

Leftist alliance could serve national interests!



WM Correspondent

It was expected that there would be an environment for national consensus following the resignation of caretaker Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal.

But, the very anticipation proved wrong with the prolonged political deadlock.

The ceaseless inability of the parties to rise above the occasion as severely marred the constitution-writing and peace processes.

To be specific, the current political crisis has also resulted in a deficit of trust amongst and within the parties.

Along with this, the possibility of ideologically driven political polarization has also augmented substantially.

After the four fruitless elections for the post of prime minister, there seems an increasing proximity especially

between the establishment factions of the two largest leftist outfits of the country-UCPN (Maoist) and CPN (UML).

The Maoists' establishment faction is in favour of supporting UML chairman Jhala Nath Khanal as a better option to lead the new government if a new process is begun by pitting an end to the ongoing process of Prime Ministerial election.

A Maoist stalwart Narayan Kaji Shrestha said that the warmth displayed by his party towards Khanal has much to do with the ideological closeness between the two parties.

The Maoists have also already proposed the UML for running the government on a turn-by turn basis by the two parties.

The former rebels simply do not want to see the Nepali Congress (NC) grabbing the helm of affairs.

As Khanal is receiving the signals of bonhomie from the Maoist establishment, he has been refusing even to meet with the NC leaders in the recent days.

Although the opposing factions of the both UCPN (Maoist) and UML distaste the proposition of Khanal leading the next government, the growing political amicability between the establishment factions of the two parties may eventually lead to a leftist alliance.

With the victory continuously eluding the current candidates in the fray, Khanal and Maoist vice-chairman Baburam Bhattarai have been two promising aspirants for the coveted post of premiership.

Bhattarai may not present himself as an obstacle to the process of possible left unity if there remains a chance for two thirds majority in favour of Khanal.

Khanal is not pernicious candidate for NC but it is not comfortable with him for his perceived softness towards the Maoists.

On the other side, India would be the prime external that could again plot to prevent Khanal from leading the government for his alleged tilt towards China.

The Maoist leaders close to chairman Dahal are openly validating Khanal for the prime ministerial post on the condition of a new process as the possibility of their party leading a majority government is dim, to say the least.

The UML chieftain, despite the desire of his rival faction led by K.P. Oli and Madhav Kumar Nepal to give the NC a premiership, seems steadfast to abort any attempts towards the formation of a majority government.

This internal strife could also lead

to a split of the UML.

The Maoists will be in position to lead the new government with the support from only Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM).

But, this promising possibility has failed to see the light of the day as the SLMM is dictated by India, which is sharply against the Maoists.

Amidst this scenario, there is every chance that extreme polarization will take place sooner or later since the country cannot remain hostage to indecisiveness for a much longer period.

According to political observers, if the present crisis prompted the nationalist leftists to come together, it

could prove helpful to the nation to swiftly tide over the widening political disarray.

"Moreover, the formation of a leftist alliance with a major focus on nationalism can also be expected to combat the vicious level of foreign intervention in the entire functioning of the country," they viewed.

NC, UML relations go downhill

The vibes between Nepali Congress (NC) and CPN (UML), which are the two major components of the same coalition, have started to get negative due to their incongruent opinions on peace process and government formation.

Their political relations further went downhill after the UML parliamentary party decided to continue to stay away from supporting any prime ministerial candidate for the formation of a majority government.

The NC termed the UML's decision to continue to stay neutral in the prime ministerial race as something against the parliamentary norms and values.

The NC does not want to be a component of the government

participated in by the UCPN (Maoist).

That's why: it is desperate to lead a majority government for at least four months, for which the support of the UML is crucial.

The parties have agreed to complete the peace process within the four months.

The stalwarts of the NC were hoping that the UML would ultimately back them to lead new government as they earlier support it to command the present caretaker coalition.

But, this political calculation on the part of the NC has now proved imprudent.

The UML is of the view only the formation of a national consensus government will ensure constitution

writing and the peace process.

It is also sharply criticizing the parliamentary battle between the Maoists and the NC: to lead a majority government by grabbing the title of premiership in their respective fold.

So far all the four rounds of voting to pick up a new prime minister to replace a caretaker coalition led by Madhav Kumar Nepal have ended in ignominy as the major parties failed to exhibit a scintilla of mutual cooperation.

The parliamentary party of the UML, which remained neutral during the last three rounds of balloting, has also decided to carry out a signature campaign for amending the parliamentary regulations to start a new course of consensus. **[Cont. on page 6]**

Curbing CEO's salary



WM Correspondent

How much salary exactly a chief executive officer of bank and financial institutions (BFIs) should draw has become a hot topic in the banking sector as well as in the public sphere.

The question was first emanated in the United States during the two-year long world financial crisis and later it sparked a great degree of debate across the globe.

The amount of remuneration of a CEO of any financial institution is generally determined by his/her professional dexterity and the financial health of the institution.

1.7 million in a month as salary and perks.

Development banks ("B" class) and finance companies ("C" class) have also jumped in the bandwagon of offering a recklessly humongous monthly payment to CEOs.

Some of these financial institutions have also been detected to provide up to Rs. 500,000 a month for their CEOs.

Of course, the country's banking system is deprived of a required number of competent human resources.

But, this fact should not be translated into offering an exorbitant sum to a handful of professionals at the expense of other employees as well as the financial health of the institution.

The CEOs of BFIs have objected the central bank's attempts to tame their salary and perks saying that it would further provoke brain drain.

However, the promoters seem to be happy with the central bank's move because their financial liability to CEOs will be trimmed down.

The NRB has also asked the Nepal Bankers' Association (NBA) to extend its opinions on possible ratio of perks and benefits between the lowest and highest staffs of BFIs.

This has put the NBA in a big difficulty as the gap is too huge to rationalise.


However, the belief that the benefits and perks being enjoyed by executive officers should be set to certain limit is gaining currency for the sake of financial stability of the BFIs.

In Nepali context too, Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) is set to fix certain criteria for CEO's salary.


The discussion is gravitated towards the possibility of setting certain minimum salary and perks on the basis of performance.

It has been found that the CEOs of some commercial banks ("A" class) have drawn up to a staggering Rs.

FELICITATIONS



On the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Islamic Republic of Pakistan we wish the government and the people of Pakistan peace, progress and prosperity. May the friendly relations between Nepal and Pakistan grow further in the years to come.



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Editorial

Rescuing economy in freefall

Senior economists have time and again been cautioning that the national economy is already in a severe crisis.

They ascribe the crisis to the brazen negligence on the part of political parties towards every sector of the country's economy which has contributed in the retardation of the economic growth rate and thus put the entire country into a severe economic crisis.

The delay in announcing full-fledged budget to the economy is bound to further accelerate the ongoing economic jittery, putting the economy in the most challenging phase after the nineties.

The targets set by the new Three-year Plan has also become challenging due to lack of timely and concrete fiscal policy apart from heightening economic uncertainty that can adversely affect potential private sector investment.

Lack of a fiscal policy applicable for a full fiscal year is hampering the country's efforts to adopt policies that are immediately needed to correct major economic problems that have threatened basic stability.

Since resources allocated by the special budget is just enough to continue development activities initiated in the past, the implementation of a number of strategies adopted by the newly endorsed three-year plan are bound to be affected.

Weak governance and infrastructure status that have emerged as the major bottleneck to development is likely to worsen further due to lack of timely budget.

No doubt, the available macroeconomic indicators also signal impending setbacks to Nepal's economic growth.

Strong growth in the banking sector's credit for non-productive purposes and weak growth for productive purposes also evidence weaknesses in the growth outlook of the economy.

The unfavorable economic development environment has adversely affected Nepal's overall economic growth and also the per capita income growth. Consequently, the envisaged socio-economic development outcomes have remained largely unattained and the prospects of materializing these outcomes in the near future also remain quite distant.

Higher consumption, unproductive investments, lower saving, and excessive trade deficit have become the hallmarks of Nepali economy. These developments are associated with lower economic growth. This calls for initiating measures for controlling excessive consumption, increasing saving, making the investments productive, reducing the trade deficit, and expediting the economic growth. Ensuring incentives for channeling more resources toward strengthening the export, raising production and productivity, generating employment opportunities, and making optimal utilization of available resources would remain crucial to accelerating the economic growth and improving the soundness and efficiency of the economy on a sustainable basis.

Golden Jubilee of Nepal-Pakistan Relations

Yuba Nath Lamsal

The friendly and cordial relations between Nepal and Pakistan have grown fully mature. It has been fifty years since the diplomatic relationship between Nepal and Pakistan was established. We are, now, marking the golden jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between these two close South Asian neighbours, which is a matter of pride for all of us.

The diplomatic relations between Nepal and Pakistan were formally established in 1960, which is a milestone in the friendly relationship between these two South Asian friends. The residential embassies of both the countries were established in the following year. This decision was made in the bilateral agreement between the two countries when the then President of Pakistan Ayub Khan paid a state visit to Nepal in 1963, which was reciprocated by the then Nepal's head of State King Mahendra. As per the decision, Nepal opened its residential embassy in Karachi, the then capital of Pakistan, in 1964, which was reciprocated by Pakistan by establishing its residential mission in Kathmandu in 1965.

Since then relations between Nepal and Pakistan have grown steadily. These two friendly countries have no problems, at all, in any front. They enjoy perfectly cordial and cooperative ties, which are marked by goodwill and friendship. The relationship between these two countries is based on sovereign equality, mutual respect and non-interference in one another's affairs. These are the principles that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and also are the guiding principles of the non-aligned movement, which both Nepal and Pakistan have always cherished.

Nepal and Pakistan do not have common border. But they consider one another a close friend and a friend in need. Both the countries attach greater importance to the friendly relationship and bilateral cooperation and share many commonalities in several bilateral, regional and international affairs. In the regional and international forum like SAARC and the United Nations, the two countries are always cooperative on different matters concerning them, South Asia and developing countries. The common perspectives that they share on several international and regional issues have brought these two countries and people closer.

There are many things that Nepal should learn from Pakistan. The defence strategy that Pakistan has adopted should be a lesson for other countries whose strategic position is vulnerable. Since its creation Pakistan

has faced threat from the hostile neighbour. Pakistan was created as an independent country after the agreed partition of Indian sub-continent which was under British colonialism, under 'Two Nation Theory'. The Indian sub-continent, which used to be called as India, was partitioned mutually on condition that the Hindu part would be called Hindustan and the Muslim part Pakistan. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who is Pakistan's father of the nation and the first Prime Minister of Pakistan, honestly kept his words and promises made at the time of partition and after. But Jawaharal Nehru and his band in Hindu part broke the agreement made during the time of partition one after another. The beginning of the breach of promises and accords was the decision of Nehru and the pack to call the Hindu part as India instead of Hindustan. Right after the partition, Nehru announced that 'the new India is the successor of British India', which was aimed at reinforcing India's bullying and coercive policy towards its small neighbours under Kautilya's geo-political assumption that the immediate neighbour is always an enemy. This was the beginning of the mistrust between the two newly created countries. This attitude of India sowed the seed of animosity and mistrust not only between Pakistan and India but also with all other South Asian neighbours.

When Pakistan was created, it had nothing except the land and its people. Pakistan began its journey of nation-building from the scratch. There had been an agreement during the partition that both the newly created states would have their share in the assets and liability of the British raj on proportionate basis. However, India betrayed and denied the legitimate share of Pakistan in the assets of British raj. There are a number of instances that testify India's non-compliance with agreements and promises. India has violated time and again the agreements made between the two countries including the Liaqat-Nehru Pact of 1949, Tashkent Pact of 1966 and also the UN resolution on Kashmir issue. Nehru had agreed to hold plebiscite to decide the fate of Kashmir. Under the accord, it had been agreed that Kashmiri people would decide whether they wanted to remain as a part of India or the part of Pakistan through plebiscite. However, India later backed out and has not allowed plebiscite in Kashmir. As a result, Kashmir has continued to remain as a disputed territory even today and three wars between India and Pakistan have been fought over the status of Kashmir.

