

## Compounding schism



WM Correspondent  
Even though the three-point agreement-reached among the three major parties-UCPN (Maoist), Nepali Congress (NC) and CPN (UML)- paved the way for the extension of tenure of the constituent assembly (CA), it has proved to a fiasco in terms of insulating the country from the vortex of political mayhem.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal has shown no signs of resigning as promised in the agreement and the country continues to be engulfed by worsening political crisis.

There has not been any meaningful

dialogue among the prime politicos to bury their hatchet after the signing of three-point agreement on May 28.

All the same, this agreement created some sorts of ripples in the main opposition party, UCPN (Maoist). The two major ruling parties- NC and CPN (UML)- have already said that they distaste the proposition of Maoist chairman Puspa Kamal Dahal again ascending to the post of Prime Minister.

Nevertheless, the NC and the UML have also said they no qualms in accepting an alternative candidate to Dahal to assume to the post of the next

premier.

Though the former rebels have declared Dahal as the official candidate for the next Prime Minister, they have said they are also not averse to discuss the idea of viable alternative.

In this light, the Maoist faction supporting vice president Dr Baburam Bhattarai has intensified lobbying for leading the new government headed by him.

It is a Herculean task for Bhattarai to generate support to steer the new government as the entire party is not in his favour.

Chairman Dahal seems to be in

mood to either lead the government by him or let other parties do so.

The hardliner faction within the UCPN (Maoist) led by the Mohan Vaidya is unlikely to support Bhattarai at any cost to lead the next government.

Maoist leaders close to chairman Dahal believe that the ruling parties and India are plotting in conjunction to create a rift within the party in the name of giving leadership to one leader or another instead of the supporting the candidate fixed by the Maoist party.

On the other hand, those inclined towards the Bhattarai camp say that Dahal is anxious of being dwarfed by

Bhattarai if the latter is elevated to the post of prime minister.

In this context, Dahal, in his political paper, has talked about policy of non-cooperation with the ruling parties if they failed to implement the three-point agreement.

He has also said that the possibility of the formation of Maoist-led national consensus government is also receding fast.

Interestingly, this standpoint of Dahal has drawn fierce criticism from the Bhattarai camp, according to which, the policy is vaguely worded with no clear road map.

The party, which has orchestrated big protests time and again to topple the incumbent government for the sake of the Maoist-led national consensus government, is now discussing about remaining in the opposition.

It is contradictory in itself.

Some observers ascribe this unexpected volte-face in Maoist thinking to internal rift within the party on the question of leading the new government.

The Bhattarai camp is aspiring to lead the consensus government bypassing Dahal but another faction led by Mohan Vaidya group supported by the party chairman detests this idea.

According to observers, as the vibes between Bhattarai and New Delhi are positive, the latter might back him to become next prime minister if the new government is formed.

The Vaidya group, which believes that the ruling parties are conspiring to derail the peace and constitution-writing processes, is sharply against the naked interventions of South Block in Nepal.

As such, the possibility of India leveraging its brazen political clout in Nepal to bestow Bhattarai with something politically big is simply high.

## Former king in Bara for religious purpose

Former King Gyanendra Shah has flown to Parwanipur, Bara to inaugurate and worship at the newly constructed temple of Mata Baishnodevi on Wednesday.

As Shah reached Simara airport by a regular 9 am flight of Buddha Air, a large crowd of well-wishers, who were gathered near the airport, cheerfully welcome him, who was dethroned two years back.

Shah also spent a considerable amount of time talking with locals and well-wishers in Bara.

Security deployment was heightened in Bara keeping in view the presence of the former King.

Former King Shah has started visiting various cities on pilgrimage in the recent months.

A few months ago, he had visited the Ram Janaki temple in Janakpur and Bageshwari temple in Nepalgunj.



## Who will rule the roost?

WM correspondent

With the next general convention around the corner, Nepali Congress (NC) is witnessing its different factions displaying hectic acrobatic exercises to strengthen their respective clout in the party.

The second biggest part is holding its general convention in August this year.

Three factions are strikingly visible within the NC. Acting president Sushil Koirala and parliamentary party leader Ram Chandra Poudel is heading one faction. The other one is steered by senior leader Sher Bahadur Deuba and the third one by Narahari Acharya.

In fact, the most conservative layer of the NC led by prominent leaders like Govindraj Joshi, Khum Bahadur

Khandka and Kul Bahadur Gurung has also been involved in schematic activities.



This section has proposed Gurung as candidate for the presidency of the party.

However, the likelihood of either the faction led by Koirala or the one by Deuba- holding sway over the upcoming general convention is high.

In order to rule the roost, these strong two factions are also likely to go

for realignment with other small factions.

The Koirala led faction seems to be

stronger at the moment because some influential supporters of Deuba including Bimalendra Nidhi and Prakash Man Singh have joined it.

Ideologically, it represents the centrist position in the party.

With the generosity of the defectors of Deuba camp, Ram Chandra Poudel could well also bag away the title of the

parliamentary party leader of the NC.

This faction is also relatively more active and agile while dealing with other parties.

Although Deuba is considered as the most senior amongst the other currently active NC leaders as per the consensus reached during the unity between the NC and the then NC (Democratic), he was sidelined when the three-point agreement was recently inked to extend the tenure of the Constituent Assembly (CA).

On the other hand, the Koirala faction appears to be enjoying a better influence in the party.

That it recently nullified the announcement to form a 'Taruan Force' in Sindhupalchowk somehow attests to this fact.

Deuba and Khum Bahadur Khadka even tried to [Cont. on page 7]

## Political myopia hits budget

WM correspondent

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal flatly refused to consult with the main opposition UCPN (Maoist) before the announcement of the end of the winter session of the parliament.

Now, he is facing hardship to ask president to call for a budget session as the non-cooperation on the part of the Maoists to run the house is looming large.

The Maoists, who have been single-mindedly demanding resignation of the Prime Minister, will, in no way, support the incumbent government to

announce the budget for the current fiscal year.

In all likelihood, the Maoists will obstruct the house demanding the immediate implementation of the recently reached 3-point agreement, which also states about the resignation of the prime minister.

The Maoists' cooperation as main opposition is a must to present policies and programme of the government.

The Maoists have been saying that they are hoodwinked by the ruling parties in the 3 point agreement as prime minister [Cont. on page 7]

## Augmenting arrears reflect government's flippancy

WM Correspondent

Office of the Auditor General (OAG) recently submitted its annual report 2010 to President Ram Baran Yadav to make the government implement the recommendations of the report.

The OAG report has talked about transparency on the part of the government offices, their financial discipline and the possibility of corruption in certain cases.

But, the government is obviously not serious to implement the recommendations of the constitutional body that audits the financial transactions of the government agencies.

The government's lackluster attitude towards implementing the

recommendations becomes solidly evident with the fact that it has not yet tabled the last year's report presented by the OAG.

As per the existing rule, the report should be debated in the parliamentary Public Account Committee (PAC) and the government is given an appropriate direction to take the necessary measures.

Depressingly, the government has also not presented the report of 2008 for debate in the parliament even though the OAG submitted it twice after 2008.

The government's ceaseless flippancy towards implementing the OAG report has also enabled Nepal to earn a disgrace of being one of the most corrupt countries in the world by

the Transparency International, a global anti-corruption watchdog.

Such tendency on the part of the government has also led to the alarming swelling of arrears that the government promised to clear within mid-April next year.

Acting auditor general Badri Bahadur Karki himself does not believe that the government will clear all the arrears within a year.

The government arrears went up by additional Rs. 16.73 billion, thus augmenting the total size of arrears to Rs. 36.80 billion in this fiscal year.

The swelling arrears can be ascribed to non-recovery of revenue, improper accounting and delays in repayment of advance.

The Ministry of Local Development tops the list of ministries having the largest arrears accounting for 23.99 percent of the total. The ministries of physical planning and works, finance, education and health and population follow in that order.

The finance ministry has topped the list in terms of arrears created by non-recovery of revenue. It amounts to Rs 848.98 million or 66.51 percent of the total of such arrears.

It is the finance ministry that is responsible for allocating budget and tightening the budget where it thinks unnecessary.

But, the appallingly disappointing performance on the part of the Finance Ministry also suggests how other

ministries and government offices are running. There remains high chance of corruption in such arrears.

The Ministry of Education topped in terms of arrears created due to improper account management while Ministry of Local Development topped the list for not working timely with the advanced payment.

The government has also failed to implement the OAG's suggestion to bring the donors' technical assistance under its auditing purview. The donors have pledged technical assistance of Rs. 23.94 billion in the current fiscal year but the government has not allowed the OAG to include foreign aid categorized as technical assistance in the red book, which contains details of

the government's budget allocated for different projects.

The situation of the state owned enterprise (SoE) is more problematic. More than a half corporations are in deep crisis and they always clamour for the government's support for salary and perks to their employees. The government has invested billions of rupees in the corporations but they have failed to give any handsome return to the government. Even those with a little profit have failed to balance the extra expenditure of the government on those SoEs. Nepal Telecom is the biggest profit making company owned by the government. But, there are lots of complains about its service standard.

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## Editorial

# Avoid looming economic meltdown

In a nutshell, the outlook of the economic scenario is devastatingly bleak. Politics of three parties – UCPN- Maoist, Nepali Congress, and CPN UML and small parties do not appear to be bothered by the crisis simmering in Nepali economy.

They are so passionate to fulfill their own parochial and petty political interests that the fast worsening economic situation has failed to evoke them.

Inflation rate is hovering over 13 percent coupled with famine like situation in far west Nepal particularly in Mugu and Humla areas. Balance of payment deficit stands at 22.1 billion rupees and remittance growth rate has fallen to 9.6 percent from 60.3 percent in a year. The government has become unable to spend more than 26.7 percent of budget estimate on capital expenditure.

The Three Year Plan (2010-2013), Nepal Tourism Year 2011 and a number of hydro – power and infrastructure projects are reeling under adverse effects of deadlock among political parties.

Various factors such as financial indiscipline, NRB's failure to appropriately supervise the financial and banking sector, liquidity crunch unproductive and uncommercialized farming, power outage, labour problems in industrial yards and business fronts, scarcity of water for people and their farms, excessive import, diminishing export, wasteful use of resources, inability to utilize existing roads properly for transporting people and goods also only prelude to economic meltdown.

The industrial and business sector crisis is also badly affected by the practice political parties adopt in imposing the informal taxation on entrepreneurs and earners from time to time in the unfriendly form of extortion or in the pretext of voluntary donation.

The power outage and persistent dispute between the company management and trade unions over labour related issues along with liquidity crunch, capital flights, contraction of investment prospects, among others, have severely sapped the vitality of the private sector of the country.

It goes without saying that the private sector is an integral component of the socio-economic development of the country. However, the performance of private sector is very poor thanks to several political and other problems.

The alarmingly rising imports in contrast to dwindling exports have eroded the vitality and vibrancy of the private sector, let alone its adverse repercussions on the country's trade deficit.

Likewise, the swelling exodus of human resources to foreign countries has also circumscribed the competency of the private sector to a considerable extent.

There are amongst some factors that demand urgent attention from the concerned authorities to ensure the dynamic growth of the country's commercial sector.

# Koshi High Dam Proposal : Recipe for catastrophe

Political observer

With the advent of the monsoon season, hard times get worse for Nepali villages as they face being submerged by downstream Indian barrages. High dams like those at Gandak, Khurdalotan, and Mahalisagar, to name a few, inundate Nepali villages mercilessly every year, leaving thousands of people stranded and homeless.

Nepal has faced the perennial threat of submergence and mass displacement during rainy seasons owing to these Indian dams, but then India often resorts to nefarious tactics to construct dams and barrages on its border with Nepal to minimize, in turn, havoc caused by Nepali rivers on Indian towns and villages downstream.

India does harbor a special fondness for Nepal's water resources. Its proposal to raise a 269-meter-high dam in Sunakhambi Khola on the Sapta Koshi river, 5 km north of Barahachhetra temple in Sunsari district, is yet another expression of their uncontrollable eagerness to tame the Himalayan rivers.

