in the deep southern district of Hambantota very early, his office in Colombo said. Initial report said Fonseka did not cast his vote.

On the violence in the campaign, Sunil Gunawadana, a businessman in Colombo said "we hope we can set aside the violence (in the campaign). We should come together and rebuild out country for a better future."

Both the opposition and monitors expressed happiness over the violent incident free poll.

However, the polling in the former battle zones of the north and east was not expected to be above 10 and 20 percent respectively, monitors said.

In a new development, Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said Tuesday that the government is contemplating legal action against Fonseka.

On the occasion of 62nd National Day of Sri Lanka

Determinants of Nepal-Sri Lanka relation

Sri Lanka is one of the best friends of Nepal. Sri Lanka and Nepal, which had religious and cultural relation since pre-historic period, established diplomatic relation at ambassadorial level on 1 July 1957. Relation between two

By Hirnya Lal Shrestha

Culturally allied

According to the most venerable Narade Mohathera of Sri Lanka, "Nepal and Sri Lanka are culturally allied brothers and sisters." Buddhism is a

MOU for cooperation with counterpart in Sri Lanka. Shortly after Sri Lanka - Nepal Trade Council was set up in Colombo in 2002. Nepal-Sri Lanka Trade Council was established in

other in the fight against hegemonies, terrorism and separatism. They have continuously endeavored for peace and stability. They take initiative to institutionalize peace. Sri Lanka had support Nepal's proposal to declare her country as zone of peace and Nepal had supported Sri Lanka proposal to declare Indian ocean as a zone of peace. They exchange experience in managing conflicts and peace building. These identical sensibilities and psychology have formed basis of affinity and cordially between leaders of these two countries.

Regionally working together

Nepal and Sri Lanka are founders of SAARC. The first preparatory meeting was convened in Colombo at the foreign secretary level in 1981. King Birendra inaugurated the SAARC secretariat in Kathmandu in 1987 at the presence of the SAARC foreign ministers. Nepal and Sri Lanka are members BIMSTEC also. Both shore the Colombo Plan. Their affiliation of regional organizations has widened the basis of relation between two countries.

Multi-dimensional relation

The relation between Nepal and Sri Lanka is not limited to state level only it also extends to the peoples level. The exchange of visits undertaken at different levels and at different periods of time between Head of state and Government, lawmakers, ministers, high ranking officials, monks and nuns, and businessmen of these two countries has become vitally important factor contributory to strengthening Nepal-Sri Lanka multi dimensional relations.

In 1948, General Keshar Shumsher JB Rana, presenting Nepal, had participated in the special ceremony organized in Colombo on the occasion of Sri Lanka becoming an independent country. Since then, Nepalese people share a joy every year with Sri Lankan people on their Independence Day. It is our great pleasure to extend our hearty greetings and congratulation to the Government and people of Sri Lanka on this great day. We wish peace, progress and prosperity on the Sri Lankan people and hope that the friendship and cooperation between our two countries will grow further in the days ahead.



countries is based on goodwill, mutual understanding and cooperation.

I would like to examine briefly those vitally conditioned factors which contributed in development of Nepal-Sri Lanka relation.

Geographical proximity

Nepal and Sri Lanka are located in same South Asian sub-continent, bearing close geographical proximity. In 1977, the first Nepal Airline plane had reached Colombo from Kathmandu after its three hours and twenty minutes flight. With a gradual development in the field of aviation, the flight time is found to become shorter in the future.

Historically interlinked

Legends tell us that daughter of Nepal Sita was taken away by King Ravana of Sri Lanka from India and was kept there for sometimes. It is believed that the present day Haggal Garden of Sri Lanka was the place where Sita spent her time during confinement. Of course, Ramayan is a symbolic epic depicting the extension of contact from north to south in this continent. According to religious scriptures including Mahavansha, Lord Buddha had visited Sri Lanka thrice. First visit to Mahayanagana in 580 B.C. second visit to Nagadwip in 583 B.C. and third visit to Kalyani in 590 B.C. This shows the relation between the people of Nepal and Sri Lanka continues from the time of Lord Buddha.

strong factor which bind two people closer. During his first visit to Sri Lanka in 1957, King Mahendra said, "Because of the strength of the cultural relation existing between two countries, we have been able to continuously foster the spirit of friendship."

Development partner

At Lumbini Sri Lanka government has constructed a monastery and a guesthouse for the pilgrims. Sri Lanka is providing scholarship to Nepalese to enhance their knowledge and skills. At present, more than 100 Sri Lankan students have been studying MBBS in Nepal as private students. An agreement was signed between two governments on 20 April 2007 on exempting visa fees for the students who visit each other's country for the purpose of study. Thus both countries are playing a role of development partner particularly to produce, skilled manpower. Joint venture exists in the field of banking, finance, insurance and communication.

Towards free trade

Because of common perception between two countries, Nepal and Sri Lanka are both affiliated to free trade groups like SAFTA and BIMSTEC. They have both joined the WTO. The chambers of Commerce and Industry of both countries are also affiliated to the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries, FNCCI, CNI and Nepal Chamber of Commerce have signed

Nepal also. At present Nepal-Sri Lanka Cultural, Social and Economic forum has also been set up in Nepal.

Tourism as potential sector

The visit to Nepal by Sri Lankan tourists are growing every year because of Nepal's attraction in being the birth place of Lord Buddha and its being endowed with beauty of the Himalayas. During the state visit by President Mahinda Rajapaksa last year Nepal and Sri Lanka signed two agreements: air service agreement and an agreement on the establishment of a joint commission at the foreign ministers level. Leadership of both countries seems conscious to tap the potentiality of tourism sector development.

Common perception and affiliation

Nepal and Sri Lanka consider Panchasheel and peaceful coexistence as the basis of their relationship. They also believe in the charter of the United Nations. Both joined UN in 1955. They adhere to the principles of non-alignment. Both Nepal and Sri Lanka are the founders of NAM movements.

Identical sensibilities and psyche

Big and medium powers seek their influence and hegemony. Nepal and Sri Lanka, however, stress on non-interference, independence and self-respect.

They express sympathy with each

~ National news ~

Garbage collection resumes

Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) has started collecting garbage piling up on the streets of Kathmandu and Lalitpur since past few days due to a strike of the employees of local bodies, in presence of security personnel from Wednesday.

KMC started collecting the garbage using private sector garbage collectors as per a decision of the home and the local development ministries.

The collected garbage was taken to Aletar landfill site for disposal with police escort. Earlier, on Tuesday officials of home ministry and the local development ministry had decided to collect garbage using security forces.

Officials have said, anyone who tries to obstruct the garbage collection and disposal will be arrested.

However, KMC's effort is too little, too late as its regular employees are in strike and the number of private sector garbage collectors is much less than required.

Most of the places in Kathmandu are still littered with heaps of garbage emanating a horrible stench.

Meanwhile, the local body employees, who resumed their agitation after a month as the government failed to keep up to its promises have said, they will intensify the agitation as the government had not paid heed to their demands.

They are agitating with various demands related to salary, perks and service terms.

The government has delegated State Minister for Local Development Ganesh Bahadur Khadka to hold talks with the employees of the local bodies and look into the problems.

MJF, Tharus join hands

The Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) and Tharhat Sangharsa Samiti (struggle committee) have come together for a joint agitation against what they call the disintegration of Madhes into two states.

The CA committee on state restructuring has recently submitted its draft report recommending for 14 states in federal Nepal where the Terai belt was divided into two states - Madhes and Tharuhat.

Both the ethnic groups have expressed dissatisfaction over the proposed



states. The MJF has already announced agitation against the government alleging it for not implementing past agreements which include guarantee of one Madhes Province.

The two ethnic groups were in past against each other - MJF for single province in Terai while the other against it.

In the close-door meeting, the two sides reached a conclusion that proposal for two states in Terai was an effort to divide Tharus and Madhes. The MJF has hinted its flexibility for alternative name to the province if single province is guaranteed.

Cash crunch will soon be solved: FM

Finance Minister Surendra Pandey has on Wednesday claimed that the financial sector of the country will soon get rid of the ongoing problem of liquidity crunch.

While speaking at a program 'Present Liquidity Scenario and Economic Perspective' held in the capital, he also ascribed the excessive investment of banks into real estate and gold imports apart from slower growth in inflow of remittance to the onset of the cash crunch.

Minister Pandey also divulged that the government was gradually increasing the volume of capital expenditure in order to insulate the financial sector from impending crisis.

He also urged the people not to shy away from depositing their money into banks.

"I appeal to the people not to be swayed by baseless rumours about the financial sector of the country. They can trust their money to banks without any fear," the minister said.

Speaking on the same occasion, Jhapat Bahadur Bohara, president, Development Bankers' Association, said that increased imports in contrast to plummeting exports, decrease of government expenditure, and capital flight due to uncertain investment climate were some prime reasons behind the liquidity crunch.

He also prescribed the government to develop industry-friendly and transparent legal system to resolve labour related problems.

"Producing import substitute goods and services, developing market oriented scientific agriculture farming system and giving more focus in increasing government expenditure in the infrastructure could help buttress the country's economy," he argued.

Sasin Joshi, chairman, Nepal Bankers' Association (NBA), assured that the present cash crunch has not taken a vicious form.

"However, the problem demands concentrated efforts from all stakeholders," he cautioned.



US and Pakistan, strange allies

President Obama's inaugural pledge to defeat Al Qaeda and Taliban appears in stark contrast to the ground realities in Afghanistan. Obama's much hyped AF PAK policy is believed to have been practically castigated to history after multiple reviews. The US military's assessment of the war in Afghanistan too paints a bleak picture. The Taliban today control more than half of Afghan Provinces where they have installed their own shadow Governments.

Despite having suffered the most due to the US adventure in Afghanistan, Pakistan today remains the most vibrant and loyal US ally. US, NATO and Pakistan are mutually dependant. The US and Western Forces operating in Afghanistan are dependent on Pakistan for 80% or more of their logistic support and of course they need vital intelligence. Pakistan needs US financial support, weapons and technology and some specialized training to fight the menace of terrorism. Unfortunately, Pakistan is taken for granted by the US: our blind support has drawn little sympathy for our own national concerns. There have been continued nasty outbursts by US leadership and officials against Pakistan, the "Do More" mantra has become a sickening buzzword.