Pakistan began its journey as a nation-state with empty hands. But there was a strong determination in Pakistani people to have their own country with distinct identity and self-dignity that built Pakistan as a strong country. India inherited colonial legacy whereas newly created Pakistan represented spirit of liberation and independence and self-dignity, of which people of Pakistan are always proud.

Right after its creation, Pakistan has been faced with threat to its survival and existence. As a result, it has not been allowed to fully concentrate on social and economic development to the desired extent. From the very beginning, more focus had to be laid on its defence. As a result, Pakistan was forced to go militarization because of continued external threat and arm build-up strategy of its bigger neighbour India. This can be well substantiated by Indira Gandhi's announcement after the creation of Bangladesh in 1972 that India would dump the Two Nation Theory into the Indian Ocean. This is a testimony that India did not recognize the existence of Pakistan.

Compared to India, Pakistan is small in size, population and economy, but it has built military capability to maintain military deterrent both conventional and nuclear. Now Pakistan is fully capable for military and nuclear deterrence. The militarization and nuclear programmes are not its choice but had to do so for its self-defence because of the hostile attitude of its neighbour.

India is a regional bully in South Asia that has bled every country of this region-be it Nepal, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka. Pakistan's rise is necessary also to counter New Delhi's ill-design vis-à-vis its small neighbours including Nepal. Against this background, South Asian countries need to develop special relationship with Pakistan and also learn lesson from it for their national survival and existence. This is more so in the wake of annexation of Sikkim to India. After Sikkim, India is eyeing on Bhutan and Nepal. Had Pakistan not been there as a countervailing force, South Asian security would have been further vulnerable.

So far as the bilateral relations between Nepal and Pakistan are concerned, they are excellent both at the official as well as people's levels. Both of them respect each other's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan is eager to see political stability and economic prosperity in Nepal. Similarly, Nepali people believe that a politically stable and

economically vibrant Pakistan is in the best interest of Nepal.

Given the strategic location of Pakistan, it can play the role of bridge between South Asia and Central Asia; Central Asia and East Asia; and East Asia and South Asia through the Karakoram Highway. As it is well positioned geographically, it can be a commercial hub for land-locked Central Asian countries. The Karakoram Highway links Pakistan with China and beyond in the east. Based on this geographical location, Pakistan has the potentials of rising as a center of Asian gas grid that can link Central Asia, Europe and Russia, South Asia and East Asia by a common gas pipeline. Pakistan is always willing to cooperate with and help its friendly neighbours to take benefit from its well-positioned geo-strategic and geo-economic significance. Nepal can enter central Asian countries and diversify its trade through Karakoram Highway for which Islamabad seems to be positive.

Pakistan's assistance to Nepal is selfless, which is guided by the intention of contributing to Nepal's development and modernization. If we look back in retrospect, Pakistan has been a true friend of Nepal throughout its history. When Nepal was effortful to get UN membership, Pakistan wholeheartedly supported Nepal's bid for UN membership. So there is enormous level of goodwill and friendship between the people and the governments of these countries which need to be taken to a newer height in future for peace and prosperity in South Asia.

Pakistan is willing to cooperate with Nepal despite its limited resources. There are already several projects in which Pakistan has been assisting Nepal. Pakistan has been assisting in the field of culture, agriculture, communication and science and technology. Pakistan and Nepal are cooperating in the field of tourism. Pakistan provides scholarship to Nepali students and professionals to study various streams of science and technology from which Nepal has benefited a lot.

As far as bilateral trade is concerned, the volume, so far, is very small. The bilateral trade between Nepal and Pakistan is slightly over \$4.7 million. Nepal exports mostly tea and spices to Pakistan whereas it is importing textile and food items from Pakistan. But there is great scope for expanding and diversifying the volume of trade between Pakistan and Nepal. Trade exhibition and exchanges of visits by business delegations from both the countries are other measures being taken by Nepal and Pakistan to promote bilateral trade.

Our tattered family values

Social observer

In context of Nepal, people surpassing the age of 60 are generally deemed as senior citizen or older people. The population of the senior citizens in the country is projected to be 1.7 million or 6.5 per cent of the total national population. Furthermore, the numerical figure of elderly population is forecasted to reach 1.8 million in 2011 and, 2 million in 2016. Undeniably, aging is cyclical process. All the people of the world whether he/she is rich or poor or learned or foolish have to pass through this cyclical process in their life cycle. As such, it is but natural to expect older persons enjoying their life with full dignity and security. Being an inexorable part of society, they should not be bereft of cultural, economic, spiritual and recreational resources. In a same vein, they should have unhindered access to social and legal services and the health care so that they can maintain optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Linguistically, senior citizen can be defined as euphemism for older people nearing the average life span of human beings. In terms of biology, older people have limited regenerative abilities and are more prone to disease, syndromes, and sickness than other adults. However, old age cannot be defined with precision because it does have the same meaning in all societies. In many parts of the world, people are considered old due to certain changes in their activities or social roles. For instance, people may be regarded old when they become grand parents or when they begin to do less or different work. In the United States and Europe, people are often considered old if they have lived a certain number of years. In fact, everybody is declared to be "old" when they reach the age of 65-70 in western societies.

But, the million-dollar question is: Are senior citizens of the country really leading their lives with due dignity,

respect and care? To put it succinctly, the answer appears conspicuously iffy.

It does not take experts to state that a majority of the elderly have become a burden and nuisance for the family and have become a neglected lot. The appalling condition of the neglected elderly people at the Pashupati Briddhashram, in microcosm, represents the plight of senior citizens in the country as a whole. Abandoned and ostracized from their home and family, these septuagenarians and octogenarians live a meager existence. Is this not a matter of ignominy for a society that venerates its senior citizens?

Some experts point out that the increasing urbanization, intergenerational conflict, social change, longevity has brought with it the problems of old-age related diseases. They argue that the gradual crumbling of joint family structure, job pressure, individualistic tendency and consumerism have imparted a sense of alienation to their aging parents.

Inability to work or early retirement comes as a shock and renders them unfit. With the loss of income they soon become dependant for even basic essentials. As they are denied of caring, sharing and giving, their conditions become worse from bad.

Ensuring proper care to the senior citizens calls for effort of will, determination and the obligations to overlook their natural insanity. Upgrading the existing institutions for the old and addition of new facilities also can go a long way in addressing the grievances of senior citizens. In this regard, it behooves upon the government to immediately come up with the schemes, based on Senior Citizen Act 2006, such as helping private sectors to build Day Care Centers and Old Age Homes, discount for elderly in medical facilities and transport etc.

Moreover, moral education to re-engineer our tattered family values for the uplift of the dignity and respect of the elderly people is also the need of the hour.

The Gorkha/Gurkha recruitment, deployment question and 'naya Nepal'

Recently, two English dailies had front-page photographs of a group of British Gurkhas in a gung-ho pose, along with the information that very shortly they were to be deployed in the NATO force operating in Afghanistan.

From the manner in which the said news photo was displayed, it seemed that the sub-editors in the two concerned newspapers, avid promoters of 'naya Nepal', were rather proud that Nepali citizens are, even in this day and age, still being used as mercenaries fighting other countries' wars.

Yet, a British citizen, one Roshan Kissoon, in a moving letter to the Kathmandu Post editor, saw things in their correct perspective when he bluntly stated: "the reason that the British army hires Nepali soldiers is because they are cheap. They receive fewer pensions than British soldiers because the British see Nepali lives as being worth less in comparison to British lives...The British need soldiers to help attack people in another poor country like Afghanistan."

He asks, very rightly: "What interest do the Nepali people have in helping the British and the Americans invade a country like Afghanistan? Afghanistan has never attacked or been aggressive towards Nepal." Anticipating that there will certainly be Nepali casualties in Afghanistan, Kissoon recommends that "this old colonial practice of Nepali soldiers joining the British army should be stopped."

Of course, one can go further and question why Nepali citizens have been allowed to be recruited in Indian Gorkha regiments and, even more so, to be deployed, from time to time, against countries such as China and Pakistan with whom Nepal has close and very productive relations?

What is truly amazing is that despite all the current blather about 'naya Nepal' - which, naturally, has never been defined - not one constituent of

S. Khanal
the ruling eight-party barony has thought it fit and proper to call for this parties who champion or promote 'naya Nepal', day in and day out? Why



shameful practice to be terminated.

What's even more surprising is that even the Maoists, who included a fervent call for an end of such recruitment into foreign armies in their 40-point charter of demands before launch of their 'jana juddha' in February 1996, have been keeping mum over this question. Indeed, even C.P. Gajurel, who visited and lectured in the UK not long ago, did not raise this issue in London, at least as far as I know.

Likewise, the UML which after Jana Andolan-1 publicly called for ending this relic of the past has also been maintaining an eloquent silence on the matter of recruitment and deployment of Nepali citizens in the British and Indian armies, for years now.

Incidentally, what is also astounding is that the Maoists, who have been seeking an ambassadorial assignment for a nominee at the Court of St James', apparently do not see any contradiction between their shrill chants for abolishing the Monarchy in Nepal with the prospect of their representative presenting credentials to the British Queen!

What is one, then, to make of such a resounding silence on the part of the Maoists, the UML and other Left

should the public take their commitments on other public issues seriously? Or, is that the modus operandi or mool mantra in a 'naya Nepal': promise one thing, but do something quite different? Is that to be the norm of public morality and ethics in the months and years to come? Would Jimmy Carter, for one, approve?

To go back into the past, it may be recalled that just before the British quit India on 15 August 1947, a Tripartite Agreement was signed between Nepal, the UK and India on division of the then existing ten Gorkha/Gurkha regiments in the British Indian army - four going to Britain and six to India.

Recalling that the Nepali government then was the Rana regime, what it really boils down to is that a system manufactured and sanctified by colonialists and despots still continues merrily despite all the fiery rhetoric that spews forth on a daily basis from the lips of our new political masters.

That Agreement set out various conditions for recruitment, including that they would not be used against Hindus and that in any case Kathmandu's agreement would be sought before their deployment. That,

of course, has turned to be a stipulation that has been observed more in the breach than in its strict observance.

That now brings us right back to the issue of British Gurkhas being readied for deployment against enemies of the West in Afghanistan, meaning remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Has the British government sought Kathmandu's approval prior to the decision for their deployment? Or, could it even be - heaven forbid - that such agreement was not even sought?

While this columnist readily confesses that he does not know which option is applicable, isn't it something that our public servants, including the self-appointed MPs of the interim parliament, should be concerned and screaming about, since they are, at least in theory, supposedly working themselves to the bone in advancing the cause of the poor, toiling Nepali janata?

Leaving that important query aside for the moment, can they at least focus their minds on what impact the deployment of Gurkhas in Afghanistan is likely to have on the ordinary Nepali? Can they be sure that the Taliban and al-Qaeda, which mercifully have been absent from the Nepali scene thus far, will not strike back?

Have they forgotten what happened a few years ago in Iraq? Can they not anticipate the danger that such deployment might invite for the hundreds of thousands of Nepali labourers who not only make a decent living in the Muslim Gulf and Malaysia but, in fact, support the national economy in the process?

Only recently the Taliban killed one German hostages and kept the other one captive because Berlin did not announce that its troops would leave Afghanistan. And, at the time of writing, they have threatened to kill 23 South Koreans of an evangelical Christian group.