The rationale for constructing the high dam is that the Koshi barrage, built forty years ago, is deteriorating.

India's dedication to this project dates all the way back to 1947, but went into full swing for five years with the issuance of a detailed report, after Nepal reached an agreement with India to advance to a first-level project study.

It has been learned from various reliable sources that India has begun field studies and surveys, setting up field offices at a dozen locations in Nepal for four years. A veil of secrecy has been judiciously maintained, as outsiders, whoever they may be, are barred from ferreting out even the slightest details concerning the dam.

The Indian side has shrouded the project in mystery. At the same time, India's claimed benefits for Nepal are being questioned as overdrawn.

As the project proceeds, human rights activists, politicians, academics, and others are crying "foul," and, most importantly, it has stirred up discussions among intellectuals as to how much the dam will do for Nepal. Can Nepal use this dam to her advantage? Legitimate questions like these are gaining ground in Nepal.

Despite this uproar, India has remained determined to carry out clandestine field surveys and soil testing.

Meanwhile, India is upbeat about its proposed project. Entitled the "Sapta Koshi Multi Purpose Project," India claims it will irrigate 68,450 hectares in Nepal and quench the thirst of drought-prone areas measuring 1,520,000 hectares in India. Besides irrigation, about 3,500 MW of electrical power would also be generated from water stored in the 269-meter-high reservoir.

But the opponents of the dam strongly question the benefits claimed by India.

Even in India, big dams like Sardar Sarovar have failed to yield what was promised at the time of construction. If it has not happened in India itself, how can it be naively expected that an Indian-built dam in Nepal would deliver the goods?

Nonetheless, along with these queries we also need to be objective and go back to an assessment of the benefits and losses that the Koshi barrage and other Indian-built dams have meant for Nepal up to the present day.

It is high time to ask ourselves - what have we gained from the Tanakpur, Mahalisagar, Khurdalotan,

Gandak and other barrages?

An objective analysis of the entire gamut of water agreements signed with India is needed to chart out a future strategy when it comes to dealing with India on our water resources, according to experts.

This is not to say, however, that Koshi Dam should not be constructed, but an objective consideration of its socio-economic impact is required.

The bedeviling fact, however, is this: According to a preliminary impact study, the proposed Indian plan will displace millions of people from about 79 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in nine districts. About 111 settlements in the 79 VDCs, sprawling over the banks of the Sun Koshi, Tamor, and Arun rivers, will be totally submerged, while 47 settlements will face partial submergence, and 138 will become fractionally submerged.

"If the dam is going to cause such upheaval, can the crops produced from the 68,450 hectares of irrigated land in Nepal compensate for this huge loss?"

Meanwhile, there are innumerable challenges for the Nepalese government if the proposal finally takes off. The grave challenge for the government will be to relocate huge numbers of displaced people and to face the protest challenges of the entire Nepali people.

Does the government have any concrete rehabilitation policies? Where will those million of people be resettled? These questions are quite relevant at a time when people displaced from the Koshi barrage project in the 1950s are still fighting for compensation. In the light of this, how can those displaced by the high dam be assured that they will be properly reimbursed?

Moreover, it is no longer a secret that, despite building 3,600 large dams of its own, India has failed to fulfil pledges of promised development to its own people. The World Commission on Dams Report puts the figure of people affected by the dams at about 600 million worldwide over the last fifty years. If that is the case, then what is prompting India to build yet another dam within Nepal?

Why hasn't India learned anything from America? America built 5,500 high dams but stopped because of irremediable socio-economic consequences for people, the environment, and the riverine system. According to international criteria, dams exceeding 15 meters in height are considered high dams.

Every year, the promotion of high dams affects two million people globally, in addition to environmental costs, so Nepal must not remain upbeat about reaping maximum advantages from the Koshi high dam. It must not keep quiet but should assess the gap between actual costs and benefits that Nepal will incur in the long run.

India is speeding up the process leading to construction of what could be the world's highest dam on the Sapta Koshi River in eastern Nepal.

Nepal and India agreed in 1997 to set up a joint technical team of experts from both sides to carry out a study of the feasibility of developing the Koshi Dam to a height between 269 to 335 meters.

If constructed, this structure could match the height of the current record holder for the world's highest dam - the Rogun Dam on the Vakhsh River in Tajikistan, which stands 335 meters (1,099 feet) tall.

According to an agreement

between Kathmandu and New Delhi, part of the overall project is to build a dam in Okhaldhunga district on the Sun-Koshi River - one of seven major tributaries of the Sapta Koshi.

In addition, Nepal is proposing a Sun-Koshi - Kamala diversion. This diversion will bring Sun Koshi river water through a canal into the Kamala River in central Nepal. This canal and other canals from Kamala River will make a network of irrigation facilities which is expected to water agricultural land from the Koshi River in the east to the Bagmati River in central Nepal.

The Sapta Koshi is the largest river in Nepal, with an average 150,000 cubic centimeter per second (cucecs) of water flow in dry seasons. The river brings up to 400,000 cubic centimeter per second of water during monsoons. The highest recorded flood in Koshi is 800,000 cucecs in early 1960s. The 2004 monsoon recorded up to 400,000 cucecs of water, according to official data.

Proponents of the mega project hold that Nepal would reap tremendous economic benefits from the development of the project. The Sun-Koshi Kamala diversion would irrigate 300,000 hectares of land in eastern Terai besides generating thousands of megawatts of electricity, they say.

Experts in Nepal are against the massive dam. The proposed high dam will be built in a seismic fault zone in the southern flank of the Himalayan range. Constructing a dam with the height of 269 meters in this area is to invite destruction, says geologists.

One can imagine what would happen if the dam is brought down by the jolt of an earthquake. Flow of millions of cubic meters of water per second will devastate a huge area in Nepal, experts warn.

The issue of human displacement is another problem. According to preliminary estimates, hundreds of villages and several thousands of people in Nepal will have to be displaced to make way for the project.

The world is experiencing problems in resettlement of the displaced. Nepal is heading towards this," says an environmental journalist. Nepal with its limited resources cannot cope with huge numbers of displaced people.

Loss of agricultural land and biodiversity caused by inundation is another issue raised by critics.

Nepali experts are against the proposed Koshi high dam not just on environmental grounds. They are skeptical that the long-conceived project will ever take off.

There are valid reasons for the Nepali public to be skeptical. First, Nepali leaders have been talking about harnessing the Koshi Rivers just like the Mahakali and the Karnali for decades.

Second and more important, in 1996, Nepal and India entered into an agreement to develop the Mahakali-Pancheshwor Multipurpose Project and prepare its Detailed Project Report within six months. Fifteen years later, the joint team of experts is still "working on it." Only UML leaders are still optimistic that the Mahakali project report will be prepared and the project constructed.

Water resources experts in Nepal ask, "What happened to the promises and the commitments they made before signing the Mahakali Treaty? Where is the bonanza they promised they would provide to the poor people of Nepal?"

CPN-UML leaders Madhav Kumar Nepal and K.P. Sharma Oli had during the ratification of Mahakali Treaty taken the country

into a ride by claiming that if the treaty is indeed ratified then Nepal would be immensely benefited from it, it would be earning more than Rs. 150 billion in revenue annually through sale of electricity generated from Mahakali Multipurpose Project alone. They said that this treaty, if ratified, would also completely, abolish poverty in Nepal and even went on to say that this treaty would help Nepal enter into, as what they called, its 'golden period'. Although 14 years have gone by since the signing of treaty, but nothing of that sort has happened: so much so that even after so many years even the DPR (Detail Project Report) has not been prepared - this despite the provision in the treaty which states that it should be prepared within six month of the signing of the treaty. Moreover, as per provisions, the treaty should be reviewed in every 10 years. But as nothing of this sort has happened the treaty has completely lost its legality and significance and hence, it is now about time to scrap this treaty.

In his interview with a leading national daily, Deepak Gyawali, former minister of water resources, says, "The proposal of Saptakoshi High Dam is wrong concept because it would take two or more decades to construct, thus failing to address problems of current and immediate future concerns. It is extremely expensive and it does not address the primary problem of sedimentation (the reservoir will fill up too soon with Himalayan muck), has no convincing answer regarding the cost of attending to high seismicity in the region as well as diversion of peak instantaneous flood during construction (it is a major engineering challenge with no easy solution). It will also create more social problems when indigenous population in Nepal have to be evicted from their ancestral homes. A Koshi high dam would be tantamount to Nepal importing downstream seasonal floods as permanent features of its landscape for questionable benefits to it. I think neither India nor Nepal is in a position to afford the technical, economic and social costs associated with it."

Obviously, the Nepal government is not found to be sensitive towards the above mentioned possibility. The proposed High Dam will not be in good stead for longer time as the Koshi river brings soils and sands which piles up in the reservoir, thus it can lead to similar disaster recently witnessed in east Nepal. Given the loose composition of soil of Chure hill, the proposed High Dam is bound to collapse in the course of time.

Similarly, the Dam can also safely be predicted to inundate the Baraha area which is one of the most revered pilgrimages of the Hindus in Nepal. According to the experts, the construction of Dam may also trigger a great catastrophe if it is damaged by a big scale earthquake.

So, the experts have urged to adopt alternative ways to solve the perennial problem of Koshi floods. They have proposed the adaptive technologies with strong social components that have been traditionally used by people in the form of houses on stilts and building villages with raised plinth levels that keep life and property safe but allow the flood to easily pass by leaving fertile silt behind. Gwawali rightly says that there is nothing called a permanent solution (how 'permanent' is a permanent concrete dam, after all?); but building houses on stilts is a cheaper, more 'doable' and thus a better solution.

# Nepal fails to write new constitution within the May 28 deadline

By Rudra Sharma

My prediction came true as I had posted on my November 22, 2009 article in the American Chronicle that "Nepal may not issue Constitution on set time: Constitutional Crisis in the offing". Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA) could not issue a new constitution within May 28, 2010 deadline but extended the deadline for another one year. However, the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 have not stipulated any provision to extend the deadline nor to add the time in any circumstances. The interim constitution envisions that the Constitution would be made and promulgated, at any cost, within the 2 years time before the May 28 deadline. The CA members added the one year time extending the deadline on the basis of a political consensus among the political parties of Nepal. To be specific, the political consensus was virtually a consensus between leaders of three parties. They were Sushil Koirala of Nepali Congress, Jhulanath Khanal of Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist and Leninist) and Puspa Kamal Dahal a.k.a Prachanda of United Communist Party (Maouis). These three leaders reached a consensus at May 28 midnight and the CA just put on it a stamp of approval.

There are enough grounds to argue that the extension of the CA tenure was unconstitutional. Articles, 64 and 82 of the constitution seem a little contradictory on the extension. The CA could have used a very little scope of Article 82 and Article 143 to extend the CA tenure. But, the CA did not choose it and blindly extended the CA tenure on the basis of political consensus using Article 148 of the constitution that empowers the CA to amend any Article of the constitution.

This CA term extension reminds me the action of the Bush Administration in Iraq that was commented as "Not Legal but legitimate." Legality and legitimacy of the extension can be argued at length. Had the CA tenure was not extended, Nepal would have been fallen into an unpredictable chaos and series of controversies. The sovereignty and integrity of Nepal itself would have been in question. Therefore, Nepal's civil society activists who were earlier advocating vehemently not to extend the CA tenure but write constitution on time, made a U turn and argued the CA term must be extended in order to save the CA. This is one of the reasons that Nepal needs experts of international level to feed into the legal as well as constitutional vacuum appeared in this manner.

The CA would have been ended by 12:00 midnight of May 28, 2010. But the CA meeting to extend its tenure started just half an hour earlier and

voted on the another issues before to reach into the exact bill to extend the CA tenure. There were couple of objections on the CA extension bill already registered on the House. Therefore, the House voted on the objections to find a way of the House to the CA extension bill. By the time the procedure to eliminate the objection was completed, it was already 11:47. And, then, the Speaker ordered for 10 minutes recess of the House before actually starting the Bill to extend the CA tenure. The House commenced again around 1 o'clock. It was already next day meaning that the House was already dead by 12:00 o'clock. When the CA actually voted itself to extend its own tenure it was already dead technically. It was something like a clinically dead person. However, no one now dare to raise such issue considering the gravity of issue to save the CA. But if, these issues are raised someday by somebody, or if, it is challenged at the Supreme Court, we, then, will need a lot of interpretations of the same.