As the US mounts pressure on Pakistan to open a new front in North Waziristan and around Quetta and to thin out troops from the Eastern Borders to commit on Afghan border, in last few weeks, there appears to be a diabolical worsening in US attitudes. First comes, Mr. McCain who says that the US would continue to use Drone Attacks, saying words to the effect that they care little for Pakistan's sovereignty and cries from Pakistani leadership that Drone Strikes were counterproductive. Now comes Mr.

By Dr. Huma Mir

Gates, the US Secretary Defence who states that in case of another terrorist strike in India, India would be justified in its military response against Pakistan. While Mr. Gates was conveying this not so veiled Indian threat, India committed two border violations. In this scenario, Mr. Gates plays the exact opposite of ground reality and says that he does not see any Indian threat to Pakistan. Mr. Gates made no reference to Indian involvement in terrorism in Pakistan and its support to the terror outfits in Baluchistan and FATA.

That much for Pakistan being a frontline US ally, remember US trumpets that Pakistan is their closest and most Valued Ally in the War on Terror. Meanwhile, against Pakistan protests the US drone strikes continue. More sinister is the fact that armed US diplomats and security contractors like Blackwater (XE), DynCorp etc travelling in vehicles with fake number plates and documents roam around our violating Pakistani laws with impunity.

leadership, officials, think tank, newspaper, TV Channel or a court jester expresses DEEP CONCERN at the security of Pakistani Nuclear Arsenal and indicates fears of it falling into the hands of extremists. Often such CONCERNS are followed by controlled information leakage that the US has plans to TAKE OUT Pakistani Nukes if threatened by extremists. As our leadership starts responding to these absurd revelations, a kind hearted US official or political leader provides a verbal certification that Pakistani Nukes were safe as if he or she knew the way our nukes are deployed and secured. Pakistan has given more than its share to support the US operations. It opened its airspace and airbases, ports and allowed use of land route for logistic support of US and ISAF forces in Afghanistan. It has committed more than 100,000 troops along the Afghan Border in a very expensive low intensity conflict which has had devastating effect on our bankrupt economy and internal stability.

What has the US given to our nation in return? The US has even held back our due share of Coalition Support Funds worth almost 2 Billion Dollars. US has not contributed a dollar to maintenance of our road network under their use. What happened to the promised ROZs in tribal belt, what has the US done to check flow of weapons and money to the Pakistani extremists from Afghanistan, what have the US done to stop the Indian managed training camps for Baluch nationalists on Afghan soil, what about preferential access to Pakistani goods in US and EU markets, etc etc. US has balked from providing the drone technology to Pakistan, they haven't given the additional

helicopter gunships and ground mobility vehicles and vital spares that Pakistan has been asking for. Even the carrot in the form of Kerry - Luger Bill of a five billion dollars has been strangled and tied to notions which can only appeal to those who framed the policy.

US has been persistently demanding from Pakistan to shun its traditional threat perception and shift additional troops from Indo Pak border to the Afghan border to battle the Taliban extremists in North Waziristan. The US wants to use Pakistani forces as bait, US planners visualize that Pakistani action in North Waziristan could draw Taliban fighters from Afghanistan thus relieving the pressure there on US and NATO forces while Pakistan executes its dirty war. Pakistani security establishment has its own threat perception and have refused the US pressure. We have many options and Pakistan doesn't have the time pressure which the US has. Pakistan Army's categorical statement that it shall not open a new front till it has consolidated its gains in Malakand and South Waziristan is absolutely apt response. The timings of Pakistani assault in North Waziristan would be dictated by the speed of our consolidation and preparations and probable speed of US administration to meet Pakistani military demands rather than be synchronized to US desires.

It would be extremely interesting to follow the operations in North Waziristan as and when they come and its impact on the Afghan security scene. Will the Pakistani assault provide any relief to the Western Forces in Afghanistan or will it confirm the Pakistani viewpoint that the Afghan problem needs an Afghan solution. Demanding Pakistan won't win for the Western Forces in Afghanistan.

An odd kind of freedom

By Anand Gurung

While attending the international art festival "Separating myth from reality-Status of Women"- which was showcased few months back at several venues across the capital- and looking at the paintings, photographs, prints and installations on display, I was fascinated by the women and woman-centric themes that dominated the works of the participating artists from various countries.

Of course, there was a common thread binding all these works together: in one way or the other, they all celebrated women's freedom. In one surreal painting, the bare back of a woman is set against the laundry she is doing. In another piece, an installation, male phalluses were sprouting from a clay pot, like tulips about to bloom. What became increasingly clear as one saw more and more of the exhibits was the idea that women were not objects defined solely by their gender.

Now I am not an art critic, so I will not go into details about what the paintings meant or what they were trying to say. I will leave that to your imagination. But after being overwhelmed by these visual delights (and shocks), it got me really thinking about the status of women's freedom, at least in this country.

Who better to talk to about this, but one's own lady friends? Which I did. But the friend that I asked was being coerced to agree to an arranged marriage. I, of course, did my utmost to talk her out of it.

"How can you marry someone you've never met?" was the classic question. "Because it's not easy for us girls,

like it is for you boys," my friend snipped, raising her eyes at me while sipping her coffee at a Kathmandu restaurant. "No matter how independent we may appear to be, no matter how free we may think we are, there is always this tremendous pressure upon us to agree to the decisions our family takes for us and most of times we have to give in."

I half-expected that the conversation would turn towards "gender freedom", but I never thought the answer would be along those lines.

She was a 'modern' Kathmandu girl who did not in the least look the type who would forget all about her career, aspirations, dreams- or the guy she was kind of going out with, but whom her conservative family didn't know about- and happily agree to get hitched with the first Ram, Shyam, or Hari her parents found for her from their own caste and community.

She simply said she just couldn't go against her parents. It was clear that she was torn between her own desires and her family's happiness.

I thought about another woman colleague. She went out with a guy for a few years, but he went abroad and settled for his ex-girlfriend, so she took the heartache in her stride and moved on. I had expected to find her a forlorn, heart-broken wreck, like any jilted lover would be. And perhaps she was, but in private. Not like those damsels-in-distress in Nepali and Hindi films who weep and cry or, even worse, commit suicide after being betrayed by their lovers. Sadly, films do sometimes reflect the society they represent. I grew

up hearing real life stories of unmarried women who couldn't bear life after they were left, often pregnant, by the men they loved. Many killed themselves.

Dramatist George Bernard Shaw wrote in one of his books, 'home is the girl's prison and the woman's workhouse.' This is certainly true in our society, where we prefer girls 'of a marriageable age' to be home by a certain time in the evening. This is why young women who can cook well and take care of most of the house chores including their husband's needs are considered 'marriage-material'.

My two lady friends, both from middle-class Nepali families, were also subject to these considerations, even though both would have liked to stay with their friends or go to a party (and which they sometimes did, despite a deluge of calls from their homes). Both admitted to being bad cooks. Both were also young and I expected them to slowly fit into the mould that society has created for them. The girl who had broken up with her boyfriend certainly seemed to be quite serious about trying to live up to familial expectations. She was willing to settle for any man her parents chose for her.

Still, trends show that in Nepal, arranged marriages are slowly becoming, if not an unimaginable thing, something old-fashioned, a thing of the past. Love marriages, by contrast, connote modern values and lifestyle: of having the freedom to choose one's life partner. No wonder, boys and girls in our country are increasingly crossing caste and community lines to start

relationships with the people they like, and with it, more and more inter-caste marriages are taking place in the country.

Thus, more and more girls are trying to proclaim their freedom in this still deeply-patriarchal society. But the tragedy is that they are torn between two worlds. While housewives and mothers pray for the success and longevity of their husbands, fasting the whole day during festivals and encouraging their daughters to do the same to get loving, caring husbands, they also know that they have to be as smart and hardworking, if not less as their male counterparts at work, to even hold their own in the competitive professional world.

Moreover, society is harsher on women than on men when they make mistakes. Men are always given opportunities to make amends, sometimes even for the worst of crimes. But women are marked for life if they stray even an inch away from their allotted paths.

So even while consciously acting in freedom, the very fact that they have lived in this unrelenting male-dominated society for such a long time means that Nepali women instinctively tend to be afraid of their own freedom and of the responsibilities which this freedom brings with it. Torn, they become unable to take any decision and end up depriving themselves of their own freedom.

My first friend's dilemma was having to choose between her wishes and her family's happiness and the complete change in my other friend's outlook made me think that they wished somebody else would make their decisions for them. For theirs is only a freedom by name.

UNESCO welcomes efforts to better conserve

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Kathmandu has welcomed the recent government decision of limiting industrial activities in and around the Lumbini World Heritage Site terming it an important step towards preserving the birth place of Lord Buddha.



The Industrial Promotion Board of the Ministry of Industry had decided recently in this regard. The UNESCO has said that it would help to preserve the holly site at multiple levels. As per the government decision, an area of 15 km from the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the present project area as designated in the Kenzo Tange Master Plan, within which the Lumbini world heritage property lies will be off-limits of the establishment of new industries except for those which are not carbon emitting. Likewise, new industries will not be allowed to establish in the area south up to the Indian border and 800 meter in both sides of the road along the Lumbini-Bhairahawa corridor.

In case of already existing industries, they can operate only if they respect the Environment Protection Act. "Industries which do not respect the Act will be further discussed in order to relocate them within two years," the ministry decision states.

The government also will not allow them to increase the capital, capacity and exceed the present level of electricity consumption by making new legal provision.

"Industries already registered but at present not operating within the 15 km area need to take pollution control measures as per the Act before operating," the government decision says. "Those not meeting the requirements will be relocated in other parts within a given time frame."

Lumbini was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 in recognition of the site bearing a "unique testimony" of Lumbini as the birthplace of Lord Buddha.

Unrestrained industrial development has presented one of the greatest threats to the archaeological sites scattered across the area between Tilaurakot and

Ramagram in recent years, according to UNESCO.

The Himalayan Glaciers: Dispel misinformation

We get to hear of distortions and falsifications now and then in journalism. Here is one from the scholarly, scientific community— and this is from a respected UN agency—the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): The IPCC, in 2007, had raised an alarm bell on the Himalayan glaciers, saying that they would totally disappear by 2035. The IPCC study had cited an assertion from a "speculative" interview with Syed Hasnain of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi rather than basing it on a peer-reviewed research material!

This was revealed by Fred Pearce in a *New Scientist* article (11 January 2010). Fred writes in his piece that Hasnain had said in an email interview with him in 1999 that all the glaciers in the central and eastern Himalayas could disappear by 2035. He adds: Despite the 10-year-old New Scientist report being the only source, the claim found its way into the IPCC fourth assessment report published in 2007. Moreover the claim was extrapolated to include all glaciers in the Himalayas.