[Reproduce]
27 July 2007, Friday]

Janatantric people as cannon fodder

Prem Kumari Pant

It was in the year 1885 that the recruitment of Gurkhas for the British Army was formally permitted by Bir Shumsher (1885-1901). The settlement of this issue had been pending since 1816. During the First World War (1914-18), the Gurkha troops fought on the British side and established a reputation for skill, strength and discipline. The scheme of supplying arms to the Nepalese government in return for Gurkha recruits was an expression of this policy. Henceforth, Nepal's military resources, particularly her manpower, were looked upon by the British as an essential accessory to the Indian government's own armed strength. The Rana government, on the other hand, found in the Gurkha recruitment scheme, apart from its economic and other benefits, a means of ingratiating themselves with the British as well as keeping restless martial tribes of Nepal gainfully engaged and contented. By the turn of the century the British had thus achieved another objective: Nepalese friendliness enabled them to not only strengthen the Indian Army for meeting external energies but to minimize any risk of internal threat to British rule in India caused by mutiny in that army. The Gurkha under British command fought ferociously against the Russians and the restless Pathans and were expected to show no sympathy for any rebellious Sikh and Muslim contingent of the Indian Army. The Gurkhas were naturally looked upon as the most satisfactory guarantee of the continued good relations between the British and Nepalese governments. Alongside with the improvement in political relations there was the increased economic interdependence between Nepal and British-India. There was expansion of trade. Nepalese in large number found employment in British India. The volume of capital investment by the Rana in Indian industries and commercial establishments grew. All this made the Rana stake in British Friendship correspondingly heavy.

Chandra Shumsher's contribution to pushing Nepal still deeper under British sway was substantial. Nepal started receiving a yearly gift of one million rupees - which still continues as mark of gratitude for the services rendered by the Gurkha in the British army. Gurkha troops again fought for British and its allies in the Second World War. After India gained independence from British colonial rule, under the tripartite treaty signed between Nepal, India and Britain in 9th November, 1947, Nepal allowed India and Britain to recruit Gurkhas for their respective armies. The British had started this practice of recruitment long back. Under new agreement, the Gurkha could be used by India in any situation except against the "Hindus", "Unarmed mob" and the "Gurkhas". This practice of recruiting Nepalis in Indian and British armies continues till today. The humiliation, indignity and disgrace in which the Nepalese soldiers have to serve in foreign armies cannot be realized by those who control the reigns of power. In 1982 Gurkha Regiment participated in the war over Falklands Islands. The Argentinean representative to the UN, in his country's reaction over the participation of the British Gurkha Regiment in the war over the Falklands Islands, described the Nepali troops as mercenaries and as sold on money to fight for others.

What is still more painful is that the Nepalese soldiers are utilized only on crucial occasions to protect the territorial integrity of India. They were made to sacrifice their lives on the Kashmir front against Pakistan and on the NEFA front against China and against Bangladesh front. In all these armed confrontations against India, the Nepalese had to bear the brunt at the front.

The recruitment of Nepali youths in the Indian and British armed forces must be regarded as a slur and blot on the dignity of the nation, no matter what might have been the cause of origin of this practice. No sovereign country supplies its young men to be used as cannon fodder by other countries. But even though we take deep pride in calling ourselves an independent and sovereign nation, we have never demanded annulment of the agreement under which these recruitments are made. Nepal needs youthful and healthy manpower for its own development and progress. Moreover, it is most unpatriotic to plead that we cannot feed our own children.

Since 1950 we are hearing the slogans from the leftists party in the street to close down the recruitment centers. We have also experienced the leftist government thrice in the country, but nothing happened in this matter. Nevertheless, what actually creates a feeling of disappointment is the fact that the same tradition which commenced several generations ago during the Rana period with Nepalese people leaving their hearth and home in search of greener pastures abroad should continue to persist even today. While this is the condition on the one hand, hundreds of thousands of our young men are still being compelled to shed their blood for others, sometimes against our own friends under the control of another friends. It is really a curse that the Nepalese should have to live that way even under the Loktantric government. It is a colossal human problem the Loktantric government should ponder over seriously.

Last year Communist party of Afghanistan had expressed serious concern over continuous presence of Nepali mercenaries in Afghanistan along with army personnel of the US, Britain, Poland and Canada to crush the Afghani people's resistance against 'imperialists'.

The party, which is also a member of Revolutionary International Movement (RIM) and coordination Committee of Maoist parties and Organisations in South Asia (CCOMPASA), also accused the Nepal Maoists of yielding to the shameful tradition of Gurkha recruitments. The Unified CPN (maoist) is also the member of the both RIM and CCOMPASA.

The Afghanistan Maoists also asked the members of the Unified CPN (Maoist) to exert pressure on their party to withdraw Nepal security personnel under the command of foreigners from Afghanistan.

Now, they are under the direct command of the US' 'Special Forces' in Shindand Airport in Heart province with Canadian forces in Kandahar and Polish forces in Ghazi Province.

Although the Afghan Communist (Maoists) party is not so influential force in Afghanistan its discontent with the Unified CPN (Maoist) has given space to be cautious about the security of Nepali citizens in Afghanistan.

Nepali citizens are serving in Afghanistan as a part of British Army in accordance to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) initiative.

Importantly, hundreds of civilians are also going to Afghanistan illegally to find work. Many Nepali people have been employed by the private security agencies to guard the sensitive areas in Afghanistan.

Nepal has no hostility with the Afghani people. However, the growing deployment of Nepalese for security purpose has augmented the likelihood of them being targeted as in Iraq where 12 Nepalese were murdered mercilessly by an insurgent group in 2004.

In the same vein, those Nepali people who are working in Muslim countries like Middle East and Malaysia might also be the target of gruesome attacks as a vengeance against the deployment of Nepalese armed force in Afghanistan (Muslim country).

Of course, Nepali citizens should not be allowed to be used against those nation especially belonging to SAARC.

Series of Gurkha deaths leaves Gurung household inconsolable



September to receive lika from his mother during Dashain.

Ishwar's father Dil Bahadur, a former Indian Army serviceman, passed away six years ago. Ishwar is the third among Dil Bahadur's three sons

Losing the family's breadwinner has dealt a big blow to the Gurung family. The family still has Dil Bahadur's pension to survive on, but the dream of moving to a city has been shattered, according to Surya, to whom Ishwar shared this dream during a phone conversation three months ago.

Officials from the British Camp informed the family about the tragedy Saturday morning. Sunkumari and Ram are preparing to leave for the United Kingdom to bring Ishwar's body to Nepal.

The death of another British Gurkha soldier in the war-torn Afghanistan last week has come as a shock for residents of a small village in mid-western Kaski district.

The British Gurkha soldier who succumbed to his injuries in an accident that took place in a U.K military base in Afghanistan on August 10, 2010, has been identified as Rifleman Remand Kulung.

"It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) must confirm that Rifleman Remand Kulung, from G (Tobruk) Company, 1st Battalion, The Mercian Regiment (Cheshire) attached to the Danish Battlegroup, was killed in Afghanistan."

Two day later, Rifleman Kulung died of his injuries in the Queen

Elizabeth Hospital.

Rifleman Remand Kulung was 27 years old and from Basaha, Barshendanda, Nepal. He joined The Royal Gurkha Rifles in December 2004.

After his death, Kulung's wife, Sophy, remembered her husband as "a kind, brave and very honest soldier"

One of the soldiers killed in Helmand province of Afghanistan was a Nepali national working for the British Army, NATO has confirmed.

Three soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed when an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier opened fire at them at a security base shared by ANA and ISAF in the southern province of Helmand.

Issuing a press statement, NATO said, three ISAF service members died following an attack in southern Afghanistan.

Two of the deceased soldiers were British nationals and one was a Nepali national, NATO spokesperson said.

NATO has not revealed the identity of the killed soldiers.

Meanwhile, the British Embassy in Kathmandu has expressed grief over the deaths. Issuing a press statement, the embassy said, "it is with sadness that the British Embassy announces the death of a Gurkha and two British soldiers, serving with the 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles in Afghanistan, early on Tuesday morning, 13 July 2010.



The residence of 22-year-old British Gurkha soldier Ishwar Gurung, who was killed in an attack by Taliban militants in Afghanistan on August 13, is packed with relatives.

Inmates of the house in Bhujrungkhola of Sardikhola-1, Kaski, include Ishwar's elder brother and little sister. Ishwar's mother Sunkumari and another elder

brother Ram reached Kathmandu August 15 morning after being summoned by the British Embassy.

This is the fifth death in the Gurung household in the past nine years, after the deaths of Ishwar's father, grandfather, grandmother and uncle.

Ishwar joined the British Gurkha regiment three years ago. He was scheduled to come home in

How to Plan a Newspaper: Some References of Nepal

Hari Prasad Shrestha

Not only in Nepal but also in most of the underdeveloped countries creating, publishing and distributing a newspaper is not an easy job. It is important to create a plan that will help determine goals, what hope to accomplish, and how you are going to achieve what you set out to do. Much like a business plan - not only will this plan help to keep you on track, it may also help to secure funding.

Editorial plan is the major reflection of any newspaper; it could be compared with the heart in the human body. As heart circulates blood in body, it provides major guidelines to increase strength and trustworthiness of newspaper.

It keeps newspaper a sense of special direction for smooth operation of its all concerned process. Editorial plan not only has to be effective, it also has to be a continuous process in maintaining effectiveness and standardization of paper.

Newspapers in Nepal are centralized in capital of Nepal at Kathmandu city. Out of Kathmandu it's quite difficult to survive a national news paper. It indicates the centralized development and political character of the country. The print media has great responsibility to break the centralized structure of nation. They have to focus in this sector along with the political agendas.

Continuous tracking, study and investigation of national and international happenings by the group of local correspondents, editors, experts and advisors play vital role in accurate forecasting of important issues. This gives high publicity and priority to the newspaper. Important writings of national and international publication could provide a specific support for specific writings. It should be included in priority base in the planning.

Editorial plan should be efficient to convey all types of contents in standard format and very clear messages to the readers. It should not contain any contents and descriptions which give double message and make confusion to the readers. As we know that print media is emerging as a powerful source in transmitting current news to the society. Distortion and wrong writings with confusing topics and content could affect credibility of both the media house and working personnel under it.

Now-a-days, in Nepal almost all the newspaper furnishes high priority to the news and articles associated with the political affairs. Up to some extent, it is

correct that politics is the major foundation compared to other aspects of national affairs. But the never ending transitional political phenomenon should not be always in high priority? There are other important aspect like economy, bureaucracy, society, service delivery, centralization, exploitation and corruption, where media places lesser importance compared to politics. Print media possess high responsibility in transforming society and nation by providing high priority to these important sectors. Especially the government owned publications have more responsibilities. A newspaper of international standard and its worldwide circulation could attract the attention of world community. Import of publication of other countries compared to export of publication of Nepal is very high. It indicates that Nepalese print media has to do Herculean effort to go beyond its border.

It is important to find a group of like-minded people to help. As you begin to plan, determine what skills they have, in order to determine what their responsibilities and duties will be. Each person will bring unique abilities to the table, and you must find a way to tap into those strengths.

An editorial plan isn't really the same thing as a business plan. It's probably not only a matter of formats or structure, but rather getting three important things straight:

1. Target audience: Try to define your target as narrowly as possible. Think about standard factors like age, gender, occupation, interests and go from there, if you can, to other factors such as where they look through, what kind of links are attractive, etc. What are the needs involved and the benefits from the newspaper?

2. Content: What are you going to offer to that target audience? Short articles, long pieces, blog posts, online tools, profiles and social media hooks, or what? What are they looking for and what are you providing? Here too, the narrower the focus, the better.

3. Fulfillment: Where do you get the content? Do you hire writer reporters, editors, freelancers? Are aggregate content already available? Where does it come from? How much will it cost?