The reason CA became late to meet on May 28 was that the United Communist Party of Nepal (Maouis), the largest party in the CA, was demanding resignation of Prime Minister Madav Kumar Nepal as a precondition in exchange of the party's support to extend the CA tenure. The demand of resignation of the premier was hanging at the middle of Nepali politics for several months. The Maoist party had been demanding the leadership of the government by the virtue of being the largest party in the CA. Other political parties told the Maoist party that the leadership of the government was possible if only the party shows and commands majority in the CA which also acts as a House of representative. Following the row over the resignation of the premier, the Maoist party carried out a national strike all over Nepal from May 2 to 8. They called back the strike amidst an assurance that the Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal would resign if they called off the strike. But, other political parties raised the issue who would replace Primer Madav Kumar Nepal should be settled before he resigns. The other political parties also say that the Maoist party is not fulfilling its past commitments including the issue of disarming the party cadres, dissolve the Young Communist League (YCL) and return back the property confiscated earlier.

Other political parties basically say that Maoist still has not been a civilian party as it is still counts and moves with the strength of its combatants in the cantonments and the YCL. This divergence of opinion among the

political parties requires in-depth interpretation of all agreements between the Maoist party and other political parties starting from the peace process or the twelve point agreement in the beginning of the peace process. For this, Nepal now needs experts of international level to look into deep down to the peace process.

The role and presence of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) has also fallen into controversy. The UNMIN came to Nepal in accordance with an agreement called Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of the Arms (AMMA) and Armies December 2006 between erstwhile government of Nepal and Communist Party of Nepal (Maouis) as witnessed by Mr. Ian Martin, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of United Nations. Before this, Mr. Martin was working as the chief of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal. According to Articles 147 and 166 of Nepal's Interim Constitution, 2007, the Monitoring Agreement is a part of the Interim Constitution itself and this well-settled through interpretations of Supreme Court of Nepal. In this way, Nepal's peace process requires to make an interpretation of the scope of the UNMIN vis-a-vis international law. Who will make final interpretation of the AMMA if there happens to be a dispute between UNMIN and Nepal government or with any other parties in connection with the AMMA.

Tension grew between the government of Nepal and the UNMIN in the Spring of 2010. The government questioned the "impartiality" of UNMIN alleging that UNMIN has failed to undertake its monitoring job effectively. The government also criticized UNMIN's refusal to share confidential information related to combatants.

The Under Secretary General also reiterated that UNMIN was there in Nepal to help and it should not take the blame for those who fail to shoulder their responsibilities to make the peace process work. "We are dismayed that some commentators try to hold the mission responsible for situations and shortcomings that by the very insistence of the parties themselves, the mission has little or no capacity to control. This is absurd and should end," he added.

Amidst such controversies, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has extended the mandate of UNMIN for another four months till September 15, 2010. Therefore, Nepal need experts of international level to make a diagnosis of all these dimensions of peace process.

Besides, geopolitics also works on this and Nepal's geopolitics is said to

be not favorable to UNMIN. A weekly news magazine called Nepal writes on its March 21, 2010 issue that the southern and northern neighbors of Nepal do not want active role and presence of multinational institution in Nepal. The news item quotes one of the incumbent ministers from Nepali Congress as saying, "India is not much encouraged with the presence of UNMIN in Nepal." The news continues as saying that Nepal's northern neighbor China does not like increasing activeness of international organizations including UNMIN in Kathmandu. China links this with Tibet issue. Each and every western experts, journalist or job holders who come to Kathmandu to observe the peace process put a special interest on the separatist movement of Tibet. Greg Bruno writes on the Foreign Affairs of May 26, 2010 that although the United States envisions Nepal as a stable and democratic buffer between China and India, the road ahead may be determined by those competing giants.

The above accounts verify that Nepal is now fallen into a deep ideological conflict between the above mentioned political parties of Nepal. Nepal state is loosing its strength everyday and being weak to continue a trust of people as a repository and trustee of the people. Further, the role and scope of UNMIN as well as other international players adds another dimension on the conflict. Furthermore, the seemingly unconstitutional (but necessary not unconstitutional in real sense) extension of the CA tenure has pushed Nepal into a weak constitutional legal ground thereby making the legal validity of the total process into a shadowed question. Constitutionally, Nepal has now been entered into blank area, grey area and non-areas. They all are very unpredictable. Therefore, Nepal now needs experts of international level. However, experiences over the couple of years have shown that the experts (many of them so called experts) imported from foreign lands are proved to be naive to work with the complicated peace process of Nepal if we expect some concrete and workable recommendation from such expert. Therefore, Nepal based experts should be groomed and developed more so that a team of experts can handle the above mentioned issues. Actually, Nepal needs more than experts that is guarantors who can guarantee that an agreement reached between the conflicting political parties would come into force. It is not easy to find such guarantor, nor it is logical to argue that such guarantor can be imported from somewhere. Therefore, the best way is to work with the expert who can fix things intact.

# Ensure the right of the children

By Nirjal Dhungana

The problem of child labor in the society is on the increase, number of street children is growing rapidly and more than 20 percent of the children are devoid of basic education. It is necessary for the government to implement clear-cut policies and programs related to children's



rights to give them proper education. All types of exploitations against the children must end for ensuring them a life sans fear.

All around us, in highways, public thorough fares as well as in streets of our cities we can meet these lovely creations of God putting in at least 15 hours a day labour to perform all sorts of odd domestic chores in homes, restaurants and similar other places. They get meager economic return for this labour and so is their food. There is hardly a well-to-do family in which such minor children are not employed to perform domestic duties. But nothing is seen being done effectively to improve the lot of this wretched but most potential part of our society. There are laws, there are a number of philanthropic organizations, there are innumerable gifts and relief programs from international agencies to free these unfortunate human-being undergoing heart rendering sufferings for no fault of their own.

The question therefore is cannot this situation be improved. Do not the privileged people have any responsibility towards providing due love and care to these neglected creatures, who given proper facilities, can develop themselves into responsible and useful citizens of tomorrow. In fact, this vast number of the society's populace constitutes the basis of the future generations, which may come out either to be useful citizens or dreadful evils of the future generations and it is also a fact that it is the children of today who if neglected to wrangle with stray-dogs on the sinking heaps of food leftover in the streets, the whole society will get infested from the same disease tomorrow, destroying all our dream of a beautiful future.

The situation for children in the rural areas is much more appalling because of poverty. There are even minor children belonging to the age group of seven to fifteen who are bound to play the supporting role in the family. There are schools and other institutions, too, to improve the physical and mental capacities of the children. However, the poverty compels the poor families to send their children to the fields and forests (to collect the firewood). Also they work as domestic servants in the houses of well-to-do families. These constraints put these unfortunate children in such conditions that they remain deprived of the opportunity of acquiring education, something which could in the long run contribute towards making them able to learn skills and techniques to earn for themselves reliable means of livelihood.

Despite this, there are some very basic humanitarian problems also. A large number of minor children work even without getting paid any remuneration just for survival at family levels. When they enter adolescence, they are transferred into the labour market as cheap commodities and are compelled to sell their labour for very low wages.

Children are potentially a rich resource of a country and need to be given love and care. It is with his lofty end in mind that a number of benevolently programs are drafted and carried out both on national and international levels. But the situation in which hundreds of millions of innocent and tender children of both sexes live a life of wretched destitute is still harrowingly terrific and pitiable.

There are many causes behind children becoming an orphan: Abandonment from their parents, rise in domestic violence, lack of opportunities in the village, exploitation at work places, growing trend of migration in general and the 10 years long conflict situation as reasons contributing to the children coming to streets. Unfortunately as it is, these children have to face problems of hunger, shelter, clothes, etc. These children are among the high risk and insecure groups.

UN General Assembly adopted the convention on the Rights of the child. In addition to setting standards for children's survival, health and education, the convention seeks to protect millions of children who are exploited, abandoned or abused, wherever they may be.

Millions of children who are not infected with HIV are already suffering emotional and economic deprivation because their parents have died or are chronically ill.

The long term target to create enabling condition suitable to children is to put an end to all types of criminal acts, exploitations and discriminations by promoting and protecting children's rights committed to the charter of children rights and other related additional documents including international and regional levels. Children are the future of the nation; hence it is necessary that the country should pay attention to develop their basic requirements. The number of street children is growing in an alarming level in Nepal. So, all types of exploitation against the children should be thoroughly tackled for ensuring the rights of the children. Awareness programs related to children's rights should be launched through the involvement of NGOs, community based organizations and civil society.



Dear Editor

Reference is made to Mr. Satya Sagar's article "Thailand: Two elites and a proletariat" published in the Weekly Mirror, on June 4, 2010 which reflects some misconception about Thailand that needs to be clarified.

First of all, His Majesty the King of Thailand is above politics. The monarchy's role is clearly stipulated in Thai constitution, to which His Majesty the King has always conscientiously adhered. Other than his moral authority, the king has no formal power and does not dictate how Thai democracy develops and which direction it will take. His Majesty is the king of all Thais, never taking sides or involving in political matters. He has no role in any military coup in Thailand.

With regards to the Forbes Special Report in August 2008 which ranked His Majesty the King of Thailand as the richest monarch in the world as quoted by Mr. Sagar, I wish to clarify that the report is inaccurate. In estimating the net worth of His Majesty the King of Thailand, Forbes has also included land and other assets belonging to the

## Letter to the editor

Crown Property Bureau, which are not the part of His Majesty's personal net worth. Moreover, there should not be any uncertainty about the future of the monarchy in Thailand as the issue of royal succession is governed by both palace laws and the Thai constitution, which should ensure a smooth transition.

In his article, Mr. Sagar referred to the security operations in Thailand in May 2010 and mentioned that "the army brutally cracked down the protestors using trained snipers and war weapons to take on street protestors armed mostly with slingshots, burning tyres and Molotov cocktails." However, it is clear that there were elements that resort to violence among demonstrators who used weapons of war and grenades in the incidents on April and May 2010 leading to loss of lives and injuries among both authorities and demonstrators. Therefore, the Royal Thai Government

had to step up measures to ensure that the law be enforced effectively and normalcy could be restored.

The present Thai government works for all Thai people and adheres to the rule of law. It does not use different standards for particular groups or individuals. As a democratic society, the judicial system in Thailand is independent and separate from the executive system. The judicial process takes time as there are a lot of evidence and witnesses involved. How quickly each case proceeds depends on its complexity. Certain case against "The Yellow Shirts" have already been submitted to prosecution, such as the one on intrusion into a TV station. But, cases like the blockades of the airport require more time given the large number of witnesses. Likewise, some cases involving "The Red Shirts" remain under investigation.

The Royal Thai government recognized the need to address the

challenges which lie ahead, including the challenge of overcoming the divisions that have occurred among the Thai people. In this regard, the Prime Minister of Thailand has affirmed that the government would persevere what has been envisaged in the five-point reconciliation plan, which the Prime Minister proposed, along with the rehabilitation process that address all the aspects to restore the sense of harmony and solidarity among the Thai people, based on the principles of participation, democracy and justice.

Yours Sincerely,  
Pichayada Poomlaochaeng  
Press Officer  
The Royal Thai Embassy,  
Kathmandu

## Correction

In the article entitled "Kyichu Lhakhang of Bhutan: A legacy of Nepalese Princess Bhrikuti," published on June 4, of this newspaper, the writer's name should have been Min Bahadur Shakyu not otherwise as was mentioned. The error is regretted: Editor

# Role of structural engineers to create earthquake resistant buildings and infrastructure in Nepal

## Introduction

During the past decades, Nepal has progressed significantly in the area of emergency preparedness by providing earthquake awareness programs to general public, initiating disaster response plans, developing health sector preparedness and awareness

By **Kanhaiya Kayastha and Ramesh B. Malla**

comparable to California. Geologists believe that Kathmandu is built on the soft sediment of a former lakebed, (even historically, it's said that Kathmandu Valley was, one time, a big lake surrounded by the mountains),

loss from the earthquake disaster, engineers and scientists state that an adherence to strict building codes helped prevent a higher death toll from Chile's earthquake of a much bigger magnitude than that of Haiti.

hospitals are designed with a higher design safety criteria because they are occupied by children and patients respectively, who need special assistance for evacuation and rescue, unlike other able people.