Until a few days ago, the IPCC stood its ground and but has now, following the *New Scientist* article, it has begun to review their report.

In India, some dissenting comments were out soon after the IPCC released the report in 2007. Recently, on November 9, 2009, a government-sponsored study conducted by V.K. Raina, former Deputy Director-General, Geological Survey of India, dismissed a total glacier retreat in the Himalayas [See the report entitled

Himalayan Glaciers - A State-of-Art Review of Glacial Studies, Glacial Retreat and Climate Change, 2009]. The Indian study accepted the fact that some glaciers in the Himalayas are retreating, but it asserted that the trend "is nothing out of the ordinary. Nothing to suggest as some have said that they will disappear."

In recent weeks, war of words also broke out between the IPCC chair Rajendra Pachauri and the Indian environment minister, Jairam Ramesh. Pachauri called India 'arrogant' in its assessment of glacier retreat and Ramesh attacked the IPCC report for lacking scientific evidence.

The entire controversy has raised many questions about the processes of climate change knowledge. This one appears to be an example of shoddy scholarship, one that has serious implications to climate change awareness, specially in the Himalayan region. What should the common masses living right next to or down the glaciers make out of this controversy? Does such misinformation do them any service? Seeing experts themselves lock horns over an issue that concerns them intimately, aren't they now utterly confused?

Besides confusing the ordinary folks, the falsified assertion in the IPCC study also helped misinformation an expert report (*An Overview of Glaciers, Glacier Retreat, and Subsequent Impacts in Nepal, India and China, 2009*) by World Wildlife Fund. The WWF said in a statement, Jan 20, 2010: Although scientists remain deeply concerned about glacier retreat in that region, this particular prediction has subsequently proved to be incorrect.

Are there more such studies that cited the said speculation? The naysayers in Climate Change politics must be happy, and they are. But for those whose lives are directly impacted by this issue, it is an unfortunate incident. Undoubtedly, experts, policymakers and journalists must work to dispel their confusion, based on reasons of science, but also their own life-experiences. And combining the two is often a tough task, but a required task anyway.

A tsunami of destruction threatens worldwide heritage

By Gabrielle Pickard

Three decades of aggressive development, illegal mining, natural disasters and crime have had major implications on China's sites of historical and cultural importance.

An examination carried out by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), revealed that new buildings, roads and reservoirs have replaced sites, which were previously listed as places of national heritage.

The report even unveiled that illegal mining in Inner Mongolia destroyed a large part of the Great Wall. Heritage places were recorded in 1982 and according to officials from SACH, some 30,995 items from this list has vanished.

It is not just large-scale construction and infrastructure projects which are causing the destruction of China's heritage. Natural disasters and crime is also contributing to the country's vanishing ancient relics.

Despite China's dedication to economic expansion and extensive infrastructure, there is concern that its

heritage is slowly disappearing. Liu Xiaoho, deputy director of the report, said that appropriate intervention is being carried out to protect cultural sites and that the country spent 300m yuan relocating the ancient Zhangfei temple when the construction of the Three Gorges dam threatened its survival.

The destruction of China's history and culture is the latest account of a string of negative reports surrounding China's 'aggressive' approaches to achieving global economic hegemony, particularly by the British press. When in reality China is just one nation of many across the globe to be witnessing many of its historic architecture being knocked down and crudely replaced by modern and meaningless structures.

In Russia, much of the delightful history and culture in many of the country's great cities is being substituted for "ill-proportioned concrete giants," with the situation becoming worse every year.

The depressing trend is particularly visible in the historical city Samara. A panel of Russian and British architects from Europe's Heritage and the Moscow Architect Preservation Society insist that since the end of the Soviet Union, the striking neoclassical and art nouveau post-war buildings in Samara are slowly being destroyed by corrupt local officials and businessmen and are being replaced by office blocks.

Konstantin Mikhailov, an architectural historian, warned about the future of Russia's heritage at a recent Press Conference in Moscow: "In the next 10 to 15 years our historical visual culture will have gone."

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) outlined the threats posed by the changing climate on sites of historical and cultural significance across the globe. UNESCO's report featured 26 case studies of destruction

caused by the changing weather on buildings inscribed on the World Heritage list, including the Tower of London and the Great Barrier Reef. In the publication Koichiro Matsuura, the director general of UNESCO, calls for an "integrated approach of issues of environmental preservation and sustainable development."

In France, in an attempt to maintain their uniqueness and discover their 'inner self,' President Sarkozy has announced to pump a 35 billion euro 'big loan' into France's suffering universities and cultural sector. Unwilling to allow his country to be 'robbed' of its cultural identity by economical and technological development, Sarkozy warned at a recent conference that he would not allow France to participate in Google's plan to scan books for publication in its online library, saying, "this too is a question of identity."

While in Britain many of the country's historical battlefields are being ploughed over for farming or congealed with bricks and mortar, as British history is slowly disappearing under development. Although in the UK it is only the highbrow and more environmentally-conscious newspapers who seem concerned about their country's heritage being replaced by commercialism, as capitalism prevails over tradition. Many less 'eco-sensitive' British newspapers seem confident the problem is confined to China, where apparently nothing stands in the way of achieving worldwide economic domination.

While investigations made by organization such as SACH and UNESCO may provide concrete evidence that sites of historical and cultural importance are in decline, the definition of what is considered to be 'cultural heritage' has changed throughout the decades. Therefore trying to grasp an exact figure on the number of heritage sites still in existence is a less concrete. Deciding what is worthy of maintaining and bestowing for the pleasure of future generations is an evolving and ambiguous task, as what may be considered as cultural heritage by one generation may be rejected by the next.

(Source: china.org.cn)

अब नेपाल टेलिकमबाट अन्तराष्ट्रिय कल भन्ने सस्तो

एक्सस कोड	देशहरू	शुल्क प्रति मिनेट रु.
इजी कल	अमेरिका (१), क्यानडा (१)	४
१४२४	भारत (११), चीन (८६), सिंगापुर (६५), हङ्कङ (८५२), थाइल्याण्ड (६६)	५
एक्सस कोड	मलेसिया (६०), दक्षिण कोरिया (८२)	६
	बंगलादेश (८८०), पाकिस्तान (९२), ताइवान (८८६)	६
वजेट कल	भारत (११)	६
	अमेरिका (१), क्यानडा (१), मलेसिया (६०), चीन (८६), हङ्कङ (८५२)	८
१४२५/१४५५	जापान (८१), दक्षिण कोरिया (८२), थाइल्याण्ड (६६)	१२
एक्सस कोड	साउदी अरब (९६६), युएई (९७१), कतार (९७४)	२०
	बहराइन (९७३), इजरायल (९७२), अष्ट्रेलिया (६१)	२४
००	भारत (११), पाकिस्तान (९२), श्रीलंका (९४), बङ्गलादेश (८८०)	१२
एक्सस कोड	माल्दिभ्स (९६०), भुटान (९७५)	१५
	अफगानिस्तान (९३)	२४
	सार्क मुलुक बाहेक*	२०



नेपाल टेलिकम

Region :

Indian Maoist/ Naxal insurgency

By Sultan M Hali

The Maoist or Naxalite insurgency in India is gnawing away India's roots and has become a cause of major concern of its administration. Let us briefly examine this uprising. The term 'Naxalite' draws its origin from an organized armed peasant resistance against the landlords that began in March 1967 in a small village called Naxalbari in the state of West Bengal. It signalled the birth of a new movement and since then, all forms of armed struggle with socio-economic development of the downtrodden as the cause have come to be termed 'Naxalite'. Other terms that are used to describe the movement are 'leftwing extremism' and 'radical Maoism'.

Naxalites are backed by the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist). According to Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, Naxalites' extremism today constitutes the single most important internal security threat to India. The Naxal groups have spread their activities to as many as 22 out of 28 states in the country. In East Bengal the Naxal movement was immensely popular with not only the radical sections of the students movement in Calcutta, but the whole student body of Bengal undeniably were sympathetic about them since the mainstream Communist ideology had proved itself to be hypocritical and farcical in practice, as they stand to this day. The state machinery of India systematically annihilated this student support base from the whole movement as international human rights watchdog bodies picked up frantic calls of disappearances of students and intellectuals. Between 1969 and 1979 an estimated 5000 students and intellectuals disappeared or were killed under mysterious conditions. The West Bengal Left Front maintains that these

students and intellectuals left their education to join violent activities of the Naxalites. Charu Majumdar progressively changed the tactics of CPI (ML), and declared that revolutionary warfare was to take place not only in the rural areas but everywhere and spontaneously. Thus Majumdar's 'annihilation line', a dictum that Naxalites should assassinate individual 'class enemies' as a part of the insurrection, was exploited by state media and the Bengal Left Front to infuse a sense of demonic identity into Naxals and over thirty years portrayed them as a social evil.

Whereas the statistical data refers to the theory being only practiced against such elements in civil society who were deemed to be 'class enemies': the police, landlords, and corrupt politicians cutting across mainstream party lines. Throughout Calcutta, schools were shut down. The strategy of individual terrorism soon proved counterproductive. Eventually, the Chief Minister, Siddhartha Shankar Ray, began to institute counter-measures against the Naxalites. The West Bengal police and the state sponsored CPI (Marxist) cadres fought back to stop the advancement of Naxalites. The student part of the movement was cruelly repressed by numerous disappearing s, staged encounters, and a doldrum of state sponsored media allegations tarnishing the image of the Naxalite movement and this massive and relentless public brain washing campaign was partly successful in hijacking public opinion sympathetic of the Naxalite ideology to that of misinformed 'fear'. The human rights violations on the West Bengal police went unabated for decades after this

to attain the demonic proportions of the eighties and nineties where they have been appropriately termed as the 'uniformed mafia'. Buddhadev Bhattacharya tactically led from the front line as the police and home minister of West Bengal during the same period to turn the evil nexus of CPIM and the West Bengal Police into a feared repressive regime which was the most effective counteractive agent against the onslaught of Naxalites.