However, even with editorial plan, still don't have the heart of the business plan done until you also add the sales and marketing plans. To make this a plan, you have to add some more

content, such as what are the key messages and how are you going to get them to the target audience.

Then, with the heart done, add the flesh and bones and you should get answer to these questions, such as:

When and how are you going to meet, and with whom, to review results?

What are your most important assumptions?

Who does what, when and how much will that cost?

Some basic numbers: estimate sales, cost of sales, expenses and pull those estimates together into a cash plan. Do you need financing? Are you borrowing money?

Better circulation of newspaper means effective selling of final product. Circulation of paper indicates its degree of effectiveness and accomplishment. Many factors are considered to be responsible for smooth and increased circulation of newspaper.

In Nepal, it is considered how well advertisements and promotions draw customers will ultimately determine how effective marketing strategy is. An established and reputed newspaper can bring great change in the society. Such reputed newspapers have also responsibility to guide the society and the nation in almost all the important priorities of nation where more focuses are needed. Only profit making motto of a news paper might be disastrous for nation. That's why foreign and international multinational's direct investment is being controlled by the government to safeguard national interests.

Besides, you should be complete aware of the fundamental of modern marketing

First, here's something that is fast becoming the most fundamental aspects of marketing to get right, especially if you want to build a truly sustainable high quality organization in the modern age.

Ensure the ethics and philosophies of your organization are good and sound. This might seem a bit peripheral to marketing and business, and rather difficult to measure. Three factors seem to be important during planning process:

1. Carry out market research, including competitor activity

Market information should include anything we need to know in order to formulate strategy and make business

decisions. Information is available in the form of statistical economic and demographic data from libraries, research companies and professional associations. Additionally you can carry out your own research through customer feedback, surveys, questionnaires and focus groups. It requires less manipulation, but all types of research need careful analysis. Be careful when extrapolating or projecting. If the starting point is inaccurate the resulting analysis will not be reliable. The main elements you typically need to understand and quantify are:

customer profile and mix, product mix, demographic issues and trends, future regulatory and legal effects, prices and values, and customer perceptions in these areas, competitor activities, competitor strengths and weaknesses, customer service perceptions, priorities and needs

2. Consumer's complain

Measuring customer complaints is crucial because they are a service provider's barometer. We need to have a scheme which encourages, not discourages, customers to complain. Some surveys have found that nine out of ten people do not complain to the provider when they feel dissatisfied. But every one of them will tell at least a couple of their friends or relations. It is imperative that you capture these complaints in order to:

Put at ease and give explanation or reassurance to the person complaining.

Reduce the chances of them complaining to someone else.

Monitor exactly how many dissatisfied customers we have and what the causes are, and that's even more important if we're failing to deliver our mission statement or service offer!

Take appropriate corrective action to prevent a recurrence.

3. Choose methods according to cost, targeting and response design, production and the role of external agencies

press and public relations (PR), seminars, telemarketing, direct mail display advertising, directories - local directories, Yellow Pages etc. directories - internet brochures, leaflets and printed material. In conclusion, what will your paper be called? What will its focus be? How often will you publish? How will you fund the publishing and distribution? How will you distribute it? All these question, and many more, will need to be answered in your plan.

Statelessness taking its toll

Ritu Raj Subedi

It has already been 50 days since the country is without a government. Parliament failed to choose the new PM even in the fourth round of election. It is the shame of the nation and collective failure of our leadership. This governmentlessness situation has further heightened a sense of statelessness the country has been experiencing for many years. The politicians are least touched by this plight but the people are feeling the full brunt of political, social and economic instabilities. Contrary to the public expectation, the nation continues to slide into anarchy. Incompetence political leadership, rising impunity, downward trend of economy, the spread of poisonous communal and ethnic feelings, dysfunctional state of grassroots democracy, and public's growing disillusionment with new political system has put the timely execution of constitution writing and peace process at risk. This write-up attempts to highlight a few areas that suffered a lot due to the protracted transition period and rising statelessness.

Grassroots Democracy Stagnates

It has been more than a decade that there are not elected people's representatives at local level. Ever since the Maoists started their violent political campaign, the grassroots democracy continues to stagnate. The Maoists targeted the police posts, Village Development offices, elected representatives and village level political workers of other parties by resorting to extra-constitutional measures and ruthless armed struggle. The VDC secretaries left the villages while the local political workers from non-Maoist forces holed up in the district headquarters and the capital. This was the phenomenon in many hilly parts of the country during the insurgency. The Maoists wanted to create a political void and fill it with the kind of political mechanism they preferred. In backlash came the state-sponsored terrorism to contain the Reds' terror and the people were trapped in between the two extremes. Law and order was broken down as the non-state factors superseded the state. Impunity grew at alarming scale. Getting social and economic justices remained a distant dream.

In the absence of security, many secretaries resigned en masse and the service recipients faced difficulty in getting their works done. Development works were affected badly as there was not elected mechanism to ensure transparency in the mobilization of local resources and funds received from the centre. There were also reports of funds embezzlement by the elected representatives but the situation turned from bad to worse as the people could not participate in the decision making level in the absence of local elections. They could punish the corrupt representatives and choose the honest ones if the local elections take place periodically. With the highhandedness of the Maoists, the people had to depend on the employees to channel the government funds aimed for development activities.

Even after the restoration of republican set up, the situation has not improved. In many district, VDC secretaries have tendered their joint resignation recently citing the security reasons. They have been unable to protect the development funds as different armed outfits targeted the public money. Many of VDC secretaries lost their lives at the hand of outlawed groups in Terai in recent past. They have demanded the local elections, which now seem impossible, for the smooth functioning of local government. Elected local body is the backbone of democracy but the country is without it for more than a decade.

Impunity and Deforestation

Following the restoration of multi-party democracy in early 90s, Nepal made significant stride in two areas - boom of media industry and the regeneration of the Nepalese forests through the expansion of community woodland. These gains were made amidst the bleak political atmosphere and Nepal could boast of them before the world as its achievements of the past two decades. But, now the players of media industry have become the victim of impunity while the country is at the risk of being desertification due to the massive deforestation.

Many journalists lost their lives during the Maoist violent movement that always adopted a hostile attitude towards freedom of press and independent ideas. Then, ethnic-based armed outfits emerged to cause great damages to the fourth estate. The spate of killing, abducting and harassing of journalists has not gone down even today. The journalists outside the valley have been displaced for fear of losing their life. The killers of media entrepreneurs such as Jamim Shah and Arun Kumar Singhiniya have gone scot-free. The state of impunity has reached at its height. Journalists, who played their pivotal role to bring down autocracy in different periods of democratic struggles, are now the most insecure fellows and are beseeching the state for their professional security. It is true that innocent people are also the victim of lawlessness but the journalists have been targeted most, as they are always at the forefront against any sort of tyranny and highhandedness. They have become the victim of non-state elements but the state has become very helpless to bring the perpetrators to book.

Massive deforestation that took place during the tenure of Madhav Kumar-led government has now become a matter of national concern. One must be shocked to learn a bitter fact that Forest Minister Deepak Bohara and top ministry officials are behind the massive deforestation campaign. According to the reports of Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority and National Vigilant Centre, minister Bohara, ministry officials and the forest mafias established a nexus for cutting down and smuggling the trees in many parts of the country.

Following public outcry, the government was compelled to form a judicial commission to investigate into the case and bring the culprit to justice. The CPN-UML has formally requested the government, led by its own leader MK Nepal, for harsh punishment to the alleged and preserving the community forests, which are the nice example of local democracy and sustainable development. It is the matter of shame for PM Nepal that the nation saw the massive deforestation during his term. Individually, he may not be responsible but he must be accountable to the loss of the vast swath of green areas in his capacity of PM. The current state of deforestation reminds us the similar deforestation taken place 1980. Notorious Pancha Surya Bahadur Thapa started the campaign to cut down the trees as if the forest were his private property. He committed such a crime to make the partyless Panchayat victorious in 1980 referendum. The Nepalese forest got a new lease of life with the revolution of community forest but another former Pancha Bohara came to deliver a colossal damage to it, taking the unfair advantage of transition period.

Children as social victim

WM correspondent

Every child has a right to live in an environment that is peaceful, safe, friendly and free from violence. However, it is a harsh truth that violence against children is prevalent throughout the world with varying degrees.

Violation of the children's rights to protection, despite being massive, is an under-recognised and under-reported phenomenon in Nepal. It is a barrier to children's survival and development, besides being a human rights violation. The children subjected to violation, exploitation, abuse and neglect are at risk of death, poor physical and mental health, HIV/AIDS, displacement, homelessness, vagrancy, and poor parenting skills later in life.

Children can suffer abuse in a variety of settings, including at schools or in detention facilities. In addition, an estimated half million children are forced to work in prostitution, child pornography or similar activities. Many are forced, kidnapped, sold and deceived in these activities, or are victims of trafficking. In many different ways, children are vulnerable to multiple forms of violence that threaten their physical and psychological integrity. This is a constant

phenomenon that knows no political, cultural, economic or technological boundaries.

The UN report provides a global



picture of violence against children, and proposes recommendations to address this issue. The study was prepared through a participatory process that included regional, sub-regional and national consultations, experts' thematic meetings, and field visits.

Violence against children in Nepal is a neglected, and therefore an accepted, phenomenon. Violence against children is widespread, as it is justified as a natural consequence of illiteracy, poverty, population explosion,

poor governance and lopsided government priorities.

Many children became victims of violence throughout the country. Most

of these children were abducted for sexual purposes and sodomy. This is also the major reason that an increasing number of children are committing suicides.

The main reasons behind increasing violence against children are poverty, frustration, and lack of understanding and support from parents and teachers.

Pointing out other factors that are responsible for the increasing violence against children. They include easy

access to and availability of arms, the rise in the power of extremists, lack of accountability at all levels, and criminalisation of the society.

Violence against children may be divided into three broad categories -- physical violence, sexual violence and psychological violence. Incest, corporal punishment, child marriages and child trafficking are some of the other types of violence against children.

Violence against children begins even before a child is born, as we see in the rising number of foeticide cases taking place worldwide and particularly in South Asia, including Nepal. Born a girl, the child suffers a whole set of abuse ranging from neglect and indifference to no access to basic rights such as education, recreation, love and care, nourishment, and healthcare. An early marriage, procreating before the body is ready for such a rigorous exercise, leaving home before she has outgrown her own childhood is the fate of little girl. Rape, molestation, acid throwing, assault, trafficking or girls is all too common.

Boys fare no better as far as abuse in concerned. Besides, verbal, emotional and physical violence is also part of their life.

Region:

The cold-blooded Murder in Jharkhand



Gladson Dungdung

In the afternoon on July 5, 2010, the security forces comprising of JAP and SAF under the leadership of E.H. Siddique the officer-in-charge of Tamar Police Station arrived to Gunli village and picked up 45 year-old Etwa Munda of Papridah village comes under Tamar police station of Ranchi district in Jharkhand, when he was in the house of his relative Manav Munda. The police also caught a girl Bengi Kumari and escorted both of them towards Jabla pahari (forest). After sometime, the villagers heard the sound of firing and rushed toward the spot. They were shocked to see the dead body of Etwa Munda lying on the ground. The police framed the cold-blooded murder of Etwa Munda as a result of an encounter between the police and the Maoists. The police also depicted him as a hardcore Maoist who was very close to the Maoist Zonal commander Kundan Pahan. Perhaps, Etwa Munda was not an innocent person but under which laws the police killed him in a fake encounter is the question needs to be answered.