## Code for Retrofitting Existing Buildings

The building code covers only the design of new buildings and does not address the procedures and norms required for retrofitting the existing buildings. Kathmandu Valley has full of old unreinforced-masonry buildings, low and mid-rise in height, built mostly prior to the publication of the 1994 Nepal Building Code. They are therefore significantly vulnerable to damage, even collapse, in case of a major earthquake occurrence. This demonstrates an immediate need for developing a separate building code to address the retrofitting design standards and criteria for both the existing historical and non-historical buildings in Nepal. In USA, The Uniform Code for Building Conservation is used in general for such purpose. However, different cities have also developed their own criteria to retrofit the existing buildings in order to make them stronger and prevent them from collapse during earthquakes. The major portion of the existing old buildings in Kathmandu valley and outside the valley were built using simply out of burnt or un-burnt clay bricks laid in mud mortar combined with structural wood members. These types of buildings do not have much lateral-load-resisting abilities to respond to the loads generated by major earthquakes. Depending on the various seismic and geological conditions of the site, these buildings can crumble or collapse, sometimes even in a moderate earthquake. Similarly, in other existing and new buildings, the unreinforced walls (out of plane failure) might be more vulnerable to earthquake damage, as is evident from past earthquakes in the world.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, it can be said that to lessen the loss of life and properties, it is vital for earthquake prone countries, like Nepal, to have an adequate earthquake resistant building design codes for constructing new buildings as well as retrofitting and repairing old buildings. It must also be added that it's not only enough to make the individual building safe from earthquake disaster, but the full spectrum of infrastructure, e.g., roads, bridges, airports, telecommunication and electrical towers, water and all utility lines, which are the lifelines for the community, must be built earthquake-safe. Nepali Diaspora should come forward to share their knowledge and experience gained internationally with their colleagues in Nepal. In this effort, a joint initiative led by three voluntary engineering/scientific/medical organizations, American Society of Nepalese Engineers (ASNEng), American-Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF), and Computer Association of Nepal (CAN)-USA in order to prepare a position paper for earthquake preparedness and disaster relief for Nepal is recently being launched. As of now, sixteen Nepali Diaspora organizations in the U.S including Association of Nepalis in Americas (ANA), Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA), Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASEA) and Non-Resident Nepali National Coordination Council (NRN NCC) of USA, and one prominent organization in Nepal - National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) - Nepal have committed/shown willingness to support this initiative. As the project moves ahead, it is expected that more Nepali Diaspora and other organizations worldwide will come forward to support this worthwhile cause.



about safety measures in school education programs in order to combat the enormous potential disaster from future earthquake hazards. Recently, on October 11, 2009, the Nepal government approved a National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management, which deals with the mechanisms needed for preparedness, response, and recovery from any disaster. The mechanisms include, but not limited to providing compensations and rehabilitation to the affected communities and infrastructure impacted by this natural disaster.

Every year since 1999, Nepal is also observing "The Earthquake Safety Day" on January 16th by organizing various earthquake awareness programs in Kathmandu, and lately in other parts of the country as well. This is intended to remind people about the catastrophic earthquake of 1934, and the subsequent earthquakes occurred in various parts of the country and to make them aware of the need for advance preparation for such disasters.

## Brief History of Earthquakes in Nepal and Current Assessment

The 1934 earthquake of magnitude 8.25 in the Richter scale had devastated the entire Kathmandu valley and had caused a huge loss of human lives and properties throughout the country. An earthquake monument at Bhugol Park in New Road, Kathmandu reminds the disaster caused by this earthquake. Lately, the 1980 earthquake of Magnitude 6.5 and the 1988 earthquake of magnitude 6.6 had also caused a significant loss of human lives and properties in the country. These earthquakes have greatly helped create general awareness among the government authorities, engineers and the scientists from various professional organizations in Nepal, to seek various ways and means in order to save the loss of lives and properties caused by potential future earthquake hazards. In 1994, the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works published the first building code in Nepal, titled "Nepal National Building Code."

According to United Nation's study, Nepal is placed top 11th in the ranking of earthquake-prone countries. The whole length of Nepal, from east to west, lies in an active shallow earthquake belt. Nepal is also placed in a zone that has the highest probability of risk and the greatest potential of major damage of buildings and infrastructure during an earthquake episode, and is more or less

which contributes to a higher level of earthquake risk in the valley.

Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Action Plan has estimated that up to 40,000 could lose their lives and close to 100,000 injured if an earthquake similar to that of 1934 occurred. Also, it is estimated that around 60 percent of the houses in the Valley would be severely damaged, many beyond repair. In addition, the National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET) established in 1996 to provide the necessary services, including providing training to masons and craftsmen, in the area of earthquake preparedness, risk management plans and general awareness programs; and the Geo Hazards International, USA have predicted that 95% of the water pipes and 50% of the pumping stations and treatment plants could also be seriously affected hampering water supplies for several months. Also, half of the bridges and many narrow streets/roads in the Kathmandu Valley could be impassable due to damage and debris. In hilly regions, it is obvious that landslides may occur at various places and transmission towers and telephone lines may collapse blocking the roads. This may make many areas inaccessible, making the rescue and emergency operations a Herculean task. The earthquake disasters are known to trigger fires in the community; houses are being burnt making the post-earthquake operations even more challenging.

## Learning Lessons from Recent Earthquakes in Haiti and Chile

The Nepali Diaspora in USA and around the world is very much alarmed from the recent Haitian Earthquake of January 12, 2010 (Magnitude 7.0) and the Chilean Earthquake of February 27, 2010 (Magnitude 8.8). The Haitian earthquake took 200,000 human lives in a population of 20 million; roughly half of the buildings in Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, have been destroyed, and 1 million people became homeless. The island nation must rebuild from ground up. News indicates that the devastation caused from the recent earthquake in Haiti was worsened by shoddy building construction due to lack of building standards. Haiti does not have a national building code. Engineers and Architects in Port-au-Prince discuss that the first step to rebuilding Haiti would be also to set up a national building code. On the contrary to the Haitian's tremendous

## Building Code for New Construction

Nepal does have a building code since 1994. However, it is widely believed that the code needs to be updated at appropriate intervals to keep abreast with the current research and development in the structural design and analysis, construction industries with new construction materials, and the state-of-the-art technological advancement nationally and internationally. The building code requirements need timely update even to incorporate the experiences gained and the lessons learned in using the codes from previous code-cycle. In USA, the building codes are updated every three years, and currently the International Building Code 2006 is in use. Being located in a highly active earthquake zone, it is necessary that Nepal's building code also see the frequent updates and follow the general code development process suitable to the nation's need for earthquake resistant design of building and infrastructure.

The building code normally outlines the necessary minimum design and construction standards that are required to meet the earthquake-resistant building criteria. Certainly, following the appropriate earthquake resistant building code helps reduce the damage and collapse of buildings, and hence the losses and damages that would have caused by such collapse. However, it is important to realize that to enhance the greater safety of the building occupants and the general neighborhood from an earthquake disaster, it is essential that along with the adequate building design and construction codes, various other codes dealing with the electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, fire-safety, elevators, stairs, and the exiting and evacuation system requirements are developed and implemented in the development projects.

The building code mandates only the minimum design criteria that are required to prevent a sudden collapse of the building in a major earthquake. The buildings are not designed to be fully earthquake-proof; due to the obvious reason that they will be very expensive and prove to be economically not feasible. Consequently, the building can have damages that are easily repairable. By preventing the building from collapse, the occupants can easily be evacuated and rescued. However, all essential facilities including schools and

## ~ National news ~

### Russia wants Nepal to clear debts

Russia has asked Nepal to clear the debt worth RUR 843,000 saying that it creates problems in terms of bilateral relations.

Russian embassy counselor Alexander Grigorovich Khozin said at an interaction this week that Nepal ceased payments under the loan for no apparent reason in 1996.

"A mutually acceptable way of adjusting the Nepalese debt has not been worked out yet" he lamented.

He was of the view that the resumption of direct air connection between Russia and Nepal could help economic ties improve further. "Besides, with a tough shortage of electric energy in the country, there are prospects for getting Russian companies involved in hydropower construction, he added. Such partnership could be based on attracting private investors or state-run companies from Russia, or allowing a preferential loan to Nepal under the project"

He also praised Nepalese initiatives on conclusion of double taxation agreement as well as an agreement on encouragement. He also highlighted that the two sides also agreed on encouragement and mutual protection of investment but has been differed until Russian entry to WTO.

"We also look forward to a positive reaction from our Nepalese partners in tourism area regarding their participation in the forthcoming 18th International Tourist Exhibition which will be held in March 2011 in Moscow," he said.

### Patience may run out : Dahal

Unified CPN (Maosit) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" has warned that people's patience may run out if the state continues imposing violence on the people.

Speaking at an interaction organised by the Society of the Disappeared by the State Fighters' Family here today, Prachanda said the state has again started imposing violence on the UCPN (Maosit).

Many party workers have been killed even after the peace process began in the country and that patience may run out if this is to continue, he said.

Recalling that how his party was forced to launch people's movement in 2052 BS, the Maoist chairman said the party would retaliate if attack on democracy, secularism and federalism continues.

He accused the parliamentarian leaders of misinterpreting the accord reached on May 28.

"There is a risk that the nation will be foreign-dependent due to the mindset of holding onto government by hook or by crook," he claimed.

### Bar submits concept paper

Nepal Bar Association (NBA) has stressed that the new constitution should devise such provision which advocates the selection of justice from an independent body rather than the parliament.

Such demand was made in a concept paper prepared on judicial system which NBA Chairman Prem Bahadur Khadka submitted to CA Chairman Subash Nembang at latter's office in Singha Durbar.

Receiving the concept paper, Chairman Nembang said he would make efforts to present the report on judiciary at CA for discussion, as the judiciary is the integral part of the constitution.

Attorney General Bharat Bahadur Karki said the constitution making process was in a snail-pace, so the organizations including NBA should press the concerned bodies to expedite the constitution writing.

NBA Chairman Khadka said the court should be independent, efficient and responsible. The selection of judges should be carried out by a separate independent body, he emphasized.

The NBA has also shown objection to the report of judicial committee that states that the judicial committee of the federal legislature is responsible to interpret the constitution. The Supreme Court should interpret the constitution and legal provisions, the NBA stressed.

The concept paper was prepared conducting survey and garnering suggestions from the stakeholders.

### PM directs for forest conservation

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal has directed the concerned bodies not to compromise with anyone against laws for the conservation of forests.

PM Nepal gave such directive at a discussion with the minister for forests, secretary in the ministry, chiefs of security bodies and others.

PM Nepal stressed that the state should adopt effective measures to conserve wildlife and environment, keep climate in balance and protect government lands. He directed the concerned government bodies to work in unison and act accordingly to these ends.

PM Nepal admitted that it is the failure of the government bodies regarding deforestation and encroachment upon forests in spite of the presence of forest office, police office and government bodies in the public level across the country. However, he said the government has given top priority to the conservation of forests.

Moreover, he directed the concerned ministry to launch nationwide campaign on tree plantation beginning right from the offices of the President and the Prime Minister.

If the present laws are ineffective and flawed to punish the forest mafia and encroachers, amendment of laws is essential, he stressed.