Significantly, aside from the internal dynamics of the Maoist/Naxal insurgency India also perceives an external element to it. Indian security and intelligence agencies maintain that the Maoists are receiving weapons from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and China through illegal channels. So far Indian security forces have tried to suppress the rebellion with brute force: there is an increasing need of a serious dialogue with all the groups involved in the Maoist/Naxal insurgency. The dialogue which has taken place so far with the Maoists is deemed to be a mere ploy by the government to buy time before launching a stronger offensive against the Maoists for which a number of internal security measures have been taken recently which include: tawling the international arms market to upgrade the country's counter-insurgency capabilities by India's security agencies; floating global tenders for more than 800 bulletproof vehicles by the Indian military, which are likely to be given to security agencies involved in counter-insurgency operations in Maoist affected areas; allocating an additional 10 billion dollars by the Indian government to upgrade its homeland security by 2016. This upgrade

envisages affordable technology comprising laser-guided armaments, light vehicles and drones as priority purchases. India has also drawn up a multi-pronged strategy that will target top leaders, win people through a propaganda war and offer cadres a surrender-and-rehabilitation policy while launching an extensive armed operation in Maoist strongholds across the country.

The Indian Central government has also asked the State governments to speed up development works and employment generation programmes in the Naxal-affected areas so as to counter left wing extremism with development. A military advisor has been appointed to prepare an action plan for dealing with Maoists. Indian Central Government is actively considering setting up brigade headquarters or Army cantonments in interior areas of Naxal affected states.

If Indian media reports are credible, the Indian government is preparing to launch full-fledged anti-Naxal operations at three different areas, considered tri-junctions of worst Naxal-affected states. The tri-junctions identified for the offensive are Andhra Pradesh-Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh; Orissa-Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh and West Bengal-Jharkhand-Orissa. The Maoists are enjoying popular support in the poorer area of rural, central and eastern India. Any full fledged anti-Naxal operation will be a great challenge to the Indian Security establishment. India is hosting the 2010 Commonwealth games for the first time and in the backdrop of acute threats from the Naxalites, its security forces face a major challenge. Unless it can curb or pacify the Naxalites in the meanwhile, it may be nigh impossible to host the games without exposing the participants from 71 nations to extreme danger.

We are sending doctors, not Soldiers : Fidel Castro

In my 'Reflection' of January 14, two days after the disaster in Haiti that destroyed that neighboring sister nation, I wrote: "In the field of healthcare and other areas, Cuba - despite being a poor and blockaded country - has been cooperating with the Haitian people for many years. Around 400 doctors and healthcare experts are offering their services free of charge to the Haitian people. Our doctors are working every day in 227 of the country's 337 communes. On the other hand, at least 400 young Haitians have trained as doctors in our homeland. They will now be working with the reinforcement brigade which traveled there yesterday to save lives in this critical situation. Thus, without any special effort being made, up to 1,000 doctors and healthcare experts can be mobilized, almost all of whom are already there and willing to cooperate with any other state that wishes to save the lives of the Haitian people and rehabilitate the injured."

"The head of our medical brigade reported: 'The situation is difficult, but we have already started saving lives.'"

Hour after hour, day and night, Cuban healthcare professionals began working nonstop in the few facilities left standing, in tents, parks or other open spaces, given that the population feared further aftershocks.

The situation was far more serious than was originally thought. Tens of thousands of injured people were clamoring for help on the streets of Port-au-Prince, and an incalculable number of people lay, dead or alive, beneath the rubble of clay and adobe with which the homes of the vast majority of the population were constructed. Even the most solid buildings collapsed. It was also necessary to locate the Haitian doctors who had graduated from the Latin American School of Medicine in the midst of destroyed neighborhoods, many of whom were affected, either directly or indirectly, by the tragedy.

United Nations officials were trapped inside their buildings and dozens of lives were lost, including those of several high-ranking officials of MINUSTAH - a United Nations contingent - and the fate of hundreds of other members of its personnel was unknown.

Haiti's presidential palace collapsed. Many public buildings, including several hospitals, were left in ruins.

The disaster has shocked the world. People have been able to follow the situation via footage broadcast by the principal international TV channels. Governments from around the world announced the dispatch of rescue teams, food, medicines, equipment and other resources.

In accordance with the position publicly stated by Cuba, medical personnel from other nations - including Spain, Mexico and Colombia, among others - worked very hard alongside our doctors in facilities that they themselves had improvised. Organizations such as the PAHO, friendly countries such as Venezuela, and other nations supplied medicines and other resources. A total absence of egotism and chauvinism characterized the impeccable behavior of the Cuban professionals and their leaders.

As it has done in similar situations - like when Hurricane Katrina caused massive devastation in the city of New Orleans and placed the lives of thousands of U.S. citizens in danger - Cuba offered to send a full medical brigade to cooperate with the people of the United States, a country that, as is well-known, possesses vast resources but, at that moment, needed doctors trained and equipped to save lives. Because of its geographical location, the 1,000-plus doctors from the 'Henry Reeve' Brigade were mobilized, with the necessary medicines and equipment, to leave at once for that U.S. city. It never crossed our minds that the president of that nation would reject the offer and allow a number of Americans who could have been saved to lose their lives. The error of that government was perhaps its inability to understand that the people of Cuba do not see the U.S. people as an enemy: nor do they blame them for the aggression our homeland has suffered.

Neither was that government capable of understanding that our country does not need to beg favors or pardons from those who, for half a century, have tried in vain to bring us to our knees.

Likewise in the case of Haiti, our country immediately responded to applications from the United States authorities to fly over eastern Cuba and other facilities that they needed to provide assistance as swiftly as possible to U.S. and Haitian citizens affected by the earthquake.

These practices have characterized the ethical conduct of our people and, together with their equanimity and determination, have been the constant features of our foreign policy. All those who have been our adversaries in the international arena know that only too well.

Cuba will firmly defend the opinion that the tragedy that has taken place in Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere, represents a challenge for the richest and most powerful countries in the international community.

Haiti is a net product of the colonial, capitalist and imperialist system imposed on the world. Both slavery in Haiti and its subsequent poverty were imposed from abroad. The terrible earthquake came in the wake of the Copenhagen Summit, where the most elemental rights of the 192 member states of the United Nations were trampled over.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, a competition is underway in Haiti for the precipitate and illegal adoption of boys and girls, which has obliged UNICEF to adopt preventative measures against the uprooting of a large number of children, thus depriving close relatives of such rights.

The number of fatalities is already in excess of 100,000. An elevated number of citizens have lost arms or legs, or have suffered fractures that will require rehabilitation for them to work or manage their lives independently.

Around 80% of the country will have to be rebuilt and a sufficiently-developed economy needs to be created in order to satisfy needs according to its productive capacity. The reconstruction of Europe or Japan on the basis of their productive capacity and the technical level of their populations, was a relatively simple task in comparison to the efforts that will have to be made in Haiti. There, as well as a large part of Africa and other areas of the Third World, it is essential to create the conditions for sustainable development. In only 40 years' time, humanity will be comprised of more than nine billion inhabitants and will have to confront the challenge of climate change, which scientists accept as an inevitable reality.

In the midst of the Haitian tragedy, without anyone knowing how and why, thousands of U.S. marines, 82nd Airborne Division troops and other military forces have occupied Haitian territory. Worse still, neither the United Nations nor the U.S. government has offered any explanation to the world regarding this deployment of forces.

Various governments have complained that their aircraft have not been able to land and deliver the human and technical resources that have been sent to Haiti.

For their part, a number of countries are announcing the additional dispatch of soldiers and military equipment. From my point of view, such actions would contribute to creating chaos and complicating international cooperation, which, in itself, is complex. It is vital to seriously discuss this issue and entrust the UN with the leading role that corresponds to it in this delicate matter.

Our country is fulfilling a strictly humanitarian mission. To the extent of its possibilities, it will contribute the human and material resources at its disposal. The will of our people, proud their doctors and cooperative workers on vital services, is great and will rise to the occasion.

Any significant cooperation offered to our country will not be rejected, but its acceptance will be entirely subordinated to the importance and significance of the assistance required of the human resources of our homeland.

It is only fair to confirm that, to date, our modest aircraft and the important human resources that Cuba has placed at the disposal of the Haitian people have arrived at their destination without any difficulty whatsoever.

We are sending doctors, not soldiers!

U.S.-Japan treaty has had lasting impact

By Richard Smart

On Jan. 19, 1960, the United States and Japan signed an agreement to firm up an alliance that has lasted half a century. The treaty, however, did more than this: over the course of the next 50 years, it was to lead to a number of complex negotiations between the two nations, be the source of much political wrangling and lead to the birth of the Japanese radical movement of the 1960s and the 1970s.

The treaty was signed just 13 years after the Japanese constitution was agreed upon by the government of Japan and the allied occupation forces led by General Douglas MacArthur at a time when many politicians in the Asian nation were questioning some of the articles.

The alliance has survived for half a century, however, despite controversies along the way, and on Tuesday, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama reaffirmed Japan's commitment to working with Washington.

"The U.S. military presence based on the Japanese-U.S. security treaty, I think, will continue to serve the public good by giving a great sense of security

to the countries in the region," the prime minister said, calling the alliance "indispensable."

He added that he hoped to see ties between the nations deepen in the years to come.

Mistake made?

In the five years before the treaty was signed in 1960, a new alliance had been formed at the top of Japanese politics - the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) - a loose alliance of politicians from the center and right whose main purposes were to keep the socialists from power and to reassess the constitution.

In its initial years, the party hoped for a future in which there would no longer be foreign forces in Japan, and Article 9 of the constitution, which states "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes," would be reformed. And Japan promised that "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained."

The first LDP Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama, the grandfather of the current prime minister, was a strong supporter of bringing about the revisions. Hatoyama was soon replaced by Nobusuke Kishi, however, who sought a compromise with the United States. The problem, as he saw it, was that while Japan was not allowed armed forces, it had no commitments of protection from its ally across the Atlantic.

After negotiations, Kishi signed with the United States a deal that stated, "The Parties, individually and in cooperation with each other, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop, subject to their constitutional provisions, their capacities to resist armed attack," and also allowed the U.S. troops to stay on Japanese soil.

Anger

Many in Japan, however, did not support the signing of the new pact. Nasashi Ishibashi, a prominent socialist of the time called the treaty a mechanism that made Japanese troops "a front line ... for American strategy."

His opinion was shared by many in Japan, and through 1960 there were protests throughout the nation. Notably, in June, a visit by President Dwight D. Eisenhower was canceled as Japanese action continued. Later in the month Kishi was forced from office amid amounting anger on the streets.

Kishi's downfall was seen by Sophia University professor William A. Laney as due to a "lack of solidarity and support" from within and outside his party in a 1967 article on the protests. After his resignation, however, the protesters were to build movements based upon their opposition to the U.S. treaty.