Since the villagers were fully aware of the cold-blooded murder of Etwa Munda therefore the police spared Bengi Kumari and threatened the villagers and family members of the deceased for keeping quiet. However, the villagers wanted to raise the issue therefore they approached to a local activist Xavier Soy and told him about the fake encounter. Meanwhile, when the police came to know about Xavier Soy's acts of attempting to unearth the fact of the fake encounter and encouraging the villagers for raising the issue, the police put Xavier soy with his school going son behind the bars alleging them of keeping the Maoist literature in their house. The police also do not allow the outsiders especially the Human Rights Activists and the Journalists to roam in the area so that the truth remained buried. Finally, the police succeeded in shutting up the villagers' mouths and in framing the cold-blooded murder as a genuine case of encounter between the police and the Maoists.

Amidst, Tamar police again picked up another villager Rajesh Singh Munda of Papridah village on August 1, 2010 before the dawn from his village when he was sleeping. The police took him near Kaja River in Heso forest and gunned down after branding him as a hardcore Maoist and side of the Maoist Zonal Commander Kundan Pahan. The former Jharkhand chief Minister Arjun Munda raised the question and demanded for the CBI inquiry alleging

that the Police killed Rajesh Singh Munda in a cold-blooded murder. He also said that the Naxalism would grow if innocent villagers were being coined as Naxalites and killed in fake encounters. He further said that the police kill innocent Advasis precisely because they are voiceless. Perhaps, this is the first time in Jharkhand when a political leader has raised questions against the cold-blooded murder. Obviously, the most of the people keep quiet on the case of fake encounter because the licensed killings are not only accepted in our so-called civilized society but we also applaud for it, award the killers and make them heroes of our Indian society, which foundation lies on the non-violence ethos.

It would be very interesting to know whether Etwa Munda and Rajesh Singh Munda were members of the Maoist groups? The circumstances suggest that they were not the members of the Maoist groups. For instance, the Maoists had called off 'India block' on July 7th after alleged killing of their leader Azad. Similarly, on 8 August 2010, they shut down Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhatisgarh and West Bengal against the arrest of Maoist leader Rajesh alias Udayji from Ranchi the capital city of Jharkhand. However, they did not even issue a statement after brutal killings of Etwa Munda and Rajesh Singh Munda by the Security Forces, which is a clearly indication that they were not the members of the Maoist groups. However, the villagers do not deny Etwa Munda's involvement in some illegal activities but denied him being the member of Maoist groups. Perhaps, Rajesh Singh Munda was completely innocent.

Indeed, the police often conduct fake encounters for ensuring medal, award and promotion for them but now the things have changed. The purposes of cold-blooded murders are entirely different in the red corridor. The Security forces have been organizing the fake encounters in the forests with the intention of frightening the villagers so that they can stop supporting the Maoists. It is to show the brave work of the security forces to the city dwellers especially the middle class for getting their support for the bigger assault against the Maoist. It is also to bring back the lost moral ground of the security forces. And of course, it is to shield their failures and to justify the so-called anti-Naxal operations of the Indian government.

For instance, on July 1, 2010 the Police had organized a mass meeting at Sarjormdi village near Bunda police station of Ranchi district in Jharkhand against the Maoists, where 3000 villagers of 24 villages had participated and challenged the Maoists. Instead of surrendering, the Maoists killed Sandu Munda on July 3, who was the first speaker in the meeting. The police had instigated the villagers for going against

the Maoists without ensuring their security therefore the Jharkhand Police had faced heavy criticism. In this situation, there was no other way to counter the criticism therefore the police killed Etwa Munda and Rajesh Singh Munda in cold-blooded murders and depicted them as hardcore Maoists. The people just followed the media's story and kept quiet.

Since, the so-called anti-Naxal operations have very clear link to the corporate interest therefore one should understand the media's silence on the state sponsored human rights violations. Meanwhile, it is very strange to know about the silence of Human rights groups on humiliation, molestation, torture, rape and cold-blooded murder by the Security Forces during the ongoing anti-Naxal operations in the state, who ensure their bread and butter in the name of promotion and protection of the human rights. Perhaps, these human rights groups are afraid of the state agencies since anyone who raises the issues of human rights violation in the red corridor is coined as a Maoist supporter. But does it mean they should keep silence?

However, the Indian constitution does not deny the right to life to anyone residing in the country. Similarly, our corporate Home Minister P Chidambaram while responding to a question of alleged killing of Maoist leader Azad in the Parliament said, "Whether somebody is a good man or bad man, he should not be killed in a fake encounter." He further said, "When I took the charge of my ministry, I made it clear that there would no fake encounter killings by central agency". What does it mean? It clearly means the Indian State has been carrying on the fake encounters, which must be a serious concern for us. Therefore, the CBI inquiry should be established in all the cases of encounters taken place in the so-called red corridor since January 1, 2001 to 15 of August 2010. If it happens the people of the country would be shocked to hear that how the security forces have killed the innocent people in the fake encounters.

There are some very significant points in the so-called encounter cases. Interestingly, when the police kill any person either in a genuine or fake encounter, the person is coined as the top Maoists (area commander or zonal commander) and when the Maoists attack on police the most affected are small policemen. Why are the police not able to target the guerillas though they are always able to target the top guns of the Maoists? Similarly, whenever police catch a person, he is propagated as a hardcore Maoist. The strange thing is at the end of the day police fail to provide sufficient evidence in the court and the most of the so-called hardcore Maoists are acquitted due to lack of evidence. What does it mean? It clearly means the police victimize the innocent

people and put them behind the bars. Can the Indian State tell its people that how many Maoists were convicted for last four decades?

The peculiar thing in every case of encounter is the Maoist fire more bullets on the security forces than the security forces fire on the Maoists. Ironically, non-of our security force gets injury and the Maoists are killed. Therefore, it is very difficult to understand the puzzle of encounter. Precisely, because though our security forces are so smart but at the same time they are not able to cleanse the Maoists. In the case of Rajesh Singh Munda, the police claim of the Maoist firing 300 rounds bullets on the Police and the Police fired merely 150 rounds in their response. However, Rajesh Munda was shot dead and not a single policeman got injury. Of course, one Indian would never like its soldier to be injured but we have to understand the logic of so-called 'encounter'.

The so-called educated people who always raised the questions on intention of the Human Rights Groups and attempted to brand them as the Maoists over ground, Maoist sympathizers and supporters must understand that we are the concerned and tax payer citizens of India, who have also given our mandate to the Indian State for promoting, protecting and ensuring everyone's constitutional rights. Therefore, even if the Maoists create problems in the country, the responsibility lies with the Indian State. We also have every right to question the Indian State whenever and wherever the human rights of the marginalized people are violated. Any one who is annoyed with the questions does not deserve to be in the power. If P. Chidambaram does not want to hear our cries, he must step down from the Home Ministry immediately because the buck would always stop at his desk whenever and wherever the central forces violate the human rights of the people in India.

However, whether Etwa Munda and Rajesh Singh Munda were innocent or guilty, their constitutional rights - right to life was taken away by the mighty guns and the state is responsible for it therefore it must tell its people the truth. Can we accept killings of anyone either legally or illegally in the civilized society? Are we really civilized people? How can we take anyone's life if we can not give life to anyone? In some cases of licensed killings we might be the egally right but we would be always ethically wrong. And of course, the killing is a sin for humanity. Therefore, we must ask the state to uphold the constitution of India and we should not accept the cold-blooded murder in any circumstance. The state is duty bound to promote, protect and ensure the human rights of everyone therefore it can not withdraw away from its responsibility. And of course, we should not let it go.

While addressing to 64th Independence Day, the Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh said that his government is committed to protect its every citizen therefore one would question whether Etwa Munda and Rajesh Singh Munda were Indian citizens too? Is Indian government committed to protect only the corporate sharks, politicians and bigwigs? Or whether the Indian State is also committed to protect the common men? If so then it must stop handing over the livelihood resources of the common men to corporate sharks and stop the operation green hunt, which is hunting the innocent rather than cleansing the Maoists. Perhaps, the question may remain unanswered is will Etwa Munda and Rajesh Singh Munda get justice or our police men would be allowed to enjoy impunity as they have been doing? Certainly, one can hope for justice for the victims of cold-blooded murders after development of Sobarabudding fake encounter case in the right direction but only the time will tell.

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Kashmiris favouring Pakistan

S M Hali

Every August 14, Pakistan's Independence Day, is a declaration of the Kashmiris right to self-determination. In defiance of the curfew imposed by the Indian army in Occupied Kashmir, the people venture out to raise the Pakistani flag. The entire valley reverberates with slogans of Pakistan Zindabad, as the Kashmiris express their solidarity, love and respect for Pakistan. This contrasts sharply with the Indian Independence Day, on August 15, which is normally observed by the Kashmiris as "Black Day". Refusing to hoist the Indian flag, Kashmiris generally boycott every state-sponsored event and opt to stay indoors. The entire valley bears a deserted look and an eerie silence ensues. The question is, if that is not an expression of their desire to opt for Pakistan and totally reject Indian domination, then what other plebiscite is required?

Disappointed by the international community, and even the UN, Kashmiris have taken it upon themselves to determine their own fate. At the time of the subcontinent's partition, it was the people of Kashmir who were to decide whether they would opt to accede to Pakistan or stay with India. Instead however, a macabre conspiracy was hatched. With the connivance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's last British Viceroy Lord Mountbatten, and Chairman of the Boundary Commission, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, was pressurised to award Gurdaspur - a Muslim majority town - to India, providing it ground access to Kashmir. Following it, the Indian forces landed in Srinagar and occupied the valley, forcing its Sikh ruler to accede to India.

Fledgling Pakistan, which was reeling under the pressure of the mass exodus of humanity from India, the lack of resources in housing and feeding them, and the imperviousness of India in withholding Pakistan's share of defence equipment and the much needed funds, could do little to stop the Indian incursion. To make matters worse, General Gracey, the Commander-in-Chief of Pakistan Army, refused to send troops to Kashmir in defiance of the Quaid's orders. Pakistan's only option was to assemble a ragtag militia and volunteers from the army to take on the daunting task of liberating Kashmir. Thus, the lack of arms and ammunition did not deter them and by dint of sheer spirit and courage, the volunteers reached the outskirts of Srinagar, much to the chagrin of the Indians.

Exasperated over the situation, Pandit Nehru approached the UN Security Council calling for a ceasefire which was accepted. At the same time, the council passed resolutions calling for a plebiscite by the Kashmiris to exercise their right of self-determination. Thus, the Kashmiris were back to square one: the onus was now once again on them for determining their future. The Indian leadership not only accepted the resolutions, but Pandit Nehru, on November 2, 1947, in a broadcast to the nation on All India Radio, also stated: "We have declared that the fate of Kashmir is ultimately to be decided by the people. That pledge we have given, and the Maharaja has supported it, not only to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but also to the world. We will not, and cannot back out of it. We are prepared when peace and law have been established to have a referendum held under international auspices like the United Nations. We want it to be a fair and just reference to the people, and we shall accept their verdict. I can imagine no fairer and juster offer."

Unfortunately, Nehru was the first to renege on his solemn pledge and declared Kashmir to be an integral part of India according to the Constitution. Since then, the Indian State continues to argue that the elections held in Jammu and Kashmir since 1951 are effectively a substitute for a plebiscite. That the people have voted and acceptance of the Indian rule. On the contrary, Kashmiris reject this argument stating that they were merely voting to elect leaders for local day-to-day governance; however, the question of self-determination has been denied. And that the elections have been rigged since 1951, as the centre has been continuously installing local puppets in the state.