वैदेशिक रोजगारीमा जाँदा स्वीकृत  
निकायमार्फत् नेपाल सरकारबाट सूचिकृत  
मुलुकहरुमा मात्र जाऔं ।



नेपाल सरकार

सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय  
सूचना विभाग

Region:

# Inequalities promoting Naxalism

By Mamoona Ali Kazmi

Recently, Congress President Sonia Gandhi has admitted that it was the government's flawed development model in most backward tribal districts that was responsible for the rise of Naxalism. The Naxal-inhabited states have large tribal populations with poor infrastructure. Corruption, displacement due to large-scale projects, inability to avail of the benefits from mining of mineral resources, and exploitation by local officials add to increased resentment and increased reception to Naxal ideology. In such circumstances, supporting Naxals is a far better option for the tribals. About 200 districts out of 600 are under Naxalite rule. They rule there because the people in these places support them in a majority and believe in them because the Naxalites give them food, money and also the land snatched from the rich landowners and exploiters.

In reality, Naxalites are active in the areas where the poorest of the poor live. Primary government facilities, like schools and healthcare centres, are practically absent in the Naxal-inhabited areas. Infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world owing to malnutrition and hunger. Estimates suggest the infant mortality rate to be at 47 percent in the Naxalite-affected regions of the country, a condition worse than Sub-Saharan Africa. According to Shanker Aiyar: "Each of the 80 worst Naxal-affected districts have no schools, poor healthcare, exploitative feudalism, no employment opportunities, and pathetic social infrastructure." Over three lakh villages have no road connectivity. For example, Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh is on the list of 100 worst districts list for the past two decades. So, despite being well aware of the reasons that are behind the rise of

Naxalism, the Indian government is only depending upon the use of force to end that problem. It is paying no heed to the problems that give rise to Naxalism. In fact, the Indian administration believes that Naxalism is a war that has to be tackled through force. It most of the time forgets that Naxals are alienated Indian citizens, and once their grievances are addressed the Naxal movement will come to an end. According to Arundhati Roy: "The people in India's mineral heartland are tribals, who are the poorest of the poor, and the government's war against India's indigenous people is a frightening and unjust one."

India's Naxal problem is complex and tends to find its justification in the deep-rooted and centuries old exploitation of the poor, particularly the tribal community, by local landlords and corrupt politicians. There is a high incidence of crimes committed against the tribal community. These include bonded labour, rape, and silencing any opposition or dissent by murder and other violence. The landlords who commit these evils escape prosecution and punishment due to the support of corrupt and falling state agencies like the police. The Indian government has made no attempt to reach out to these citizens and address their problems, or to prosecute those who have committed crimes. The poor are systematically denied official assistance to address issues, including food security, unemployment and the depletion of natural resources. Neither the state, nor the central government, has attempted to identify whether official schemes such as public food distribution shops or government health services are available to people in the region.

In addition to the failure of public welfare schemes, the government is also responsible for sponsoring indiscriminate mining and the destruction of natural resources in the region all in the name of development. In Chhattisgarh, for instance, several large-scale mining operations have been commissioned in the past six years with complete disregard to the life and security of the community members living there. A government website highlights the state's 'red-carpet' policy to private entities extracting mineral resources; however, makes no mention of the policies regarding people's loss of livelihoods and displacement, or the operations' environmental impact. It is thus clear that the state governments in Naxalite-affected regions have failed to address deep-rooted issues plaguing the population living below the poverty line. Unfortunately, it is this deprived and oppressed population that falls prey to the Naxalite ideology.

The land grab movement of the Indian government in the name of development, industrialisation and market-based economic activities adds to the alienation of the Naxals. Millions of common people, small and marginal farmers, besides those belonging to the low caste or other sects, are ousted from their habitations. Grabbing land in the name of development has been going on in 'Shining India' for quite some time. But over the last few years there is a new consciousness among those who are being evicted. If they get together and fight, they can resist land take-over even in the most distant tribal areas where modernity is yet to reach. A message has gone around that if they stand together and fight, which

may occasionally mean killing their adversaries; they can protect their land and livelihood.

Naxal problem is a result of ignoring the 'basic realities' such as underdevelopment of their areas, and their severe deprivation and backwardness. The Naxal movement gets sustenance because the government does not treat it as a politico-ideological and socio-economic problem, and that the movement is symptomatic of a society, which is anxious to usher in social change. Basically, it is the failure of the state machinery and the bankruptcy of official policy, which explains the growing clout of the Naxalites. It is the rising consciousness of the deprived sections of society, who are today more determined than ever before to struggle for land, forest resources, minimum wages, social dignity and self-governance. However, the Indian administration always handles the issue through force by claiming that the Naxals are involved in aimless violence.

If the Maoists have taken up arms, they have done so because a government which has given them nothing but violence and neglect now wants to snatch away the last thing they have i.e. their land. Union Food Processing Minister Subodh Kanath Sahay, rightly, pointed out: "The states should realise the fact that the growth of Naxalites is because of the existing socio-economic problems there. The states have failed to achieve the desired development and unless these problems are properly addressed, the Maoists won't be uprooted." India cannot tackle this menace through coercive methods and it needs to tackle the causes of rebel movement such as poverty, landlessness and unemployment.

## Nepal Pavilion at the World Expo Park in Shanghai

By Keshav Bhattarai



Visitors visit Nepal Pavilion at the World Expo Park in Shanghai, east China, May 29, 2010. Some 463,300 people visited the 2010 Shanghai World Expo on Saturday as of 3:00 p.m., setting a new record of the daily number of visitors since the Expo opened on May 1, according to official statistics. (Xinhua/Li Baishun)

### Pavilion Review:

Theme: Tales of Kathmandu City - Seeking the Soul of a City: Exploration and Speculation  
Highlights: Soul of the Foreign Land  
National Pavilion Day: September 3  
Pavilion Area: Around 3600 Square Meters  
Location: Within Zone A of the Expo site

### Pavilion Features:

The Nepal Pavilion is an exquisite work of art with a large Buddhist pagoda as the centerpiece, surrounded by several folk houses representing styles from different periods. It showcases Nepalese artisans' outstanding talents in art and architecture.

### Pavilion Display:

The pavilion recaptures important historic periods in its greater than 2,000-year development as a center for architecture, art and culture. It also depicts the current urban expansion in Kathmandu, shedding light on the opportunities and challenges in environment protection and development of renewable energies.

### Pavilion Highlights:

The pavilion is named "Nepal Arniko Center" to commemorate the outstanding artisan Arniko, who contributed greatly to the friendship between Nepal and China in ancient times. The pavilion reproduces architectural designs since the 11th century, reflecting the process of urbanization in Nepal.

Incorporating Nepalese artistic tradition and innovative decoration ideas into its construction and exhibition, the pavilion uses about 500 tons of materials including wood, metal, bricks, porcelain and stone for exhibition and decoration items, all of which are handmade. Wood and clay sculptures will feature exquisite patterns, which have taken about two years for 350 Nepalese families to complete. Some skilled craftsmen came to the building site in Shanghai to add finishing touches to the pavilion.

Artists, musicians, dancers and other performers from Nepal will bring colorful shows to Shanghai. Interesting activities will be held both inside and outside the pavilion. A car or motorcycle rally will run from Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, to the Expo site. The rally will bring the "eternal flame of peace" to Shanghai from Nepal.

Nepal Pavilion at Expo 2010 Shanghai, which opened on 1 May, 2010, has been visited by a record 750,000 visitors. Number of average visitors per day is 25,000 and number of visitors is more than 40,000 on weekends and holidays. Nepal Pavilion is presented in traditional Nepalese style architecture and is said to be appreciated by visitors and media extensively. There has been extensive coverage of the Pavilion in the Chinese media. Recent opinion poll conducted by one leading Chinese language online news site placed Nepal Pavilion within top ten popular expo pavilions, it is learnt. Expo 2010 Shanghai runs till 31 October and 192 nations have presented their national pavilion under the main theme - "Better City: Better Life".

More than 70 million visitors are expected to come to Expo during its duration. As per the expo organizers, more than 8 million visitors had visited Expo in the month of May, 2010.

"Tales of Kathmandu" is the theme of Nepal at the Expo and Nepal is showing urban development taking place in Kathmandu since last 2000 years with emphasis on rich heritage of art, culture and architecture. Nepal Pavilion has been built in the same architecture style and technology as that of Arniko's time.

Around 500 metric tons of artistic carvings in wood, metal, stone, bricks and tiles have been brought from Nepal for the construction of the Nepal Pavilion and entire concept, design and construction is undertaken by Nepalese architects and engineers.

Implementing Experts Group (IEG), a consortium of group of Nepalese companies from Kathmandu, is the official organizer of Nepal for Expo 2010 Shanghai. On being appointed by the Government of Nepal, IEG has designed and constructed the Nepal Pavilion and is now operating the show.

Nepal will celebrate its national day at Expo 2010 on 3rd September and a high level Nepalese delegation is expected for the occasion.



# The futility of UN Security Council Resolutions

By Kourosh Ziabari

Although the United Nations Security Council, which some politicians believe is one of the most undemocratic organizations in the world, voted in favor of a fourth round of sanctions against Iran over its uranium enrichment program, global public opinion is well aware of the fact that 15 countries, 5 of which are entitled to remain in an unquestionable monopoly and dominance, cannot in reality represent the interests of the international community.

The Security Council, which since its establishment has made discriminatory decisions against the world countries, especially the non-aligned nations who typically try to escape from the hegemony of superpowers, is notorious for its habitual exercise of double standards and it's clear to everyone that its resolutions are more often than not futile, ineffective, biased and unbinding.

Since 1948, the Security Council has adopted 223 resolutions in condemnation of Israel's violations of international law, including the occupation of Palestinian lands, unilateral incursions into the Lebanese and Syrian soils, developing nuclear weapons, deporting the Palestinian citizens from their homes and building illegal settlements in the West Bank. Interestingly, the Israeli regime did not pay attention to any of these resolutions and the UNSC never pursued its demands to hold Tel Aviv accountable for its continued, flagrant defiance of international regulations.

For instance, the UNSC resolution 487 demanded Israel to put its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive

safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Israel never heeded the call and the UNSC never sued Israel for its inattentiveness to the resolution.

As another example, the Security Council adopted six consequent resolutions in the wake of 1982 Lebanon War, calling on Israel to cease its military activities and withdraw its forces from the Lebanese territory, but Israel refused to accept the resolutions until the resolution 517 was adopted in which Tel Aviv was strongly censured for its failure to obey the UNSC resolutions since March 1982.

The criminal state of Israel, since its establishment, attacked all of its neighboring countries on various occasions and incited UNSC resolutions; however, these resolutions never went beyond political statements which were the least spontaneous reactions to Israel's brutality in the Middle East. On March 21, 1968, Israel fought the Battle of Karameh by attacking the Karameh district of Jordan, killing 40 to 84 Jordanians and 100 to 200 Palestinians. The massive attacked was followed by UNSC resolution 248 in which the "flagrant violation of the UN Charter" was strongly condemned by all of the UNSC members, even the United States; however, this verbal condemnation was the sole reaction of the Security Council to Israel's violence.

In December 1968, Israel Defense Forces raided the Beirut International Airport, destroying 13 civilian

airplanes belonging to Lebanon's national flag-carrier Middle East Airlines. The assault was followed by UNSC resolution 262 which condemned Israel once again. The resolution cautioned Israel to retreat from repeating such actions to avoid being punished more severely; however, the further steps never were taken, even when Israel repeated the same criminal actions.

In 1985, Israel staged an air raid on Tunisia to target the Palestinian Liberation Organization headquarters in the country. The resolution condemned Israel and demanded that Tel Aviv refrain from further such attacks. It also noted that Tunisia had the right to reparations considering the loss of life and material damage caused.

Having killed thousands of civilians since its creation, the criminal record of Israel regime is clear to the world and every conscious man testifies that this brutal regime deserves the strongest measures to be taken against.

United Nations Security Council never went beyond propagandistic declarations regarding the unlawful and inhuman actions of Tel Aviv, its killing of innocent civilians and violation of international humanitarian law. If it were not the pressure of international community, UNSC even would have not issued these flimsy and ineffective resolutions against Israel.

UNSC never passed any resolution to impose sanctions against Israel even though the transgressions and felonies of Israel are so blatant and

conspicuous that nobody can deny the claim that Israel is the most violence and vicious regime in the world, an identical and indistinguishable duplicate of the apartheid regime of South Africa.