As the United States entered Vietnam, a movement was born that combined opposition to the U.S. troops based in Japan with anger directed at LDP policies. "In the following years, protests grew louder and angrier, as

(U.S.) military campaigns escalated," according to notes of Evan Serpick in a 2007 Rolling Stone article.

Moving forward

Over the course of the 1970s, the protest movements waned and the alliance was strengthened as Japan enjoyed its economic "miracle."

The decline of the USSR in the early 1990s and Gulf War in 1991, however, saw the United States ask for more of its Asian ally. Japan, however, was reluctant to offer any forces to contribute to the effort against Saddam Hussein's Iraq, and instead offered 13 billion U.S. dollars in aid for the war effort, in a move that led to accusations of "checkbook diplomacy."

As the 1990s passed, Japanese opposition to U.S. troops grew, in particular after marines based in the southern prefecture of Okinawa kidnapped and raped a 12-year-old girl. From that time, opposition to the U.S.-Japan military alliance has persisted in Japan.

Today

The advent of a new century and the war on terrorism led by the United States brought about a decade in which Japan was to commit its first troops overseas since World War II, to contribute to U.S.-led efforts in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, after the government of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pushed through laws permitting this amid opposition.

In 2009, however, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) was elected in a landslide promising to withdraw from a mission in the Indian Ocean and reassess U.S. Japan relations. Over the past few months, a debate over a treaty that will allow U.S. troops to remain in Okinawa over the coming years has exacerbated tension between the allies.

The tension, however, is nothing new and has been as much a feature of the alliance as cooperation. While debates may endure, it is likely the alliance will continue for years to come.

(Xinhua)

राष्ट्रिय विद्युत सेवाको निराकरणका लागि
सरकारी कार्यालयहरूले नै विद्युत
खपतको लागि मितव्ययिता गर्ने
कदमहरू चालु राखी सर्वसाधारणलाई
सुसूचित गराऔं ।



नेपाल सरकार

सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय

सूचना विभाग

Aid risks being twisted into a tool of war

On January 27 there is a crucial international meeting on Yemen squeezed in ahead of the London conference the following day on Afghanistan, and at both, the U.K.'s Department for International Development (DfID) will play a major role. Key to the discussions on these fragile states will be the task of "state building", or how external actors can build "capacity", as the lingo goes, and help governments to win legitimacy, keep peace, raise taxes and provide the rule of law. Much of this is increasingly seen as DfID's fiefdom; in Afghanistan it is the lead U.K. department on economic development and governance. It works closely with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and, with a budget more than three times that of the Foreign Office — and, ring-fenced from cuts, it will soon more than quadruple its former parent department — DfID is a frontline player in foreign policy. Since the primary objective of the latter is counter-terrorism, this now plays an increasing role in what British aid is all about.

That is not quite the public image of a cuddly DfID, an unqualified Labour success story of exemplary altruistic internationalism: all cherubic African children safely immunised and getting an education. That still goes on, but bundled in with this good news story is something very subtle but entirely different, and it is about how aid is being used to secure western strategic interests. Seven major non-governmental aid agencies working in Afghanistan will say in a report published on Wednesday that they are "deeply concerned about the harmful effects of this increasingly militarised aid strategy" in the country.

In the U.K., there are vigorous efforts to ensure that DfID's pronounced aims — cost-effective poverty reduction — are not compromised, but the mission drift is already evident, and likely to become even more pronounced under a Conservative government. The pressure from the U.S. is clear: Hillary

By Madeleine Bunting

Clinton in a speech earlier this month was unapologetic: "Development ... today is a strategic, economic and moral imperative — as central to advancing American interests and solving global problems as diplomacy and defence." It is "time to elevate development as a central pillar of all that we do in foreign policy".

The reasoning behind such a statement is at first glance plausible: poverty causes conflict and development brings peace. It is the theme Tony Blair took up in the aftermath of 9/11 when he talked of "draining the swamps", resolving the economic problems which might prove a fertile ground for terrorism. But as Professor Chris Cramer of the School of Oriental and African Studies points out, development itself can cause conflict, creating winners and losers; besides, there is no clear causal link between poverty and extremism. Many of the 9/11 bombers, and the Christmas Day bomber, came from wealthy families.

What worries critics is that the militarisation of aid is a dangerously slippery slope whereby development aid is distorted or even entirely subordinated to achieve military objectives.

Huge increases in DfID budgets for Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001 and 2003 indicate how the priority of poverty reduction (enshrined in a 2006 act) gets eroded. Countries with comparable or higher poverty levels get less funding. There are inevitable tensions: is DfID in Afghanistan to reduce poverty or help end a war? DfID argues forcefully that the two are mutually reinforcing and best achieved by building capacity in government, training police and extending the rule of Kabul. But the argument is riddled with questions. The Russians poured aid into Afghanistan, did plenty of "capacity building" and still lost the war; the Afghan economy has grown considerably but it has done nothing to build confidence in the Kabul state.

the neighbouring countries.

The India side has always been exaggerating the perceived terrorist threat from Nepal.

Intelligence sharing could have been the best way to address the challenges of terrorism but the discussion has never been centered on this direction.

If one is to realize the past experiences, it can safely be predicted that the provision of extradition will not be in favour of Nepal.

Reforming ...

of the FPO and reduce the government's stake in the bank.

The government will have to first inject fund into the banks since any bank with negative net worth is not entitled to issue public shares.

On the other hand, the RBB has demanded Rs. 10 billion from the government for the purpose of recapitalizing it.

The RBB management is of the view that that Rs. 10 billion will be

Propping up a corrupt regime in Afghanistan or Yemen will do little to alleviate poverty. But no, insists a DfID official, "don't let the best be the enemy of the good". Fair enough, except that this justification sounds worryingly familiar from the cold war.

Look closer at the DfID budget and hundreds of millions go into "governance" budgets such as training police, compared to a tiny sum spent on water resources. That is not quite what Make Poverty History campaigners in 2005 were trying to achieve. Unwittingly, the increasing aid budgets have proved a useful resource for counter-terrorism. When international attention landed on Yemen's links with al-Qaeda at Christmas, who at the London roundables had a budget line which could pay for "state building"? DfID. It puts a whole new light on the Conservatives' oft-repeated pledge not to cut DfID funding.

U.S. General Stanley McChrystal — who is leading the surge in Afghanistan — argues that modern warfare is not fought around people but among them: the key objective is the people. That makes development in certain contexts — particularly in the eyes of insurgents, but even Ms. Clinton seems to accept this — a tactic of war.

It makes for some extremely uncomfortable relationships. Social scientists are in demand by defence departments in a bid to improve intelligence; the U.S. is expanding its human terrain teams, recruiting anthropologists, sociologists and other development experts and sending professional bodies such as the American Anthropological Association into a moral tangle. One moment you are an obscure Ph.D. student researching gender relations in a remote Muslim country, the next your knowledge is as valuable to the military as the latest weapon wizardry.

You could argue there is nothing new here, that this is simply a slow

sufficient for the bank's recapitalization.

The management is planning to derive additional Rs. 5 billion from the net profit of Rs. 2 billion it posted last fiscal year.

At the same time, the RBB is also mulling to receive about Rs. 3 billion by selling its crossholding in Nepal Investment Bank (NIB), in which it has shares worth Rs. 3.61 million.

But, the finance minister has categorically stated that the government could not manage sum to the tune of Rs. 24 billion for recapitalizing the two banks in a single year because it could be politically disastrous.

It will be unjust to mobilize the said volume of money to save the banks that plunged into crisis due to gross mismanagement at the cost of development.

Apart from alarmingly high negative capital, overstaffing is another major problem the two banks are reeling under.

They are spending their entire

return to form. Aid in the cold war was notoriously used to prop up unpalatable regimes the world over. But part of Labour's DfID story is that it has put all that behind it and now aid serves much more honourable intentions. DfID insists that our moral responsibility to help the poor and our interests neatly coincide to intervene in fragile states.

But given that the accepted DfID analysis is that the single biggest determinant of long-term poverty reduction is political stability, then all manner of interventions to secure that stability can be justified as reducing poverty. The aims of British aid policy prove to be very flexible. For instance, how about a trick question like this: is aid to be focused on reducing infant mortality or securing a regime which can contain terrorism? What makes this territory such a quagmire is that the latter can be argued as a way to achieve the former.

Organisations such as Oxfam and Medecins Sans Frontieres are increasingly outspoken. MSF says that the blurring of military "stabilisation" strategies and humanitarian assistance has made the last decade the most dangerous for its workers in its history. The space for neutral humanitarian engagement is dangerously shrinking. Aid workers are seen as complicit with western intervention and become targets; indeed Colin Powell made that explicit in a now infamous phrase when he commended humanitarian NGOs as "force multipliers for the U.S. government". But that is not all; the projects themselves — the schools and clinics — become battlegrounds. Surely this is the most cruel of outcomes, when children and the sick become targets. Vickie Hawkins of MSF describes how health clinics in Helmand have been attacked by both sides; those who accept donor funding are attacked by insurgents, those who refuse are regarded as suspect and attacked by the international security assistance force.

respective income for paying to a huge number of employees.

Other commercial banks spend just around 20 percent of the income for this purpose.

The health of the two banks determines the state of the entire financial system as the RBB and the NBL are the first and third largest banks respectively in terms of deposit mobilization as of the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

They together occupy one fifth of the total deposit and credit flow in the country.

Out of the total deposit of Rs. 576 billion mobilised by 26 commercial banks in the first four months of the current fiscal year, RBB and NBL cover Rs. 65 billion and Rs. 44 billion respectively.

The government had initiated the financial reform programmes eight years ago by taking Rs. 7 billion as loans from the World Bank (WB).

It seems that the process of consolidating these anemic banks is no less than a Herculean task.

Boosting confidence

■ R.K.Regme

The country's capital market needs boosting measures to change the trend of fall which continued for the past three weeks. The Nepse index marked a fall by -2.42% at the closing in the past week when all trading days witnessed nothing but decline.

Investors appear to be playing a cautious game of wait and watch with no confidence in various components of the market. They do not show any willingness to pick up the cheap stocks which suppliers are forwarding in an aggressive move.

A number of factors — financial and others — could be responsible for the dismal performance of Nepse. All the financial measures undertaken by the authorities concerned have failed to create a climate of optimism among investors. The government's inability to address the pessimism seen in the investment sector might have been indirectly responsible for the poor performance of the capital market.