Forced by the continued breach of the solemn pledge given by India's founding fathers and the UN's lack of action towards getting its resolutions implemented, in 1989, the Kashmiris rose in revolt to achieve their freedom. The Indians reacted sharply and deployed 700,000 troops to crush the freedom movement. In the ensuing years, over a hundred thousand Kashmiris have been slaughtered, while thousands have been maimed for life and an equal number jailed on trumped-up charges. The worst outcome is that the Indian propaganda machinery has declared the freedom movement as terrorist operations being aided and abetted by Pakistan.

The redeeming factor is the declaration of the Kashmiris on every Independence Day. This year too on August 15, at a flag hoisting ceremony in Srinagar, a suspended head constable, Abdullah Ahad Jaan, hurled a shoe at Chief Minister Omar Abdullah from the third row of the VIP enclosure shouting: "We want freedom." Even though the security was so high that no civilians, not even schoolchildren, were allowed at the venue but the spirited Abdullah Ahad defied all odds. This is the ultimate ignominy for the puppet Chief Minister, who has been humiliated by one of his own security personnel. This shows that the indomitable spirit of the Kashmiris can neither be crushed, nor subjugated.

Nevertheless, if the heart of the Kashmiris beats with Pakistan, they have synchronised their watches with Pakistan Standard Time and raise Pakistan's national flag on August 14 every year, spurning India's rule, then the writing is clear on the wall. India needs to respect the will of the Kashmiris and grant them their right to self-determination, according to the UN resolutions and as promised by its founding fathers.



China and Singapore vow to bolster ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao met Wednesday with Singapore President S.R. Nathan. They praised the development of bilateral ties and pledged to further cooperation.

China-Singapore relations had witnessed remarkable development since the two forged diplomatic ties 20 years ago.

"We applaud Singapore's adherence

to the one-China policy and its support to our national reunification," Hu said.

Hu said that China would work with Singapore to enhance political mutual trust and actively carry out the China-Singapore and China-ASEAN (the



successful results and common development.

Nathan said China's economic growth was conducive to Singapore and the region at large. He welcomed more Chinese businesses to invest in his country and conduct mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two presidents spoke highly of the development of the Suzhou Industrial Park and the Tianjin Eco-City in China as landmark projects of China-Singapore cooperation.

Besides Beijing, Nathan will visit China's economic hub, Shanghai, where the 2010 World Expo is being held.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations) free trade agreements.

He also expressed his hope that the two nations would increase bilateral cooperation in the high-tech and human resources sectors to achieve mutually

A Tri-lateral Trans-Himalayan economic cooperation agreement

While we were busy with our endless PM electioneering, an Indian journalist was paying attention to a news item coming out of our northern neighbour China. The case in point was the Chinese decision to invest about \$200 million to upgrade a dry port in Gyirong, a Tibetan town not that far from the central part of Nepal's northern border. Calling Nepal a basket case and incapacitated with political in-fightings, this Times of India journalist was chastising his own government for not paying attention to these huge opportunities in the north.

Nepalis are aware of the rising economic prowess of China and India at the world stage, and we also love to talk about our strategic location. But in order to translate our rhetoric into reality, we need to have a strategic vision, followed by a set of doable policies.

For such a vision, we need to make sure our regional politics are tied to our economic development strategies, and that we can promote interests that are mutually beneficial for all parties involved. To that end, Nepal needs to persuade its two neighbours to sign a tri-lateral agreement - the Trans-Himalayan Economic Cooperation Agreement (THECA).

With rising economic trade between China and India to the tune of \$60 billion per annum, which is more than the Indian trade with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries combined, a peaceful trade corridor in the middle would be a welcome relief for the two aspiring superpowers. Numerous Indian banks are already operating in China: English-speaking Indian MBAs and engineers are penetrating Chinese markets in an unprecedented way. And the idea of a trans-Himalayan highway is not confined to romantic, visionary rhetoric. More than 80 percent of goods in the US are transported over land, after all. Such an arrangement will be a necessity within a decade or two for the two Asian giants.

Also, the Chinese decision to move south-westward through the Tibetan plateau is highly strategic. In addition to having an eye on the southern Asian market, China is interested in integrating Tibet and its vast western front, Xinjiang, with the east coast. In particular, the sparsely populated but resource-laden Tibet Autonomous Region, the size of the Western European landmass, can play a vital role in China's continuous economic drive.

For example, Tibet holds close to 30% of China's fresh water reservoir (more than 100 b cb m underground and as much on the surface), 30% of the forest and bio-diversity (10% of the total Chinese landmass), massive river

Alok K. Bohara, PhD

systems (20 major and 100 others), vast amount of minerals (100 mineral resources), and hundreds of miles of grassy lands. By taming the rivers, the US converted vast expansive grassy lands in the Midwest (about 250 million acres) into productive farm lands and urban cities. China also plans to build 100 dams in Tibetan plateau, which is going to change the Tibetan landscape in a significant way.

Some notable infrastructural developments in Tibet are: 25,000 KM of major and minor highway network, a spectacular railway line linking Beijing to Lhasa (4000KM), 1000 KM oil pipe line, and there's more to come. This infrastructural development in Tibet also holds strategic value for India.

So what should Nepal do? First, our politicians need to drop the China versus India rhetoric from their political vocabulary and begin a fresh dialogue to design a new strategic vision for Nepal. As stated above, in terms of economic trade and volume, India now has closer ties with China than with Nepal or any other country in South Asia. So, Nepal's positioning for taking advantage of the economic growth of China should not be looked at as a precursor to a geopolitical avalanche. In reality, the hue and cry in political and diplomatic circle in Nepal and India is merely a hangover psychology of the bygone days. It reminds us of the period when even after Russia and US ended the cold war, the US continued to treat India as an ally of Soviet Union of the cold war era. Within a span of two decades, who would have thought that India and the US would be engaged in a joint naval exercise? Likewise, our closeness to India need not be interpreted as a sign of big brotherly hegemonic domination. We just have to learn how to leverage our comparative advantages.

We already know of our potential in cash crops (coffee, spices, tea, herbs, biofuel), cultural and recreational tourism, manpower pool, and the importance of our Himalayan water towers. For example, by investing in fibre optics and IT parks equipped with physical facilities, water, electricity and tax breaks, we can also attract some portion of the billions of dollars of outsourcing ventures in India and China. Our thousands of MBAs and IT engineers will find good paying jobs and will learn entrepreneurial skills from Indian and Chinese partners. Multi-lane highways and railway lines through the Himalayas could link the two economic giants. The THECA doctrine should spell out these collaborative ventures, including the preservation of the trans-boundary eco-system. Our banking sector is already poised to be a regional financial capital, and our private colleges will be reinvigorated by

linkages with educational institutions north and south of the border.

In return for these economic opportunities and infrastructure development in Nepal, and as an integral part of the THECA doctrine, Nepal should not hesitate to offer some peace of mind to China and India. Chinese concern is the growing anti-China political activities in Nepal. The Nepal government should also make sure that the monasteries in Nepal do not violate their spiritual sanctity by being the centers of political activism.

Likewise, Nepal should assure India that its land and the government apparatus would not be used to aid and incite Maoist unrest on the Indian lands. Similar assurance will have to be extracted from the Indian side.

This type of trilateral cooperative agreement between Beijing, Kathmandu, and Delhi should not be seen as a substitute for SAARC, nor should it be seen as a China-versus-India card game. OECD countries have forged their local cooperative treaties as per their national and regional needs. India too is constantly looking around to forge linkages with its neighbor on a bilateral basis to fulfill its resource needs: Bhutan for hydro, Iran for pipeline, and Bangladesh for natural gas. Similarly, a visit to India by Myanmar's Head of State, Senior General Than Shwe from 25 to 29 July 2010 is equally significant. It is also worth noting that India and Myanmar share a 1600 KM border much of it along the remote and volatile northeast frontier. Thus, despite Myanmar's closeness to China, Indian leaders have decided to focus on issues of common interests.

Other examples include India's long-time desire to join the much coveted membership to the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multispectral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), of which Nepal is a member of. Another example is the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between Japan and India. Thus, the proposed THECA concept is also a natural outcome and the socio-economic needs of the region.

Nepal can be a strategic transit to help India play a role in another big game. China is orchestrating on its western frontier, also referred to as China's new Silk Roads. As India continues to seek opportunities around its neighborhoods, China is also making heavy investments to make headways into the resource-laden Central Asian countries that once were considered the buffer states. Thanks to Chinese economic muscle power

and the farsighted vision, the region of contentious flashpoints is gradually turning into a transit corridor between East and West. Thus, politicians in Nepal too should change their old mindset, and not consider the country as a buffer state between China and India. The proposed THECA doctrine will help us look beyond the narrow tunnel vision that we have been harboring for decades.

Historically, Nepal has provided a cultural linkage between Tibet and India. There are hundreds of cave dwellings in the upper Mustang valley filled with the centuries old magnificent Hindu and Buddhist paintings. These vast cave settlements provide evidence that the valley was frequented by pilgrims travelling between Tibet and India. This vibrancy in the valley several centuries ago seemed to have played a major role in spreading Buddhism in Tibet. On economic front, Nepal and Tibet traded salt, rugs, and spices for centuries, and Nepal used to have a strong business presence in Lhasa. Lately, the two countries are increasingly involved in export and import of the manufacturing goods. We already know of Nepalis and Indians sharing an age-old Vedic cultural heritage. But, our Himali cultural tie with our northern neighbor is also not less important. That is, there is a natural trans-boundary cultural foundation that binds us together, making a trilateral agreement more relevant between the three countries.

The key is to build a sense of trust among ourselves by being respectful of each other's national sensibilities. Nepal cannot afford to use the China versus India card as pendulum diplomacy to suit their domestic political game plan. Nor can we afford to sit back passively and submit ourselves to their merciful discretion. Time has come to change our mindset, and be transparent about our needs and concern, and take up a proactive approach to our regional diplomacy.

Of course, in order to get Nepal on track for economic prosperity, the Maoists must be completely assimilated into our political spectrum, starting foremost with a written agreement on the merger of a mutually agreeable fixed number of PLA fighters into the Nepal Army. Given the way things are going at present, the tri-lateral treaty will require some more time, serious homework, and a tactful shuttle diplomacy. But while the politicians are distracted, the groundwork for the proposed THECA doctrine should begin to help break the geo-political paranoia and economic stagnation. But a long-run success of an agreement like this will require strong parliamentary endorsement from all the parties in Nepal, big and small.

61 Nepalis rescued from Libya

Sixty-one Nepali migrant workers held hostage by their employer in north African nation Libya have been rescued and brought to Nepal. 47 others are still held hostage in Libya.

21 of them arrived in Nepal on Tuesday and 40 others arrived on Wednesday. The stranded Nepali migrant workers were rescued with joint efforts from Foreign Employment Promotion Board (FEPB), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Nepali embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

The 108 migrant workers, who had gone to Libya three years ago through Dhaulagiri Manpower Company, were held hostage by their employer demanding the money spent for their visas and air-tickets to Libya. The migrant workers have not been paid for their work for up to one year.

Nepal government had initiated probe after the migrant workers wrote to the foreign ministry pleading for rescue in June. Officials from the Nepali embassy in Cairo had conducted a field visit

to find the situation of the migrant workers.

The government asked assistance of IOM to rescue the stranded migrant Nepali workers from Libya after the embassy officials reported to the foreign ministry that the workers were held in pitiable condition by their employer.

IOM representatives talked to Libyan authorities to facilitate the release of the Nepali workers. They are still negotiating for the release of 47 other migrant workers.

Snail, also the source of income!

Maybe you get surprised while hearing snail has also been the source of income to the farmers of some VDCs of Surkhet.

Do not wonder, farmers of Mainatada, Chhinchu, Ramghat, Mehaikuna, Gumi, including other VDCs have collected crop destroyer snail and sold to VDCs.