The recent resolution of the Security Council against Iran was a clear exercise of double standards by this prejudiced international body and should be answered by the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically. The hypocritical stance of China and Russia regarding Iran's nuclear program and the astounding accompaniment of independent nations such as Gabon, Nigeria, Uganda, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mexico with the fallacious, deceptive trajectory of the big 5 leave no room for the continued diplomacy and peaceful interaction by Iran.

Iran has so far demonstrated a constructive and productive cooperation with IAEA, G5+1 and European Union, keeping all the doors open for negotiation and reconciliation; however, the time for diplomacy has come to an end. Now that the coalition of superpowers, including China and Russia, have taken a confrontational stance against Iran and want to go through a unilateralistic path, Iran should change its tactic and one of the best solutions it can adopt is to withdraw from IAEA. If Pakistan, India and Israel can enjoy international impunity to develop nuclear weapons simply because they are not IAEA signatories, Iran can have equally the right to progress its peaceful nuclear program by withdrawing from a treaty which had ratified voluntarily.

# SCO summit vows to boost regional peace, stability, prosperity

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) 10th annual summit ended at June 11 with a declaration pledging to build an effective and open multilateral organization dedicated to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Participants from the six SCO member countries -- China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan -- discussed key regional and global issues at the gathering. The declaration pledged to strengthen mutual support on issues relating to each other's core interests, boost cooperation in the combat against terrorism, separatism and extremism and other destabilizing factors, enhance cooperation in overcoming the aftermath of the global financial crisis and develop infrastructure in the region.

The SCO had developed into a highly efficient and open multilateral organization and was an important factor in international and regional security and cooperation structures, the declaration said.

The organization will stick to its practice of shunning ideological means, cliquing or confrontation in efforts to settle major problems emerging in the process of international and regional development.

SCO members were determined to carry out all-around cooperation within the SCO framework and develop the organization into a reliable guarantee of regional peace, stability and prosperity, the declaration said.

As security threats and challenges continued to emerge, SCO members should further cooperate in fighting all forms of terrorism and strengthen dialogue between different civilizations and cultures to prevent the growth of terrorism and extremism, it said.

The declaration stressed that Central Asia's initiative to build a nuclear-free zone was not only an important step in promoting regional peace and security but also would contribute greatly to regional and global peace and security.

The unrestricted deployment of anti-missile systems would possibly become a destabilizing factor menacing global security and might lead to the proliferation of missile weapons, the declaration warned.

On the economic front, the leaders agreed to strengthen coordination to better deal with the aftermath of the global financial crisis. Member countries would implement joint programs in the fields of transportation, communication and others to boost trade and investment to improve the economic competitiveness of member countries, said the declaration.

At the summit, the leaders approved the SCO rules of procedure and the regulations on procedure for admitting new members to the SCO, laying the foundation for its future expansion, the declaration noted.

Member states pledged to strengthen cooperation with observers and dialogue partners to attract their resources and markets, it said.

Observer countries of the SCO include Mongolia, Pakistan, Iran and India while Belarus and Sri Lanka are dialogue partners.

The declaration concluded the SCO would carry on the spirit of peace, common development, cooperation on an equal footing, mutual respect and tolerance, and further strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with the international community to make a great contribution to regional and global peace, stability and prosperity.

SCO member states also called for restoring stability in turmoil-hit Kyrgyzstan through dialogue, saying they were willing to provide necessary support to the Central Asian country.

In the declaration issued at the end of the SCO summit in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, the SCO member countries reiterated their stance of supporting each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and opposing interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries and actions that might trigger regional tensions.

Any difference should be settled through dialogue and consultations by political and diplomatic means, said the declaration.

The member states emphasized that restoring Kyrgyzstan's political stability was significant to the entire region.

The Interior Ministry of the Kyrgyz interim government on Friday declared a state of emergency in the southern city of Osh after hundreds of youths smashed windows, looted shops and set fire to cars in the city.

Roza Otunbayeva, leader of the interim government, declared a curfew in Osh and the surrounding region.

An official from the Health Ministry said Friday morning at least 12 people were killed and more than 100 others were injured in clashes in southern Kyrgyzstan overnight. Later reports put the death toll at 23.

In mid-May, supporters of the Kyrgyz interim government and those of ousted President Kurmanbek Bakiyev clashed in the southern cities of Osh and Jalalabad, during which tens of people were injured.

Riots broke out on April 6-7 across the country, resulting in the ouster of Bakiyev and the formation of an interim government.

The SCO also reiterated its support for the United Nations to play a leading role in international mediation efforts for Afghanistan.

The continuous deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan as well as terrorism, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime that originated in the country still posed "serious threats" to the region, the declaration said.

Peace and stability in Afghanistan was conducive to the region's continued social and economic development, the declaration said, adding the SCO member states believed "military means alone" could not solve the country's problems.

The SCO called on the international community to intensify the fight against all sections of drug production and circulation in Afghanistan.

The SCO member states would like to coordinate with other international and regional institutions on the drug issue and called on the International Security Assistance Force to cooperate with SCO members in combating drugs, the declaration said.

The declaration said the organization supported its member states in working together with international institutions and other parties to take part in the economic reconstruction programs in Afghanistan. Enditem

Strategies for fighting the "three evil forces", namely terrorism, separatism and extremism; safeguarding security and stability; and advancing pragmatic cooperation were the focal points of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit here Friday.

A record number of representatives attended this year's summit, reflecting

SCO's growing influence.

The Tashkent summit reviewed the achievements the organization has made in the past year, studied the opportunities and challenges it faced under the current regional and international situation and charted a course for future development.

Another aim of the summit was to strengthen unity and cooperation, maintain stability and pursue common development in the region.

During the summit, participants approved the SCO Rules of Procedure, and a process for future membership expansion.

Medvedev called these rules "an important internal corporate document". Still, as Uzbek President Islam Karimov noted, this did not mean the bloc's "automatic expansion" but only created the judicial base for such an expansion.

Iran has long been seeking membership of the six-member alliance, which was established in 2001 to ensure security along the border between China and former Soviet republics. Nevertheless, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was on a visit to Dushanbe, Tajikistan this week, did not attend the SCO Tashkent summit.

Ahmadinejad "received an invitation in due time, like other participants, confirmed (his participation) and then it was up to him to decide," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said of the Iranian leader's absence.

Analysts believe the Iranian President, whose country has observer status at the SCO along with India, Pakistan and Mongolia, decided to snub the meeting over Russia's support of new sanctions by the U.N. Security Council.

All-party talks were accompanied by a series of bilateral meetings at the highest level on the sidelines of the summit.

Russian and Chinese presidents held separate talks on political contacts, cooperation in solving pressing international problems and trade and economic relations.

Medvedev and China's President Hu Jintao also exchanged views on issue for the G20 and the G8 summits, due to take place in Canada shortly.

They also spoke on humanitarian cooperation and the financial and economic situation in the world, other issues on the international agenda, including further SCO activities, the situation in Central Asian, Pakistan, the Korean Peninsula and Afghanistan. The SCO is one of the most influential regional organizations in the world, being the only one that includes both Russia and China.

In Tashkent, Hu made a six-point proposal on boosting SCO cooperation, including strengthening mutual trust, stepping up counter-terrorism efforts, improving SCO institutional building and decision-making mechanism, and promoting its transparency and inclusiveness.

The narrow format talks in Tashkent focused on prospects for Afghanistan's further political development.

Because of their proximity to Afghanistan or vulnerability to Afghanistan-originated drug trafficking, SCO member-states have a strong interest in stabilising the situation there. They developed a comprehensive strategic approach to this issue.

The SCO's members noted the situation in Afghanistan remained the main threat to security in the region. SCO leaders declared that laying

peace in Afghanistan would be only possible if all the groups within the country found a consensus.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai attended the Tashkent summit as a guest of honour.

Leaders of the six-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organization concluded their annual summit, agreeing to enhance cooperation and maintain regional stability.

During the summit, the leaders and representatives exchanged views on a wide range of regional and international issues.

They discussed the SCO Secretary General's report and one on SCO regional anti-terrorism efforts. They also set future tasks for the organization.

The summit approved two important draft documents including the SCO Rules of Procedure, which was designed to enhance the efficiency and internal mechanisms of the organization.

The second draft concerned regulations on the admission procedure for new members, which was submitted by SCO foreign ministers last month in Tashkent.

The two documents, designed to improve the legal basis of the organization and to raise its authority and influence in regional issues, are regarded as quite significant in the history of the SCO.

Before the summit, some Chinese diplomats said approval of the admission regulations was the first step in forming the basis for a future expansion of SCO membership and would serve as a cornerstone of the organization's rules for external links.

The Tashkent declaration issued at the end of the summit stressed the importance of constructive dialogues and cooperation among the SCO member states.

The SCO member states reiterated in the joint declaration that the situation in Kyrgyzstan bears great influence on regional stability, adding that they are willing to provide essential support and aid.

The SCO members also agreed to further enhance their cooperation in combating the "three evil forces," namely terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as illegal drug trade and organized transnational crime.

The member states also vowed to work collectively in continuing to minimize the impact of the global financial crisis and to promote economic development.

The summit also witnessed the signing of two agreements on cooperation in agriculture and combating crime.

To mark the 10-year anniversary of the organization, it was agreed among the member states to hold a celebration when the next SCO annual summit convenes in the Kazakh capital of Astana.

In addition to the heads of states from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the summit also saw the participation of delegates from Kyrgyzstan, as well as the leaders and representatives of Mongolia, India, Pakistan and Iran, countries holding SCO observer status.

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai also attended the summit as a guest of the SCO along with representatives of the U.N. and other regional and international agencies.

The SCO groups China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

(Xinhua)

~ News ~

## Budget to be of over 300 billion

Ten political parties in the coalition government and its supporters have suggested the government not to bring the oversized budget but to include such plans that fortify the implementation aspect.

The political parties furnished such suggestion at a meeting called by the Prime Minister in order to garner stakeholders' views regarding the formulation of the plans and budget of the Fiscal Year 2067/68 BS today.

At the beginning of the meeting, Finance Minister Surendra Pande gave information about the theoretical aspects of government's forthcoming programmes and policies and budget, continuation of present projects and priority areas.

The party representatives suggested the government to keep agriculture, education and employment in top priority and devise robust mechanism to implement the allocated budget.

CA member Chandra Dev Joshi said though an issue was raised whether the budget could be brought and passed through ordinance if the UCPN-Maoist obstructed parliament proceeding as in the past, all political parties suggested the government heeding the consensus among parties as it has not alternative.

The budget said to be of over 300 billion this year will be brought by the second week of July.

## Govt. to form wildlife crime check bureau

The government has decided to constitute a wildlife crime check bureau in view of the growing deforestation and smuggling of wild animals in the recent days.

Minister for Forests Deepak Bohora informed this at a press meet following the discussion Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal held with the officials in the ministry and security chiefs regarding growing deforestation and poaching.

PM Nepal was concerned over the killing of 24 rhinos in the last one year, and eight in one month alone, Minister Bohora said, adding that PM Nepal directed the concerned bodies to take strong initiatives immediately to curb encroachment upon forest and poaching of animals.

## Talk programme on it development in Karnali

There is a need of development of Information Technology (IT) in the Karnali region, said speakers of a programme organized in the capital on Monday.

They were speaking at a talk programme entitled "The role of Karnali Zone in the development and research of IT," organised by the Karnali Region Integrated Development Society.

Vice-Chairman of High-Level IT Commission Manohar Kumar Bhattarai stressed that Karnali people should have the access to IT. The government will release separate budget for IT development in Karnali, he informed.

Director of Nepal Telecom Authority (NTA) Ananda Raj Khanal said the government has been planning to install optical fiber in all the 75 districts within the next four years.

Lawmaker Naresh Bhandari said development of other sectors is not possible in Karnali without the IT development there.

Society's chairman Tek Raj Shahi sought the government's special attention to the development of IT in the region. The improvement on the living standard of Karnali people is not possible without the IT development there, he opined.