Some say the indefinite strike programme announced earlier by the opposition party Unified CPN Maoist from January 24 also hit the Nepse arena very badly. The decision to withdraw the same came too late in the week to make any impact on the transactions of the market.

The total turnover of the week stood at Rs.155,832,820 as against Rs.156,540,513. The leading sub-indices could not also show any promising performance. The commercial banking sub-index witnessed -3.38% fall. The stocks of Standard Chartered bank and Nabil stooped low by -Rs. 45 and -Rs. 180 respectively. The Development banking sector had the same story of poor performance - 1.97%.

The Hydropower sector, however, sailed against the falling trend of the market as it posted a gain of 1.76%. So did Chilime Hydropower as it registered +Rs. 50 along with the Insurance sector which gained in the figure of 1.20%.

Indifference

Nepal Rastra Bank and the government of Nepal appear not ready to interpret the continuous decline trend in Nepse for three weeks. Had they taken it seriously the Nepse closing at 518.11 points last week, the lowest since December-beginning would have alerted them to do something to boost confidence in the capital market. They, however, are taking it just as another figure of the Nepse front.

The other fronts capable of boosting the spirit of the capital market also display a sense of indifference giving one reason or the other. Banks could play an instrumental role in utilizing the opportunities presented by the suppliers' pressure in the capital market. The private sector could also contribute to it by building pressure on government to undertake measures to encourage investment in the market.

The indifferent attitude of the authorities concerned in reversing the downtrend of Nepse suggests yet another week with the same story of dismal capital market. Could Nepalese economy continue tolerating such falling trend in the market? Should it not be addressed properly and in time?

ADB pledges continued assistance

Visiting Vice President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Zhao Xiaoyu has pledged ADB's continued assistance to Nepal for achieving the development targets set by the country.



Underlining the importance of improvement in project implementation to deliver results on the ground to the people of Nepal, Zhao, who is here on a two-day trip, said, "Continuing commitment by the Government to push for reform and achievement of development goals is equally critical to support the peace process and achieve the longer term goal of poverty reduction in this transitional period."

He confirmed that the ADB would continue to support the development of Nepal's large hydropower potential and emphasized the importance of taking advantage of the opportunities for public private partnerships in developing both hydropower and other infrastructure services.

Strengthening Nepal's economic and infrastructure linkages with neighboring countries through regional cooperation was also emphasised by the Vice President.

During his visit, Zhao held meetings with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning and Works, Minister for Finance, Minister for Energy and other senior Government officials.

He also consulted with the Government on ADB operations in Nepal following ADB Board of Directors' approval of the new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Nepal for 2010-2012.

NEA increases load shedding

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has increased the load shedding hours to 11 hours a day effective Thursday from the existing nine hours a day.

NEA will cut power twice a day in five and six hour slots. At present, NEA had been cutting power in four and five hour slots.

NEA has mentioned it was forced to increase the load shedding hours due to decreased production as a result of depleting water level in the run-off-the-river projects.

Sher Singh Bhat of NEA's load dispatch centre said, the load shedding hours could further increase if the water level in the rivers decrease further.

NEA and energy ministry officials had been saying till a few weeks ago, the load shedding hours will not increase more than 12 hours a day this year.

Ceaseless ...

Meanwhile, Pakistan has also forwarded the proposal to sign separate extradition treaty with Nepal.

That the extradition treaty can dampen the Nepal's friendly relations with third country sounds pretty plausible.

Nepal is also hesitant to succumb to the Indian tactic of deploying its armed air marshals in Nepal sky.

The issue is directly with the country's national sovereignty.

Nepali political leadership can well face intense public wrath if it gives nod to the Indian establishment in this regard.

The people have already been frustrated with the meekness of their leaders to return back the Nepali soil blatantly seized by the giant called India.

Of course, it is logical on the part of Nepal to prevent its soil from being used against any country, especially



San Miguel BEER

International :

Hasina's sell out of national interest and surrender of sovereignty

The patriots of Bangladesh in general were anticipating the agreements between Bangladesh and India, during Hasina's visit to India from 10 to 13 January 2010, to be unfavourable to Bangladesh.

By Zoglu Husain

With transit through Bangladesh, India is likely to use Bangladesh territory as a supply route for transport of arms and ammunition to North-East India to counter

Hasina did not raise with India:

Hasina failed to claim compensation from India for the desertification and other damages to Bangladesh due to Farakka and Teesta barrages and other structures, which India built on reportedly 53 of the 54 common rivers. When Manmohan assured her that India would not cause any harm to Bangladesh by Tipaimukh Hydel project and the ensuing Fulertal barrage, she failed to unroll the pictures of desertification by existing barrages, failed to produce a list of damages quantified in monetary terms and failed to say that these assurances have regularly been uttered by India since 1972, but India has never been found to keep any promises.

Hasina did not ask India to get out of South Talpatti, to stop claiming our maritime areas, to stop killing of unarmed poor villagers in border areas (according to HR organisation 'Odhikar', Indian BSF killed about 100 people a year since 2000 and similar numbers were injured and abducted) and to stop abducting huge numbers of poverty-stricken Bangladeshi children and girls for their inhuman businesses of darkness. She did not ask India to stop arming and training 'Shanti Bahini' in CHT, the 'Bongo Bhumi' movement in the South West, etc. and to close down the terrorist training camps in India, which are run for sabotage in Bangladesh. She did not say to India's face that India is suspected to have created the JMB and their strategic-partner Israel to have created the HUI-B to impart on Bangladesh the blemish and stigma of a 'failed' or 'terrorist' state and, on this pretext, draw international support for India against Bangladesh.

Hasina failed to charge India for their hold-up on ratification of the India-Mujib treaty for the last 36 years. She failed to condemn their non-tariff and para-tariff barriers, which are raised to intentionally jeopardise and block Bangladesh exports to India, thus creating a huge trade deficit for Bangladesh. She failed to condemn India about what they recently did in pretending to extend relief to SDR victims of Bangladesh. She failed to tell them that all of the above problems remaining unsolved, India can never be a friend to Bangladesh and with barbed wire fences all round its border, Bangladesh cannot have any friendly or normal relations with India.

Both Manmohan and Hasina must know that there are patriots in Bangladesh, who would speak their minds about their national interest and who understand absolutely well that cooperation and subservience are two different things. They also understand that: With a hegemonic friend like India, who needs enemies?

Hasina in her previous term as Prime Minister between 1996 and 2001, when she was duly elected, entered two treaties with India. One was the Ganges water sharing treaty, which was without a guarantee clause and without a mention of withdrawal or diversion of water upstream of Farakka. Some people call it a fraudulent treaty. The other treaty was her peace treaty in CHT, in which she actually surrendered the sovereignty of CHT to India. So, it can be observed that she has developed a habit of conceding national interest and surrendering sovereignty to India and, no wonder, India is so euphoric about her being the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

The imperialist support for hegemonic India is a boost for India's evil deeds:

The New York Times, the Herald Tribune and the VOA have all welcomed Hasina's cooperation with India and these media, often influenced by India, have absolutely turned a blind eye to the problems of Bangladesh as mentioned above. They normally turn a blind eye to all the genocides, massacres and plunders perpetrated by the US and their allies. As compatible with this policy, they turn a blind eye to the genocides and

massacres perpetrated by India on the Muslims, other religious groups, Dalits and ethnic minorities, in which hundreds of thousands of people get slaughtered in India. So, when the imperialist media try to stand on moral high ground, they sound very hollow indeed! And thus, when they welcome Hasina's visit to India as a beginning of good relations between Bangladesh and India, they are simply supporting the imperialist-hegemonist evil alliance against us, the victims.

The one-eleven 2007 of Bangladesh was engineered by India with the active backing from the US and their allies, including their rubber stamp the UN. This was done to subjugate Bangladesh, to plunder its natural resources and to trample its national interest. They brought Hasina to power with the same objectives and by using the same methods of rigging in stage-managed election under military deployment, as they did to bring Karzai and al-Maliki to power.

The Obama administration seems to have retained the Bush policies in South Asia. Their half-hearted attempts to change the policies on Palestine and Kashmir seem to have been thwarted by Israel and India respectively. With the US strategic partnership with India and Israel remaining in tact in the perspective of South, Central- and South-East Asia, India would avail of this power ensemble in order to try and reduce Bangladesh to their vassal state. So, our security is under great peril, as our independence and sovereignty are alarmingly under threat.

So, what should we do?

History has proved time and again that when a nation stands up with its people imbued with patriotism and united as a solid rock, then no external powers, however strong, can defeat them. History has also proved that the people of Bangladesh can unite and fight gloriously. Therefore, we have nothing to fear.

We must immediately build a united front of all the patriots across the political spectrum against the Hasina-Manmohan treaties and MOU's and launch a powerful movement for the annulment of the treaties and the MOU's, which have already threatened our independence and sovereignty, our national interest and our national resources. This movement would help the patriots to unite, would help the nation to stand up with valour and pride and would imbue the people with the spirit of liberty.

At present, it seems as though the international community is both blind and deaf to our causes, but as it happens normally that when the public is united and they stand up, the blindness and deafness of the international forces suddenly get cured, so that they begin to both see and hear. We therefore must persist in our political campaigns just as the Palestinians have done since the occupation of their lands.

Israel today stands precariously at this juncture of history, when there are reported CIA assessments that in about 20 years time the state of Israel may not exist.

India today stands precariously at this juncture of history, when according to a Chinese analyst, it can implode and divide into 20-30 states. Obviously this is due to the widespread insurgent movements and the movements of the repressed people and the various nationalities against the mindless genocides and massacres perpetrated on them by New Delhi.

The US today stands precariously at this juncture of history, when the unipolar world between 1991 and 2008 gave way to a multipolar world, which has arisen in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2008-09 and the US has begun to go downhill towards the horizon of setting sun, leaving behind a world fervently hoping to be free from the genocides, massacres and plunders of imperialism.

We shall defend Bangladesh against the hegemonist aggression of India. We shall stand up as a brave people, we shall rise as a great nation and in course of time we shall make advancements to our country in order to join the ranks of the developed ones.

~ News ~

Premier Wen visits Xinjiang



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has promised to take effective measures to help people through the worst snow in Xinjiang in six decades, said a statement from the State Council General Office Monday.

Wen visited Altay and Tacheng, two regions in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

"The Spring Festival (China's Lunar New Year holiday) is drawing near. We must implement well relief measures and make sure that people in blizzard-hit regions will have a peaceful and happy festival," said the Premier at a meeting with Xinjiang officials.