Locals from child to elderly go for searching snails in the field on leisure time after the VDCs started buying per kg snails at Rs. 3 under the Snail Prevention Campaign. The VDCs have buried the collected snails in pits.

~ News ~

National Mourning Day of Bangladesh observed in Kathmandu

The 35th martyrdom anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the supreme leader of



Bangladesh's arduous struggle for independence, is being observed throughout Bangladesh, as well as in other parts of the world including Nepal, today in a befitting manner.

In order to commemorate the Day, Bangladesh Embassy drew up programmes in the morning that included officially hoisting the National Flag at half-mast, read out the messages of Hon'ble President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. H.E. Dr. Neem Chandra

Bhowmik, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal officially hoisted the National Flag at half-mast at the Chancery. Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, member of Awami League Advisory Council and Advocate Professor Momtaz Begum, Chairman of Jaitoy Mohila Sangstha came from Bangladesh to attend the morning programme. Nepali dignitaries of different sectors, foreign diplomats, Nepalese media people, expatriate Bangladeshis, officers & staff members of this Embassy and their family members were present in the programme.

In the evening programme, discussion on the life of Bangabandhu, special prayer and Milad-e-Mahfil, a film show on the life of Bangabandhu was included. The life and ideals of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his historic role in the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation was discussed in the discussion meeting and also sketched out by the documentary film on Bangabandhu titled 'Hazar Bochorer Sreshtho Bangalee' produced by ATN Bangla. A Milad-e-Mehfil and special prayer was offered to seek Divine blessings for the departed souls of the Father of the Nation and his late family members as well as for the continued peace, progress and happiness of the country.

Maoist lawmaker Sharma resigns

United CPN (Maoist) lawmaker Ram Kumar Sharma on Wednesday tendered his resignation from the post of Constituent Assembly member and lawmaker.

Sharma, who is also the central committee member of the Maoist party, resigned from the post after his former party, Terai Madhesh Loktantri Party (TMLP), initiated process to strip him of his CA membership.

Terai Madhesh Loktantri Party (TMLP) had on Tuesday submitted a letter to Constituent Assembly (CA) chairman Subas Nemwang, requesting termination of the CA membership of Ram Kumar Sharma, who quit the party a year ago and joined the UCPN (Maoist).

He said he resigned from his post on the advice of his party Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and other senior leaders.

Sharma, who is a directly elected lawmaker from Mahottari-4, said that he is confident he will be re-elected from his constituency.

TMLP initiated action against Sharma after he registered a formal complaint with the CA Chair Subas Nemwang against the alleged threat from an Indian embassy official.

Tourism year preparation in Sauraha

Chitwan (Ratnanagar), Aug. 19: A preparation for the approaching tourism year has started in Sauraha.

Preparation has begun through package programme that includes increasing hotels' number, preparation of competent human resource, running hotel management training and tourist guide training, said Regional Hotels Association.

According to Association chairperson Shanker Sajju, it has yet to officially announce the beginning of tourism year in Sauraha.

More than 10 hotels have been established keeping in mind the tourism year. Sauraha is the third tourism destination of Nepal.

NC, UML ...

The party also rejected meetings with NC claiming that any discussion focused on forming a majority government would prove inimical to both constitution writing and peace processes.

Both the NC and UML harbour similar thought over the issue of integration and rehabilitation of

Maoists' combatants, which is the cardinal but the most controversial part of the ongoing peace process.

However, the NC is not in a mood to do any business with the Maoists as it wants to enjoy command over the coming political days as per its interest while the UML is trying to strike strategic deal with the former rebels in order to justify its neutrality in the race for the post of prime minister.



San Miguel BEER

International :

U.S. leading the terror in Afghanistan

The U.S.-led war on Afghanistan is like the U.S.-led war on Iraq - to destroy the country and to indiscriminately kill large numbers of Afghan civilians. The aim is to terrorise the civilian population into submission using the so-called "War on Terrorism" as a cover-up for a U.S.-led war of terror.

According to media reports, the number of Afghan civilians killed by U.S.-NATO troops has more than doubled this year. U.S.-NATO forces killed seventy-two civilians in the first three months of 2010, compared to twenty-nine during the same period in 2009. At least 6000 civilians were killed in 2009. While Western media often blame the "Taliban", Afghan media sources and few Western media outlets continue to report crimes committed by U.S.-led NATO forces. The following are selected cases as part of an ongoing bloodbath in Afghanistan.

On 27 December 2009, "American Special Forces" with helicopters landed at Ghazi Khan Village in Narang district of the eastern Province of Kunar and took ten people from three homes, eight of whom were school students in grades six, nine, and ten, and one of whom was a guest. They handcuffed them before murdering them in cold blood, according to a statement on U.S.-installed

As always, U.S.-NATO officials have denied civilians were killed; but Afghan investigators said nearly all those killed were school-age boys. A statement released by Hamid Karzai's office said that a unit of U.S.-NATO forces descended from a plane in the night into Ghazi Khan Village and took ten people from three homes and shot them dead.

At least twenty-eight Afghan civilians have been killed and forty-three wounded at checkpoints this year. Afghan civilian casualties jumped by 33 percent in a recent month-long period. There were 173 civilian deaths reported from March 21 to April 21 this year.

Initially, the U.S. government and the media tried to bury the story and U.S. leaders denied that civilians were killed. It has become nearly impossible to conceal Western-perpetuated war crimes against defenceless population.

On 24 July 2010, according to the Afghan National Directorate for Security, as many as 52 innocent Afghan civilians were killed and many more seriously injured in a U.S.-NATO missile strike in Rigi village in Sangin district of southern Helmand Province.

On 04 August 2010, more than a dozen Afghan civilians were killed in a night-time raid by U.S. troops in Sherzad district in the Nangahar Province in eastern Afghanistan, as reported by the Los Angeles Times on 06 August 2010. It is possible that the number of civilians killed in the raid is much higher than originally reported.

These were not a few isolated massacres of innocent civilians, but rather part of U.S. ongoing terror against the people of Afghanistan. Evidence shows that the U.S. has always deliberately and

Ghali Hassan

indiscriminately targeted the civilian population in its wars against defenceless nations for political gains. The deliberate and systematic destruction of Iraq, including the mass murder of millions of innocent Iraqi civilians (the majority women and children) and the displacement and disappearance of at least 5 million Iraqis as a result of a premeditated war of aggression and thirteen years of U.S.-enforced genocide sanctions followed by seven years of murderous Occupation, is a case in point.

It is true that U.S. crimes are often ignored or downplayed by Western media. However, most of the information about U.S.-led NATO war crimes in Afghanistan, which the organisation Wikileaks took credit for publishing, is available on the Internet and in some of the print media. There are no new "revelations". Wikileaks provides confirmation of U.S.-led barbarism against defenceless civilian population.

The Wikileaks' Afghan War Diary, which details a large portion of U.S.-NATO war crimes in more than 91,000 reports covering the war in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2010 is a slap in the face of those, including "progressive" opportunists and colonial feminists, who claim that the war on Afghanistan is for the "hearts and minds" of the Afghan people and "democracy". But, Westerners don't really care about their governments committing war crimes abroad, especially if the victims are women and children with brown skin colour.

That is why war criminals like George W. Bush, Tony Blair - who has become a multi-millionaire from the proceeds of his crimes - and the Australian John Howard were re-elected to power while their armies were involved in two bloodbaths against Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Afghan War Diary confirms the U.S. and its allies as bloodthirsty invaders by providing a large and comprehensive summary of information of war crimes, there is nothing new or "top secret" about U.S. militarised violence. The U.S. is the most militarised and dangerous outlaw nation in the world today, second only to the fascist regime in Israel. The U.S. spends more money on its offensive military than all other countries in the world combined, while millions of Americans live in extreme poverty.

The enormity of the war crimes in Afghanistan even forced the most violent people in the U.S. military to tell the truth. Before his dismissal, former U.S.-NATO commander, Stanley McChrystal, admitted that "[I]n the nine-plus months I've been here [in Afghanistan], not a single case where we have engaged in an escalation of force incident and hurt someone has it turned out that the vehicle had a suicide bomb or weapons in it and, in many cases, had families in it". McChrystal was not a saint; he was an assassin.

He was replaced by a more violent commander, Gen. David Petraeus, who promised to escalate the violence in order to subdue the Afghan Resistance and force them to make a deal with Washington.

They believe too much violence is exposing the true goal of U.S. imperialist ideology which is to control Afghanistan's geostrategic position in Central Asia.

What the Afghan War Diary does, is support the C.I.A. propaganda and provide U.S. Zionist leaders with ammunition to attack Pakistan and Iran. It is possible that the C.I.A. and the Pentagon use Wikileaks to spread anti-Pakistan and anti-Iran propaganda. In fact, the C.I.A. has a history of leaking false information to manipulate public opinion and cover-up U.S. war crimes. ?

House of Representatives voted to pass a bill that funds the bloodbath in Afghanistan with an extra \$33 billion and 30,000 more troops.

The British Prime Minister, David Cameron, has accused Pakistan of "exporting" of terrorism, forgetting his own country's complicity in terrorism and the mass slaughter of innocent Afghan and Iraqi civilians. Credible media sources revealed that the U.S. and Britain are secretly financing and arming different groups through the increase in the cultivation and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

It is important to remember that Pakistan (a Muslim nation) is forced (by the U.S.) to participate in a U.S.-led war, not only against the people of Afghanistan but also against its own people and Pakistan's vital strategic interests. Since the U.S. illegal invasion of Afghanistan, "Pakistan has lost more soldiers than the combined losses suffered by foreign forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and five times more civilians than those lost in the 9/11 strikes, which eminently reflect on Pakistan's commitment to the war on terror", writes Javed Hussain, a retired officer in the Pakistan Army. For each targeted assassination by U.S. drones in Pakistan, 140 innocent Pakistani civilians were also killed in a deliberate act of terrorism.

There is no evidence to prove Afghanistan's or any other Muslim nation involvement in the 9/11 attacks. All Muslim nations and organisations have unequivocally condemned the attacks. In order to commit attacks like 9/11, one needs state-of-the-art resources and well-connected contacts. The official story remains unsubstantiated and unproven.

Overwhelming evidence shows that the Israeli Mossad agents, the C.I.A., and influential U.S. Zionists in the Bush administration had prior knowledge of the 9/11 attacks. Early this year, Israeli Mossad agents were able to acquire and counterfeit more than twenty foreign passports to murder a Palestinian politician Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai, an act of terrorism that was condoned by several Western

nations.

According to credible media and NGO reports, the Afghan Resistance against the U.S.-NATO war is a collection of native Afghan movements, legitimately fighting to liberate their land from foreign invaders. There are no "terrorist bases" in Afghanistan that threaten Western societies. The biggest terrorist bases in the world are not in Muslim nations, they are in Washington and Tel Aviv. From there, nearly all terror operations are organised and financed. The two countries are war-hungry and rightly viewed by the majority of world's people as the two greatest threats to world's peace and stability.

Meanwhile, a report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights claims over two-thirds of Afghans live in dire poverty. The report criticises the "international community" for emphasizing security over development and also cites widespread corruption within the U.S.-installed puppet government of warlords and criminals. The 'National Survey 2010' by Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) revealed that under the Occupation corruption has worsened, particularly in the police, justice, health, and education sectors where the Occupation authorities exert most power. Corruption, of course, is one of imperialism's most effective tools to control the occupied population; violence is the other. There is no occupation without a corrupted and criminal puppet government. It is not coincidental that Afghanistan and Iraq are ranked very high among the most corrupt countries in the world.

Finally, the U.S.-NATO Occupation is responsible for the worst human rights abuses, including torture, rape, and denial of personal freedom.