## भाडापखालाको घरैलु उपचारका उपग्रहहरू

दिनमा तीनपटक वा सोभन्दा बढी पटक पानीजस्तो पातलो दिसा हुनुलाई भाडापखाला रोग लागेको मानिन्छ। भाडापखाला हुँदा शरीरमा भएको पानी, नुन, स्लुकोज र तागतिलो पदार्थ खेर जान्छ। यस्ता पदार्थहरू खेर गएपछि शरीर सुख्खा हुन गई जलवियोजन भएर मानिस मर्न पनि सक्छ। तसर्थ, भाडापखाला लाग्दा घरमै निम्न उपचारहरू अपनाउनुहुन सम्बन्धित सबैमा हार्दिक अनुरोध छ।

- शरीरबाट भाडापखालाको रूपमा जति पानी खेर गएको छ, त्यतिकै अनुपातमा पुनर्जलीय भोल बनाएर खाने र खुवाउने गरौं। पाँच वर्षसम्मका बच्चालाई आवश्यक मात्रामा जिंक चर्की महिला स्वयंसेविकासंग लिई १० दिनसम्म खुवाऔं।

- घरमै उपलब्ध हुनसक्ने भोल खानेकुराहरू जस्तै भातको माड, सुप, दालको रस, गेडागुडीको रस, फलफूलको रस र तरकारीको रस प्रशस्त मात्रामा खुवाऔं।

- स्तनपान गरिरहेको बच्चालाई भाडापखाला रोग लागेमा पटकपटक स्तनपान गराऔं।

- भाडापखाला हुँदा साविकका जस्तै खानेकुरा खुवाऔं।

- भाडापखाला भएको विरामी सुस्त वा वेहोस छ, छटपटाउने वा फिफिने गर्छ, आँखा गड्ढो छ भने तुरुन्त नजिकको स्वास्थ्य संस्थामा लगी उपचार गराऔं।

- पुनर्जलीय भोल बनाउन एक लिटर पानीमा एक पुनर्जलीय भोल बनाउने औषधिको वूलोको पुरिया मिसाएर पटकपटक पिउने गरौं। एकपटक बनाएको पुनर्जलीय भोल २४ घण्टाभित्र मात्र प्रयोग गरौं।

- भाडापखाला निको भएपछि पनि एक हप्तासम्म साविक खानामन्दा वा एकपटक खाना खान दिने गरौं।

नेपाल सरकार

स्वास्थ्य तथा जनसंख्या मन्त्रालय

राष्ट्रिय स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा, सूचना तथा संचार केन्द्र, टेकु



# San Miguel BEER

## International :

# The US-NATO "Arc of War" stretches from Afghanistan to the Caspian Sea and the caucasus

By Rick Rozoff

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates arrived in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on June 6, meeting with President Ilham Aliyev on that day and on the following with Defense Minister Colonel General Safar Abiyev.

Gates was the first cabinet-level American official to visit the strategically positioned nation - located in the South Caucasus with Russia to its north, Iran to its south and the Caspian Sea to its east - in five years and the first U.S. defense chief to visit since Donald Rumsfeld did in 2005.

When Gates' predecessor was last in Azerbaijan his mission centered on "the transportation of Caspian oil and the security of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline" as the chief element of U.S. trans-Eurasian oil and natural gas plans "which [are] directly connected with Mr Rumsfeld's department" to bring Caspian Sea hydrocarbons into Europe while bypassing Russia and Iran, both of which adjoin Azerbaijan.

Rumsfeld's visit of five years ago also focused on a related initiative, the Caspian Guard project the Pentagon launched in 2003. "Guaranteeing security to the pipeline...will be the prime goal of the Caspian Guard. The Caspian Guard will represent a network of police detachments and special military units in the Caspian region."

At the time Rumsfeld's Defense Department planned to allot over \$100 million for the Caspian Guard to operate at both ends of the inland sea - Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan - and to be based in Stuttgart, Germany where the Pentagon's new Africa Command is now based. In fact U.S. European Command was simultaneously elaborating plans for the Caspian Guard and a complementary Gulf of Guinea Guard in oil-rich western Africa to secure control over the 21st century's main new sources of energy supplies.

Gates arrived in Azerbaijan the day after the ninth annual Asian security summit organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Singapore and before his attendance at the NATO defense chiefs meeting in Brussels on the 10th and 11th.

He had intended to visit Beijing following the conference in Singapore, but his overtures in that direction were rebuffed by the Chinese government, presumably because of Washington's confirmation this January of plans to complete a \$6.5 billion arms transaction with Taiwan, one whose latest installment includes 200 Patriot Advanced Capability-3 anti-ballistic missiles.

That Baku replaced Beijing on the Pentagon chief's way to the NATO meeting indicates the importance that the comparatively small nation - with a population of under nine million while China's is over 1.3 billion - has in American global geostrategic plans.

## Who will...

term this nullification as something against the party policy.

All the same, it would be naive to completely underestimate the dynamics of the Deuba faction

Those party leaders and cadres who are steadfastly inclined towards Deuba are not only considerable in number but also strong in position.

Ideologically, this faction represents the centre-right orientation and it can well garner support of the conservatives within the party. Minendra Rijal, Prakash Saran Mahat and Bal Krishna Khand are some of the well pronounced names associated to this camp.

Khum Bahadur Khadka, who was once a cardinal part of the Girija Prasad Koirala faction, is set to field candidacy for the post of vice president from the

U.S. media reports highlighted efforts to mend fences with Azerbaijan after joint military exercises scheduled in the nation for last month were abruptly cancelled - evidently by the host country as a sign of dissatisfaction with Washington's moves to take a more balanced approach toward Azerbaijan's regional rival Armenia in a bid to lure all the nations of the South Caucasus into the U.S. and NATO orbit. Last December the Armenian government approved the deployment of troops to serve under NATO command in the Afghan war theater along with those of their Caucasus neighbors Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Received opinion has it that the U.S. intends to incorporate all three nations into NATO simultaneously. Armenia and Azerbaijan have NATO Individual Partnership Action Plans and Georgia a special, even more advanced, Annual National Programme.

The cancelled exercises were to have built upon last year's Regional Response 2009 in Azerbaijan, a NATO Partnership for Peace operation to advance the North Atlantic military bloc's Individual Partnership Action Plan with the nation.

To demonstrate that Rumsfeld's Caspian Guard plans are still alive, during his visit to Azerbaijan Secretary Gates discussed bilateral military ties, particularly "further U.S. help with maritime security in the Caspian Sea."

In his own words, "We already help them there with several tens of millions of dollars, boats, radars and capabilities."

According to the Pentagon's website, "More military exercises and intelligence sharing also came up during the meetings," Gates added, "and the discussions also touched on Iran and Russia," with the American defense secretary saying of his hosts, "These guys clearly live in a rough neighborhood."

Georgia borders Russia and Armenia borders Iran, but Azerbaijan alone abuts both. The same defense minister Gates met with on June 7, Colonel General Safar Abiyev, not long ago addressed the head of state Gates met with the day before and said: "Our armed forces are able to annihilate targets in all the territory of Armenia. Mr. President, I notify you that the Azerbaijan Armed Forces are able to hit any target in the territory of Armenia."

Gates' main concentration - or at least that of most immediate importance - was on the expanding war in South Asia, where he will soon have 100,000 U.S. troops serving with another 50,000 NATO forces.

Western and local reports have recently divulged that 25 percent of

Deuba faction.

Those NC leaders who think the party should not display more flexible gestures towards the Maoists may also support this camp.

Yet another faction led by Narahari Acharya is made up of thinkers.

Comparatively, this faction, which reflects centre-left ideology, is bereft of strong cadre base.

Acharya is also not a promising contender even though he had fought elections with late NC president Girija Prasad Koirala.

The chances of the Koirala-Poudel faction seeking for alignment with this group are also high.

Similarly, as Deuba is mulling to pick up Khum Bahadur Khadka, as vice president, the possibility of the conservative layer of the party aligning itself with the Deuba camp also cannot be completely ruled out.

U.S. and NATO supplies and equipment for the Afghan war pass through what is referred to as the Caucasus Spur - Azerbaijan and Georgia - and that "100,000 troops have flown through Azerbaijani airspace in the past year en route to Afghanistan."

More specifically, "Tens of thousands of cargo aircraft have flown over Azerbaijan for the Afghan war, with planes ferrying 100,000 US and allied troops and personnel through the country's airspace last year, Pentagon officials said."

With the recent turmoil in Kyrgyzstan hampering the transit of troops and equipment through the Central Asian country where hundreds of thousands of U.S. and NATO forces have passed directly to Afghanistan, Azerbaijan (in addition to Kazakhstan) will play an even more pivotal role as the battle for Afghanistan's Kandahar Province begins.

While in Baku, Gates delivered a personal letter from President Barack Obama to his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliyev. As the local press described it, "Gates, the most senior U.S. official to visit Azerbaijan since Obama took office last year, hand delivered the letter to Aliyev to make clear 'we have a relationship going forward,'" a senior defense official said..."

Obama commended his opposite number for doubling the amount of troops deployed to Afghanistan and providing the use of his nation's land (for supply trucks) and air space, especially ahead of the next surge of 30,000 U.S. troops.

An Azeri news agency reminded its readers that "Azerbaijan is also a major oil producer and a key hub on a route for Central Asia and Caspian Sea energy to Europe bypassing Russia to the north and Iran to the south," while quoting the following from Obama's letter: "Azerbaijan's leadership in the development for a Southern Corridor for energy has also increased regional prosperity and enhanced global energy security."

Gates told Azerbaijan's defense minister that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would also be visiting the nation shortly.

Since January of 2009 Romania has been the NATO Contact Point Embassy in Azerbaijan and its ambassador to the country, Nicolae Ureche, the Brussels-based military bloc's main liaison there. In early May he opened a conference in Baku titled NATO's Role in Ensuring Security and Stability in Europe and in the Strategic Arena, dedicated to NATO 61st anniversary and the 16th of Azerbaijan joining the bloc's Partnership for Peace program.

The preceding month Morningstar's

With the holding of the new general convention, the NC will come out of the shadow of the obstinate personality of former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. But, the pertinent question is whether the NC will move ahead sincerely and consciously in coming days for the sake of the people and the country.

## Political ...

Madhav Kumar Nepal continues to be glued to his post.

Speaker Subhas Nembang has been pressing hard to create an environment for the early opening of winter session to pave the way for thorough discussion on the budget.

What should not be forgotten is that the last year's budget was passed only after four months of its presentation due to continuous Maoists' disruptions of the house.

few Foggy Bottom denizen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Tina Kaidanow, was in Azerbaijan. While there her message to the nation's leaders was: "The United States considers Azerbaijan an essential partner. Our interests overlap in many areas, from collaborating on strengthening energy security via the Southern Corridor gas and oil projects to our work together countering terrorism and extremism. We appreciate Azerbaijan's contributions to regional and global security, from Kosovo to Iraq to Afghanistan." Kaidanow took over her current post last August from Matthew Bryza, arguably a contender for Washington's main point man in the former Soviet Union over the past two decades.

In the same month the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus in Washington sent a letter to President Obama "reflecting the importance of Azerbaijan-US relations."

It included these items: "Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by both the Clinton and George W. Bush Administrations...has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the US and our partners in Europe."

"Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline."

"Azerbaijan was among the first to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Azerbaijan participated in operations in Kosovo and Iraq and is actively engaged in Afghanistan, having recently doubled its military presence there."

"Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for US and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for US and NATO forces."

With Turkey increasingly adopting an independent foreign policy orientation not to Washington's liking; with the nearly nine-year-old war in Afghanistan reaching its apex; with the U.S. and its NATO allies ramping up pressure on Iran in Azerbaijan's "rough neighborhood"; and with the U.S. pursuing global interceptor missile plans that may include evicting the Russian military from the Gabala radar station in the north of the country, Azerbaijan is assuming a greater strategic significance with each passing day.

That is why U.S. Defense Secretary Gates was there on June 6 and 7. It will not be his last visit.