The central government would provide more support to affected regions, including funds and relief materials, he said.

The focus of work is to maintain people's livelihoods, agriculture and animal husbandry operations, supplies of commodities and transport services.

On Saturday afternoon, after five hours of flying, the Premier arrived at Altay in northern Xinjiang and then visited a Kazak village in the suburbs of Altay.

The temperature fell to 26 degrees below zero and snow was piled up more than one meter high along the village path when he reached the house of Kazak shepherd Zhumashi.

Wen instructed the local officials to speed up transport of fodder from farming regions that were less affected by the weather.

The government would offer subsidies and provide discount loans for shepherds, and would continue assistance into the spring, he said.

"We are fully capable of overcoming the difficulties we face," he said.

The news of Wen's arrival quickly spread in the village and many villagers joined in the talks at Zhumashi's home.

"The government has offered a lot of help. We will also try our best," Shihake, another villager in his 70s, told Wen. "Since you have come, we are more confident."

The latest cold snap left at least 11 people dead and more than 600 injured in the region by Jan. 23.

Wen's next stop was a shepherd settlement in Tacheng, another seriously affected region.

(Xinhua)

Queen Elizabeth II plans to address UN General Assembly



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Monday welcomed the announcement from Buckingham Palace that Queen Elizabeth II will visit United Nations Headquarters in New York in July.

The British monarch is slated to address the 192-member General Assembly on July 6 for the first time in over 50 years.

As Britain's head of state and 15 other UN member states, the only other time the Queen addressed the General Assembly was in 1957.

A statement issued by Ban's spokesperson said Ban warmly welcome the announcement of the upcoming visit.

"He looks forward to receiving Her Majesty personally on this historic occasion," it said.

(Xinhua)

Chemical Ali executed

Iraq's Saddam Hussein's close aide 'Chemical Ali' has been executed in Baghdad, the Iraqi official television reported Monday.

"Ali Hassan al-Majeed has been executed today," the channel quoted Ali al-Dabbagh, the government spokesman, as saying.

Dabbagh refused to give further details about the time of the execution of the convict.

On Jan. 17, the former Saddam Hussein top aide received his fourth death penalty for his role in chemical attacks against Kurds in the village of Halabja.

Halabja, a Kurdish village, suffered the most brutal crackdown against Iraq's ethnic Kurds during the so-called Anfal campaign carried out by Saddam's regime in the 1980s. In March 1988, at least 5,000 people were believed to be killed in conventional and chemical bombings and attacks ordered by Saddam's authorities.

Al-Majeed had been sentenced to death for his role in Anfal campaign against Kurds who revolted in northern Iraq during the war with Iraq in 1980s.

In 2008, Chemical Ali was once again sentenced to death for his crimes against Shiite community during their uprising in southern Iraq that followed the 1991 Gulf War.

In 2009, al-Majeed was sentenced to death for the third time for the assassination of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad al-Sadr in 1999.

(Xinhua)



However, what they actually found in the end was much worse. The 50-point Joint Communiqué was published by the Ministry of External Affairs, India, on 12 January 2010, the day when the agreements were signed. The excerpts thereof, and possibly the full Communiqué, were also published in Bangladesh on 12 January 2010. These reports said it all. The patriots of Bangladesh in their utter amazement found the agreements to be absolutely a sell out of national interest and an abject surrender of sovereignty by the BAL government to the gleeful Indian hegemonists.

In exchange, Hasina was awarded a hollow and worthless Indira Gandhi 'peace prize' by these Indian hegemonists, who in 2005 awarded the same prize to Karzai, as Karzai and Hasina are both puppets of the US-Israel-India evil axis. Also Indira's name cannot be associated with peace, without making a travesty of truth.

Save and except for the sworn lackeys of India, the victims of India-influenced media and other propaganda campaigns (like the WMD propaganda campaigns of lies by Bush) and the direct and indirect beneficiaries of Indian bankrolling and influence, the other people of Bangladesh in general are totally unhappy about, and opposed to, these agreements. They wholeheartedly denounce, reject and condemn the agreements and would look forward to the abrogation of these, whenever the right opportunity arises and, for that matter, the sooner these are annulled, the better for them.

The consequences of the agreements and the MOU's:

Hasina has conceded to India what they have been pursuing for decades. She has conceded the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports and Ashuganj river-port and also offered them road and rail transit. In order to develop the roads for India's transit (corridor), India has offered a loan of \$1 bn. Thus, according to these arrangements, it would be Bangladesh, who would repay the loan with interest, while India would enjoy the transit (corridor). With a puppet regime like Hasina's, it could not have been better for the Chanakya's disciples in the South Block of New Delhi!

Out of these agreements, India would be getting sea, road and rail transits. River transit was conceded to them by Mujib and air transit by Moeen. India has offered to sell 250 MW of electricity to Bangladesh, which is not much compared to our requirement of 3000 MW. But, it would allow India to have a pressure lever on the users whenever they want to apply the pressure. India is eyeing control of our power sector, telecommunication sector, transport sector and, in course of time, control of the entire administration. Hasina's bent-knee policies on the present round of agreements is supposed to be a good beginning for the hegemonists.



local freedom fighters and to prepare for a possible conflict with China. When these cargos are under any terrorist threat, whether it is a false flag staged by India or a threat from the insurgents of India or an action of any angry demo by any unhappy Bangladeshi open or secret group, India would send military contingent for the protection of the cargos. Recently they have, according to reports, sent a commando of 50 or more specialist forces for the protection of their Dhaka High Commission, and Hasina kept mum about it conceding it as a diplomatic prerogative.

Once the Indian soldiers start entering Bangladesh, which India would very much like to do, they would virtually control Dhaka. Indian army was stationed in Bhutan in 2003 in the name of flushing out Indian insurgents. The Indian army since then have been permanently stationed there and consequently Bhutan became a dependent territory of India. With the same aim in view, India offered their puppet Moeen a joint military operation in Bangladesh, which because of sensitivity was avoided at that moment, probably postponed for then for the future. But, Moeen offered India military co-operation in exchange for six horses. The co-operation can be, according to many, linked to the rigging of the stage-managed election of 29 December 2008, the action of Indian commando in BDR massacre of 25-26 February 2009 and removal of any resistance to Indian hegemony from within the army, the BDR and the administration in general, in flagrant violation of our independence and sovereignty.

Is Bangladesh now an extension of war-zones of India?:

Thus, with the signing of these agreements, Bangladesh has exposed itself to grave security perils and has brought upon itself an extension of the military conflicts of the neighbouring Indian states. On the other hand, if Indian army enters Bangladesh, then almost certainly there will develop an armed resistance from the people of Bangladesh with great geographical consequences, for these kinds of conflicts may well spill over both the Eastern and the Western borders of Bangladesh and can easily get linked to the Indian ongoing conflicts in those areas, inevitably bringing upon us a great scourge of warfare on our soil.

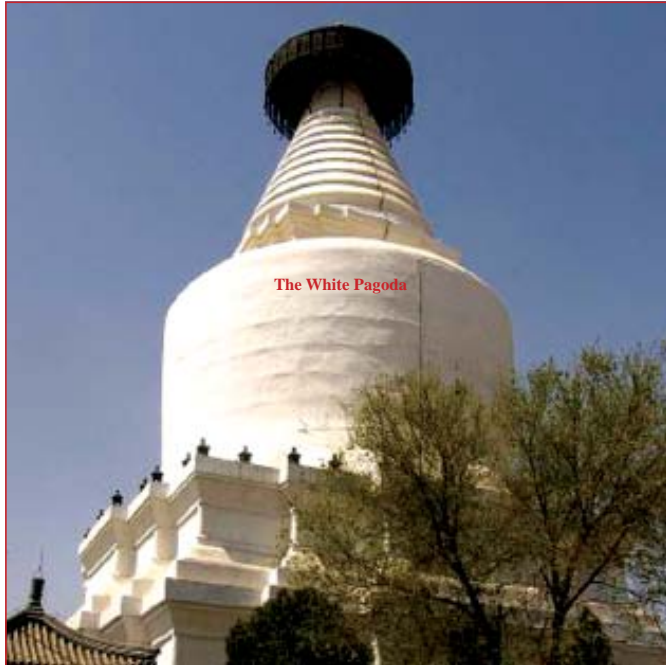
With a treaty on terrorism signed, Hasina has already lied herself with the Indian government against the ULFA, the Maoists and similar such insurgencies in India. This may bring about disastrous consequences for Bangladesh and this is tantamount to joining the conflict, which may invite attacks in Bangladesh.

Thus, the treaties and the MOU's are not only a sell out of national interest, but also it is an abject surrender of Bangladesh sovereignty to India.

What national interests

Nepalese Buddhist artist Arniko and his contribution to Buddhist heritage of China

[A symposium on "Buddhism and Sino-Nepali Cultural Linkage" was organized by Institute for Chindian Studies & Department of Social Sciences, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China in partnership with Liuzu (Huineng) Temple at Zhenshan, Sihui City from 26-28 December 2009. The following was the presentation made by Prof. Min Bahadur Shakya, Director, Nagarjuna Institute of Exact Methods, a center for Buddhist centre, during the symposium.]



The White Pagoda

Introduction

Nepal has produced stars of brilliant personalities who contributed a lot to humanity and society through their arduous travels, skills and knowledge. But some of these personalities are not recorded in annals of our country due to utter negligence and simply due to lack of information about them. Although Arniko is one of the key figures in the arts of Nepal, Tibet and Yuan China he is still poorly understood.

According to Chinese sources his legendary life and career over nearly sixty years had a lasting artistic and spiritual influence on Asia and on China in particular. The magnitude of his accomplishments rivals those of Brunelleschi, Michelangelo, and Leonardo in the West. In spite of his great contribution in China and Tibet his name is not even mentioned in the annals of Nepal. Little is known about his contribution on his Buddhist artistic skills. He built White Pagoda in Beijing, Wu tai Shan, Golden Pagoda in Tibet and constructed a great deal of monasteries, shrines, paintings, portraits, artifacts and even scientific equipments.

The present study has planned to throw light on the contribution of Arniko for the development of Buddhism and artistic heritage in China. He not only built Buddhist monasteries but also Confucius shrines, wall paintings and numerous images of this tradition. Arniko's ten accomplishments at the court were enumerated. The first six of his achievements include his mastery in gold, Jade, terracotta and the like. The last four mention four specific textile artist embroidery and three types of weaving namely damask, brocade and tapestry.