The situation for women (one of the pretexts to invade Afghanistan is to "liberate" Afghan women) is far worse than before the invasion. The U.S.-backed "Mujahideen" and "Taliban" warlords have reversed all the gains that had been made in 1970s and the 1980s under the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) progressive government of Noor Mohammad Taraki. It is shameful, that Western politicians, academics, and colonial feminists use women rights to advocate for ongoing Occupation of Afghanistan.

If anything, conditions have gotten worse for children in Afghanistan since the invasion. According to a report by UNICEF, under U.S.-NATO Occupation, Afghanistan is the worst place for children to be born. The report says: "Afghanistan has the highest infant mortality rate in the world with 257 deaths per 1,000 live births, and 70 percent of Afghans have no access to clean water". The country "is especially dangerous for girls", added the report. One-quarter of Afghan children will not reach the age of five, and life expectancy for Afghans is only 44 years. A new study says nearly two out of every three male youths jailed in Afghanistan are physically abused. .

The vast majority of the people of Afghanistan have rejected the Occupation and demand an end to the presence of foreign troops in their countries. After nine years of murderous Occupation, opposition to the U.S.-led terror in Afghanistan is also rising among the populations of the countries involved in the Occupation.

The U.S. has inflicted great suffering on the people of Afghanistan. It is time for U.S. leaders and U.S. allies in the war on Afghanistan to renounce the use of violence and terrorism, and withdraw their forces from Afghanistan. The U.S. should concentrate on developing friendly and peaceful relations with all nations based on mutual respect and broad common interests to safeguard world peace.

~ News ~

Response to Pakistan relief plan 'positive,' but more funding needed: UN

UN officials are pleased with the increased donations to help bring humanitarian assistance to the millions of Pakistanis devastated by recent floods, but they emphasized on Wednesday that further resources must be mobilized.

"Watching this disaster unfold, the world increasingly understands its immense magnitude," said John Holmes, UN under-secretary-general for



humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator. "I am glad that we now see a more positive response to the calls of the secretary-general and the humanitarian community for increased and faster funding."

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan (PIFERP) requires 459.7 million U.S. dollars in order to fund relief efforts in the flooded country. As of Wednesday, 227.8 million dollars, or 49.6 percent of the total, has been received and another 42.1 million dollars pledged. When this pledge is delivered, PIFERP will be 58.7 percent funded.

Holmes requested that potential donors be "ready for any increase in requirements," as flooding is not yet over.

"The Indus River is at 40 times its normal volume," Karen Allen of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Islamabad said. "Whole cities, of up to 250,000 people, have been evacuated, and people have lost everything."

The Pakistani government estimates that the floods have affected 15.4 million people in the country thus far, with six to eight million currently in urgent need of life-saving aid.

"More relief supplies are in the pipeline, and we are reaching more and more women, men, and children every day," said Martin Mogwanja, humanitarian coordinator in Pakistan. "Tents, food, water purification tablets, are being procured as we speak."

OCHA indicated that the UN and its partners have been able to provide 800,000 people in Pakistan with food aid and nearly one million with shelter so far. Aid organizations now have enough supplies in Pakistan to service the health needs of 1.8 million people.

Procuring clean water for Pakistan is also a significant problem as the risk for waterborne diseases is currently high. OCHA said that although at least 1.4 million people have been given access to clean water thanks to the UN and its partners, millions more water purification tablets are needed to continue doing so in the coming days.

Senior Chinese leader stresses Tibet's development, stability

A senior Chinese leader has called on local various-level governments and people in Tibet to make continuous efforts to achieve "leapfrog development and lasting stability" in the autonomous region.

He Guoqing, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks during his four-day inspection tour of Tibet that ended Monday.

He asked officials and people of all ethnic groups in Tibet to seize the available opportunities and to unite to promote the development and stability of the region.

During his inspection tour, He visited communities, villages, a virgin forest in Nyingchi and the Potala Palace.

At a meeting with people from the religious circles, He encouraged the monks to promote patriotism and called on them to contribute to the prosperity and ethnic unity in Tibet.

He, in charge of disciplinary and supervision work, also asked local disciplinary and supervision personnel to promote clean governance and to intensify the fight against corruption.

On a separate inspection tour in Tibet from Aug. 13-15, Du Qinglin, head of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee, asked monasteries to promote legal, standardized and scientific management.

Du, also vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, asked local authorities to focus more on increasing the income and improve living standards of people from all ethnic groups in the area.

During his tour, Du visited farmers and herdsmen, old CPC members, and monasteries in Lhasa, Xigaze, and Shannan.

Senior CPC official urges strict supervision of disaster relief work

A senior anti-corruption official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Monday urged strict supervision and inspection of relief and reconstruction work in Zhouqu County, which was devastated by a massive mudslide on Aug. 8.

A supervision and inspection system must be established to ensure thorough implementation of the central authorities' instructions on disaster relief and reconstruction, said He Yong, deputy secretary of the

CPC's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

He made the remarks at a conference on supervision and inspection of relief funds and supplies.

He instructed intensified supervision and inspection of medical, mud-clearing, infrastructure rebuilding, resident relocation and epidemic prevention operations.

He also ordered stepped-up supervision of the use of disaster

relief funds, supplies and donations, and asked local officials to make public how they were utilizing the funds in a timely manner.

He said the principle of openness and transparency must be applied throughout the period of disaster relief work and reconstruction, and vowed to punish any misuse of relief funds and supplies.

The mudslide has killed 1,254 while 490 people remain missing as of Monday.

बालबालिकालाई पढ्न पठाऔं, उनीहरुको सुखद् भविष्यलाई सुनिश्चित गरौं ।



नेपाल सरकार

सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय

सूचना विभाग

China mourns mudslide victims



Amid sirens and blaring horns, people across China Sunday stood in tribute to victims of a massive mudslide in a remote northwest town.

the debris, searching for bodies and spraying disinfectant in the area. Some survivors sat silently on the debris, still holding out hope that the

then lowered to half-mast, shouting "Go Zhouqu! Go China!" At the Shanghai World Expo Park, all performances were canceled and background music was turned off.

The Gansu Pavilion would not hold any entertainment activities until September.

In the flood-ravaged Yaque Village, in Yongji County of northeastern Jilin Province, thousands of villagers could not feel happy although power supplies were restored Sunday after days of disruption.

Zhouqu is braced for more rain in coming days, and thousands of troops are still using large excavators to remove silt and debris that block the county roads.

But life is gradually recovering as the relief operation continues.

Local authorities ordered 8,400 kg of vegetables from neighboring Longnan City and they sold at the same or lower prices than prior to the disaster.

But new floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains over the past week have brought misery to

More than 120,000 people had been evacuated, and direct economic losses were estimated at more than 3 billion yuan (441 million U.S. dollars), Huang said.

Altogether 31 people are missing in Wenchuan County alone, the epicenter of an 8-magnitude earthquake in May 2008 that left about 87,000 people dead or missing.

More than 8,000 villagers have been evacuated from below two "barrier" lakes that were formed after landslides blocked sections of the Minjiang River. Local authorities planned to use explosives to clear the blockages.

China suffered the worst floods in at least a decade this summer. Floods and other rain-triggered disasters have left more than 2,300 people dead and 1,200 missing nationwide this year.

Chinese diplomatic missions abroad mourn mudslide victims

Chinese embassies and consulates across the world on Sunday held memorial services to mourn the victims of a massive mudslide that killed at least 1,239 people in northwest China.

Condolence ceremonies also took place at Chinese embassies in

Singapore, Nepal, Mongolia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Jordan, Afghanistan and Lebanon.

The Chinese consulates-general in Almaty and Sydney also held memorial services.

Overseas Chinese mourn Gansu mudslide victims

Overseas Chinese have held memorial meetings and other mourning activities recently to remember the victims of a massive mudslide in northwest China that killed at least 1,248 people.

Participants then made donations to the mudslide-hit areas, saying they were deeply concerned about those affected by the disaster.

On the same day, some overseas Chinese and employees of Chinese companies and institutions in Serbia suspended entertainment activities voluntarily to express their condolences for the victims.

In Jordan, people from various walks of life and overseas Chinese residing in the country have offered their sympathy and condolences.

Overseas Chinese in Cambodia have called the Chinese embassy to express condolences, saying they are



Chinese leaders, students, workers and members of the public paused for three minutes from 10 a.m. Sunday, a week after the devastating mudslide hit Zhouqu County, in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Gansu Province.

bodies of relatives could be found. In temporary tents, some bowed their heads, some knelt and some put their palms together to pray for the dead. Loud cries could be heard from time to time in the shelters.

Tibetans account for about a third of the total population in Zhouqu. The county sits in the steep valley of the Bailong River, a tributary of the Jialing River, which meets the mighty Yangtze River in Chongqing, and is hemmed in by rocky mountains on both sides.

At the nearby Heiyu and Labrang Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, monks and believers attended a religious ritual to mourn for the dead.

In Lanzhou, the provincial capital, about 10,000 people gathered at a city square to show respect for those killed in the mudslide.

Chinese national flags across the country and at embassies and consulates abroad flew at half mast Sunday.

All public entertainment activities, such as movies and karaoke, and on-line entertainment, including games and music, were ordered to be suspended. Major newspapers, were printed in black and white Sunday. Home pages of Chinese websites were turned black and white.

In central Beijing, thousands of people gathered at the Tian'anmen Square early Sunday to watch the national flag hoisted to full height and



According to Chinese tradition, the seventh day after a death marks the height of the mourning period. Large-scale national displays of mourning are rare in China.

China observed a three-day national mourning period after the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, and a one-day national mourning after the Yushu quake in Qinghai Province on April 14 this year.

On both occasions, the national flag was lowered to half-mast and all public entertainment was suspended.

Longnan and neighboring Sichuan Province.

Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia,

ready to donate for the reconstruction of the mudslide-hit region.

Pakistan calls for greater support for flood-hit people

The Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari Sunday called for greater international support and assistance to cope with the gigantic task of relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims and mega programme of reconstruction of the property and infrastructure damaged by the deadly floods.

In a meeting with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the president said that the challenge was so huge for any government or party to undertake on its own and added that it could be faced only with the rigorous efforts of the people of Pakistan, Pakistani community living abroad and the support and assistance of the international community and donor agencies.

Briefing the media about the meeting, spokesperson to the president Farhatullah Babar said that



may be far more than what initial estimates suggested, the president said.

Zardari said that the government and people of Pakistan are thankful to the UN for immediately appealing to the world community for nearly 460 million U.S. dollars in emergency aid.

The president briefed the UN Secretary General about the colossal damage to life, property, livestock and infrastructure as a result of the unprecedented floods in the history of Pakistan.

The spokesperson said that the president informed the Secretary General that 71 districts throughout the country had been hit by floods. Nearly 1500 people have been killed, over 720,000 houses destroyed and over 1.2 million people adversely affected.

The extent of total damage to life, property, cattle head and infrastructure

China offers new aid to flood-hit Pakistan

China Friday announced new emergency humanitarian aid worth 50 million yuan (7.35 million U.S. dollars) to flood-hit Pakistan.

The aid, following the earlier 10 million yuan (1.48 million U.S. dollars) worth of relief goods, includes tents, blankets, food and water purification devices that the country desperately needs.

Pakistan is suffering from the worst floods in 80 years, which have left some 1,500 people dead.

Himalayan Bank expresses solidarity with Pakistan flood victims



Chairman of Himalayan Bank, Manoj Bahadur Shrestha, presented a cheque of Rs 500,000 to the Embassy of Pakistan for assistance to the flood victims in Pakistan.

Torrential monsoon rain triggered catastrophic floods which have affected a fifth of the country, wiping out villages, rich farm land, infrastructure and killing an estimated 1,600 people in the nation's worst ever natural disaster.