The unwarranted delay in budget presentation and endorsement has been a big problem for spending budget in timely manner for better results.

The country's economy has also been greatly affected by the regular obstruction of the house.

The ruling parties want certain progress on the issue of the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatants before the PM steps down.

On the other hand, the Maoists insist that the resignation of the PM should precede every other political issue.

As the Maoist and the non-Maoist parties continue to lock horns over the vaguely designed three-point agreement, the political imbroglio is likely to be prolonged, which is sure to take a heavy toll on the country's economy too.

## ~ News ~

## Kyrgyzstan again appeals to Russia for troops deployment

Kyrgyz interim leader Roza Otunbayeva on Tuesday again asked Russia to send troops to help quell the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan, according to reports reaching here from the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek.

The interim government was negotiating with Russian officials for the possible deployment of Russian troops to separate the conflicting ethnic groups, Otunbayeva said.

She said the order that Kyrgyz troops could "shoot to kill" the mobs was not executed at all, so Kyrgyzstan needed the military aid from Russia.

She said Kyrgyz soldiers and police could not rein in the violent situation in the southern part of the country.

The violence has killed 178 people, and left 1,866 injured, according to the latest figure of the Kyrgyz Health Ministry.

Otunbayeva appealed to Russia for dispatching troops on Saturday, but Russia ruled out immediate troop deployment in Kyrgyzstan.

The current clashes followed violence in May when supporters of former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev clashed with backers of the interim government in the southern cities of Osh and Jalalabad.

Bakiyev was ousted in April when riots broke out across the country. At least 85 people were killed and thousands of others injured in clashes.

Kyrgyzstan is expected to have a vote on a new constitution later this month, followed by new parliamentary elections in October.

(Xinhua)

## Stranded Pakistanis airlifted from Kyrgyzstan

Some 250 Pakistanis who were stranded in violence-hit Kyrgyzstan have been airlifted home by Pakistan's Air Force.

Two flights returned the Pakistanis - mostly students - as well as the body of a student killed in the ethnic fighting, on Tuesday.

The United Nations estimates that more than 250,000 people have fled their homes in Kyrgyzstan to escape the bloodshed.

It has launched an emergency airlift of supplies to try to help ease the crisis.

## Indians stranded in Kyrgyzstan

India's foreign ministry has said that 116 Indians - mostly students - were still stranded in southern Kyrgyzstan due to the fighting.

"Everything possible is being done to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian nationals, within the constraints posed by the difficult ground situation," said the ministry in a statement.

## India inflation rate rises to two year high

Indian inflation has risen to a two-year-high, raising the possibility of interest rate rises.

The wholesale price index rose to 10.16% in May, the highest since 2008. Rising food and fuel costs have pushed the rate well above forecasts, which were nearer 9%. The government says prices will come down soon.

The rise in the inflation rate comes after India recorded its fastest growth in manufacturing in at least 15 years in April.

Unlike most countries, India calculates inflation on the wholesale price of a basket of 435 basic goods, which means actual prices paid by the consumer are much higher.

BBC

## Breakthrough in lung cancer

Australian scientists on Wednesday announced a discovery about the nature of the proteins involved in cell division which could take them a step closer to cutting deaths from lung cancer.

Researchers at the University of New South Wales and the Pharmacoproteomics Program at the Children's Cancer Institute for Medical Research said the discovery could lead to new ways of approaching treatment of non-small cell lung cancers, which accounts for 80 percent of all lung cancers.

In a statement, scientist said that targeting B3-tubulin, a protein known for maintaining the structural integrity of cells, could be key to increasing drug sensitivity in non-small cell lung cancer.

They found that by suppressing B3-Tubulin it increased the sensitivity of the cancer to standard chemotherapy drugs.

The findings have been published in the international journal Cancer Research last week.

The Australian biotech company, Benitec, is currently developing therapeutics focused on specifically blocking B3- tubulin activity.

(Xinhua)

## DPRK UN envoy rejects S. Korea probe

The UN ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Tuesday rejected the investigation result released by the Republic of Korea (ROK) over the Cheonan warship sinking as "complete fabrication."

"The investigation result is a complete fabrication from A to Z," Sin Son Ho, the DPRK's permanent representative to the United Nations, told a press conference at the UN Headquarters.

The result has "raised thousands of accusations domestically and externally since the very moment of its release," he said.

The Security Council on Monday held separate private meetings with delegations of the two countries to hear their briefings over the Cheonan case. The Council then expressed grave concern over the impact of the incident on peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and urged the sides "to refrain from any act that could escalate tensions in the region."

# "Gradual consolidation and enhancement in the relations between China and South Asian countries"

With the aim of furthering substantial exchanges of cooperation and friendship between South Asian friendship Organizations and the Chinese People's Associations for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) a extensive meeting was held in Sri Lanka with the joint efforts of Sri Lanka China Social and Cultural Cooperation, Sri Lanka-China Young Journalists Forum and Sri Lanka-China Friendship Association from June 7 to June 9, 2010.

Representatives from various South Asian Friendship Organizations including Vice President Feng Zuoku and other seven members of Chinese delegation participated in the event. It was the first meeting of the Federation of South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China. The meeting also formed an Executive Body to handle the affairs of the Federation for the period of two years.

At the same meeting, the final draft of the constitution of Federation was also passed in order to regulate the body. Altogether 40 representatives took part in the meeting.

On the behalf of the host country Sri Lanka, Alavi Moulana, Governor of Western Province, Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Fisheries, Athauda Seneviratne, Minister of Justice, Susil Premajayanth, Minister of Petroleum Industries, Manik Rodrigo, Advisory Board Member, Nandasena Madawanarachchi, Executive President, ASLSCCC, took part in the meeting.

Following was the speech delivered by Prem Kumari Pant President Nepal-China Society.

**Distinguished Vice President Feng Zuoku CPAFFC, Friends from Organizing Committee, Friends from South Asian Friendship Associations, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all I want to sincerely thank the Association for Sri Lanka China

one of the few remaining abodes of Buddhism.

A naturally beautiful country replete with typical forest, beaches and landscape, as well as rich cultural heritage, Sri Lanka is also a world famous tourist destination.

Buddhism arrived from India in the 2nd century BC, brought by Bhikku

already completed the construction of Sri Lanka pilgrim "Rest House" and handed it to the Lumbini Development Trust.

Apart from that, Sri Lanka has been continuously making contributions to the international level development of Lumbini by becoming a member of the UN international committee. a

Remarkably, this country has also

state level, it also extends to the people to people level. Through the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China - concrete efforts should be made to raise this relation to a higher level. Nepal and Sri Lanka have deep understanding for common objectives and world peace. The establishment of the SAARC gave an added advantage to the development and consolidation of Nepal, Sri Lanka relations.

As Sri Lanka has been responsible for preserving the rich heritage of Buddhism including the tooth relics of Lord Buddha, it is natural for all the Buddhists of the world including the Nepalese Buddhists to perceive Sri Lanka in a highly appreciating light.

The preservation of various precious legacies of Buddhism in this land speaks volumes of the commitment of the people of this country to peace, fraternity and love for historical traditions.

Nepal and Sri Lanka lay stress on non-interference, independence and self-respect.

On the other dimension, the establishment of vibrant people to people relations between people's Republic of China and South Asia region has become important because that will serve the fundamental interests of the peoples in these parts of Asia.

With the aim of furthering substantial exchanges and cooperation between China and the friendship organizations in South Asia the first China South Asian Friendship Organizations' Forum was held from Oct 28 to Oct 30. The event in which the participants discussed on the theme 'New Concepts, New Strategies for China and South Asia Cooperation'.

There is a glaring need for an institutionalized dialogue mechanism between South Asian nations and China. The challenges and opportunities of the 21st century in regard to peace, cooperation and development dictate the need for a

of course have positive impact on Asian peace, stability and prosperity. Out of the eight member states of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), five share common borders with China. The risk management aspect related to the

and interested countries to establish cooperative relations with South Asian countries. I sincerely want to see China and South Asian nations making concentrated efforts promote the mutually beneficial relationship between them in order to serve



Social and Cultural Cooperation (ASLSCCC) for their role to establish the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China.

Chinese people's Association for Friendship with foreign Countries (CPAFFC) has extended support to the concept of the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China and has decided to stay as its major partner in China.

I will also like to acknowledge the China Association in South Asian Countries who actively extended support previously to establish the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China.

Undoubtedly, the Chinese people's Association for Friendship with foreign Countries has accorded special importance for the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China.

China also organized the South Asian Friendship with China associations and China South Asian Friendship Organization's forum in the last week of October to further reinforce the concept of Forum.

Now Sri Lanka is taking the lead for that purpose. It is really delighting to see the gradual consolidation and enhancement in the relations between China and the South Asian Countries.

The Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China will play a healthy and sturdy role as a platform to carry out close cooperation, explore new approaches for mutual benefits and cooperation in various fields. This will go a long way in solidifying the foundation of bond between the peoples of China and South Asian countries apart from developing common efforts to develop mutual confidence and friendship.

Sri Lanka is a strategic naval link between West Asia and South East Asia. It has been also a center of Buddhist religion and culture since the time immemorial.

The country also boasts of being

Mahind, who was believed to be the son of Mauryan emperor Ashoka.

Sri Lanka has the longest continuous history of Buddhism if to compare with any predominately Buddhist nation, with the Sangh having existed in a long unbroken lineage since its introduction in the 2nd century BC. Even during the period of decline of Buddhism, the Sri Lankan monastic lineage was revived through the contact with other Buddhist countries.

If Nepal has the honour of being the birthplace of Lord Buddha, credit goes to Sri Lanka for preserving and disseminating the messages of Lord Buddha.

The Sri Lankan government has constructed

been showing interest in assisting the excavation of Kapilvastu and supplying drinking water in Lumbini.

Because of their belief in the UN charter, commitment to the fundamental principles of non-alignment and their involvement in SAARC, BIMSTEC and Colombo Plan, Nepal and Sri Lanka have been able to make a common cause in the regional and international forums inspired by their desire to develop themselves. Although both of them are small countries, they have been supporting each other to protect their self respect against the influence and hegemony of other powers.

The bilateral



**Famous Buddhist Temple in Kandy where tooth relics of Buddha has been kept**

a monastery in Lumbini at the central canal in traditional Sri Lankan architecture.

To support the Master Plan of Lumbini, Sri Lanka government has

relations between the two countries have always been free of tension and are based on mutual understanding and friendship.

This relation is not only limited to

bold and speedy action to foster the relations between China and South Asian countries.

The visionary exploitation of mutual capabilities of South Asia and China will

the peace and development of South Asian nations as well as Asian continent as a whole. China at the same time has also come forward on several occasions as one of the willing

fundamental interests of their nearly 3 billion citizens. This will create a kind of favourable atmosphere for peace, stability and development in the region. China must fully recognize the importance of developing good relationship with South Asian countries and show out most sincerity in every aspect.

Living as we do and increasingly interdependent world irrespective of their political ideology and their national strategic interests have agreed to work together and cooperate for social and economic advancement. Irrespective of their different political ideology and strategic interests, South Asia and China should move ahead together for the well being of their peoples.

China's interest in South Asia economic, social and cultural integration is already evidenced by the fact that she has taken initiatives in establishing close people to people relations with South Asian countries. This forum will be a vital factor for these objectives.

It is indeed a matter of great pride and joy to see that the people to people contacts between Nepal and China are being unfolded rapidly and smoothly over the past years.

We must ensure that the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China will be more meaningful to all people to people relations. Therefore, the ensuring year we have to give Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China a truly people central focus through all our programs and mechanism. It is then that Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China can become the robust partnership for people to people relations for all our peoples.

We are on the threshold of a new age, the Age of Asia with China and South Asia being an important part of it, not only in the number of population but also in Skills and strength of growing economies. Today Asia is the economic power of the world.

We, China and South Asia share a rich and common heritage, a heritage of understanding and of tolerance. Our diverse culture, languages and religious traditions could have made us the most divided region in the world. But by and large we see a great harmony among our people.

Long live South Asia and China Friendship.