While Nepalese history is scantily recorded, there is one exception: substantial information on Arniko's life is found in Chinese historical sources, which provide a rare glimpse into the Nepali artist's society, family, career, and art.

Arniko's family lineage

Arniko, the greatest artist of Nepal and the highest artisan-official at the court of the Mongol emperor Kubilai Khan, was born in 1245. His father's

name was La-Ko-na and his grand father's name was Mi-ti-erh. His grandmother was Chundi laxmi (Chinese: Kun di la qi Mei) and his mother shu-ma-kelai.

Based on the Chinese epitaph we have been able to identify the names of the family members partly in Chinese and partly in Nepalese names only.

According to the official Chinese epitaph, Arniko was descended from a king of Nepal. His royal lineage cannot be the contemporary kings or princes. Concerning his royal birth lineage it is highly probable that he was born in Sakya family of Patan. Tradition is that he was a descendant of Buddha Shakyamuni's family. Because in the inscription he was mentioned as descendants of royal family, Sakyas of Kathmandu valley still use their lineage as Sakyavamsa i.e. of lineage of Sakya. The names of his wife and grandmother suggest Sakya family of the Patan city at present time as well.

His early career and education

When he was three years old, his parents took him to a Buddhapuja ceremony in a monastery. After seeing the Buddha temple he had expressed his sentiments:

"Oh! Who could be the builder of the pinnacle and pillars of this temple?" At this many people were surprised and said:

"If this boy can speak such a profound words even at this small age, in the future he can be a great architect who will build Buddhist temples. This boy speaks just like an adult!"

We are told, in the Chinese epitaph, that his parents in 1247 once took the child to a temple to pay homage to the Buddha. Looking up at a stupa (a Buddhist reliquary mound), the three-year-old boy asked about the symbolism of various parts of the monument and its maker. He also asked about wooden *stambha*, *bhumi* and *anda*.

Greatly surprised, the people around realized that he was a born artist. From so young a source, his questions inspired wonder among people nearby, who saw in him a prodigy destined to become a great artist... or so the legend goes.

When he was about seven, 1252

C.E. his temperament was sober like an adult. He entered school to study western books. He soon understood them and became good at writing. It is said that his knowledge exceeded that of his teachers. Even venerable elders acknowledged their inferiority. The sutras of measurements were books on arts. He memorized them as soon as he heard them read. It is said that he could recite from memory an entire text on iconometry after a single reading. In a very short time he mastered the three aspects of image making: designing, molding and Casting. When he was little older, he often made things that were extremely exquisite. Before he left Nepal for Tibet, he was already an expert in painting, modeling and casting images. He has learnt Sanskrit language as well in his childhood and writes the letters very nicely. Even the old man of his time used to be jealous of his learning. He had also learnt the texts like *Buddhapratimalaksana* shastra concerning iconometrics. It seems that he had the capacity of memorizing the texts once he had heard.

Arniko in Tibet

Arniko and his team visit Tibet in Sakya monastery to construct Golden Stupa.

After receiving the decree to construct Golden stupa from Kubilai Khan, the emperor then Phags-pa turned to Nepal for artists. Tibetan Buddhists had always looked toward Nepal, the birthplace of the Buddha and Buddhism for religious and artistic inspiration.

According to the History of Yuan Dynasty, in 1260 Kublai Khan, the great ruler of China and suzerain of the Mongol states and Tibet, requested his spiritual teacher, the abbot of Sa-skya, Phags-pa (1235-80), to erect a "Golden stupa" in Tibet.

Phags-pa intended to recruit as many as one hundred artists for the project. The number may not have been large by the standards of the Mongol empire, which had incalculable human and financial resources. But for the small kingdom of Nepal, which had been devastated by repeated wars, famines, and earthquakes, to find so many qualified artists in a short time was not easy.

One-hundred Newar artists were to be found and sent for the task, and the king of Nepal, Jaya Bhima Malla (1257-71), managed to gather eighty of them. To head them he chose a member of royal family, Arniko who, though, then aged only sixteen, had specifically requested to lead the team. Convinced of the young man's ability, the king entrusted him with the responsibility of leading the team to Tibet. Arniko and the Nepalese artists arrived in Tibet in 1261.

Arniko in China

Arniko's success had been such that Lama Phags-pa insisted him and asked him to visit China. Following Phags-pa, Arniko arrived in Dadu (Beijing) by the end of 1262. After arriving at China, Arniko appeared in the presence of Emperor Kublai Khan in the palace. The emperor tested Arniko's skill by asking to repair a bronze statue that had been judged as damaged "beyond repair" by all the other court artists. Arniko accepted the challenge. Then ordered to restore a statue of copper dedicated to the Song Emperors Arniko became supervisor-in-chief.

In 1273, Arniko became supervisor-in-chief of all classes of artisans. Under his direction a department in charge of artisans was established in 1275. During Kubilai's rule, this was one of the two most important artistic institutions of the dynasty.

White Pagoda at Beijing (1271-79)

The White Pagoda is located in the western part of the city of Beijing. It was built in the 8th year of Zhi Yuan (1271 A.D.) and completed in the Zhi Yuan (1279 A.D.) of the Yuan dynasty. When it was completed a big religious function was organized by the emperor to initialize it. Upon arrival of the emperor to the White Pagoda a powerful heavenly light beam struck on it and the Pagoda glowed. According to the Chinese chronicles, floods of sunlight suddenly broke the clouds and illuminated the skies when the Stupas were dedicated, on separate occasions. In any case these dramatic effects delighted the Mongol rulers and convinced them of the sacred nature of the monuments and the supernatural abilities of their designer and builder. The emperor was astonished to see this and believed Arniko had divine powers. The emperor made him a powerful

and one hundred head of cattle.

Arniko builds Sarira Pagoda at Wutai shan-1301

Arniko constructed another White Stupa at Taihuai in the central part of the Wutai Mountain in 1301. An imperial order, issued jointly with the fifth Yuan imperial Preceptor Grags pa 'od zer (1246-1303) from the Wutai mountain, indicates that Temur and the Imperial Preceptor were also in the Wutai Mountain in the fourth month of the same year. Their trip there must have been related to the construction of the stupa. It is said that auspicious clouds and lights appeared in the sky at the beginning of the construction. To the general public, such a view not only demonstrated the sacred nature of the monument but also added to Arniko's renown.

At the beginning of the construction, auspicious clouds and glow appeared in the sky. It is especially popular among Nepalese, Tibetans and Mongolians. Besides, he made many Monasteries and houses for pilgrims there. It has also survived and stands fifty two meters high dominating the view of the Wutai Mountains. Enclosed in two white stupas are a large number of Buddhist images, texts, and other treasures. If their contents come to light in the future, they will drastically change art historians' understanding of Arniko's style and the art of the period. P. Landon states that at Wu Tai Shan there is still a structure remotely resembling the shrines of Bodhnath and Svayambhu and it does not appear that any other similar shrines is to be found in China proper. This suggests that Nepalese Buddhist monks had influenced the life and manner of monks at Wu Tai shan of China. For this second stupa, he was given ten thousand tassels of silver and was married to a Mongol official's daughter.

Contribution in the construction of Temple Buildings, paintings, sculptures

Apart from these three majestic stupas, Arniko built many monasteries. According to Stele inscription, Arniko is said to have built nine Buddhist temples or monasteries, and two Confucian shrines and one Taoist palace. To describe them in details is beyond the scope of this small article. However, a tentative list of monasteries is given below:

Arniko was a genius and versatile person. As far as the sculptures are

of Art, USA

- Mahakala sculpture: Dated 1292 Partially polychrome and gilded lithographic limestone 47 x 285 cm L. Fournier donation with usufruct MA 5181 now in Musee Guimet, Paris
- Lacqur Bodhisattva
- Image of Manjusri (1305) Preserved in National Palace Museum, Taipei

Arniko and his disciples in China

Even after the death of Arniko, his art tradition did not die away with him but continued through his disciples. He left behind his stylistic standard for the court. Many of his disciples continued to work following his norms of art tradition. Among them two of his sons Asangge and Ashula took charge of his official duties and followed in the official footsteps of their father; but none of them achieved fame. It was because Yuan emperor kept Arniko's style as official standard.

Last days

On November 10, 1305, Arniko received an order from the empress Buluhan but all the tantric duties were destroyed in front of him. It was catastrophic blow to him.

To Arniko, the order was more than destruction of the statues. It was the destruction of his faith, his work, his dignity, and his unwavering loyalty to the Mongol dynasty.

For more than forty years his works had been admired, praised, and regarded as models of artistic and spiritual purity at the Mongol court and throughout the empire.

Suddenly, however, they were denounced and destroyed. He had never suffered such a humiliation before. His health failed, and he fell ill after returning from a court session. Two days later he died. Following Nepali custom, he was cremated, and his ashes were buried in a stupa near the capital three months later.

Conclusion

He was a genius. While living in China for more than forty-five years he earned highest imperial positions and honors in Yuan dynasty. His constructions and creations of arts and artifacts have earned high appreciation and admiration for him from Chinese and other people all over the world since hundreds of years. With contributions in developing arts and architecture in China he earned great prestige and honor for Nepal and the Nepalese



Portraits of Emperor Kublaikhan and empress Chabi

minister in the court. He was given the title of Liang Guo Gong (duke) and was posthumously given the title of Ming Hui. After its completion, a monastery of great dimensions was constructed in front of it and granted the name "the monastery of greatness, holy, longevity, and everlasting peace and tranquility".

For Arniko, heavenly blessing materialized into earthly reward. For the first stupa he was awarded fifteen thousand acres of rich farm land around the capital, nearly one thousand serfs,

concerned, "all statues in monasteries in Dadu and Shangdu were sculpted under his supervision. At that time, the statues made by him became the standard art style of the Yuan dynasty.

Arniko introduced Nepalese artistic styles into Chinese culture. Some of his outstanding paintings and sculptures are:

- Portraits of Emperor Kublaikhan and empress Chabi (Preserved National Palace Museum, Taipei)
- Painting of Green Tara: Now preserved in the Cleveland Museum

people. The Chinese people regard Arniko as a symbol of Nepal China friendship. Arniko's biography is more than a story of a Nepali artist's gallant adventure and phenomenal success in foreign lands. It is also a story of how Himalayan Buddhist art became an international style. That style continued to thrive after Arniko's death and eventually became the basis for the Buddhist art at the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing courts and in Mongolia. Most of the Stupas built by Arniko are preserved as heritage monuments.