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A. Bilateral Affairs

1. US-President Signed on Proclamation of TFTEA

The US President Barack Obama signed a proclamation regarding the implementation of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enlargement Act (TFTEA), 2015 on 15 December 2016 that includes Nepal Trade Preference. With the implementation of this Act, Nepal has received duty free access of 66 products to the US market which includes mainly luggage, travel bags, attaché cases, hand bags, pocket goods, carpets, shawls, travel blankets, hats, gloves, headbands, etc.

An announcement regarding re-selection of Nepal for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)'s Compact Program was made during the meeting held between Ambassador of Nepal to the United States, Mr. Arjun Bahadur Karki and Regional Director of MCC Mrs. Fatma Sumar on 14 December 2016. The MCC is an innovative and independent U.S. foreign aid agency that is helping lead to fight against global poverty. An MCC-Nepal team has been formed by the Government of Nepal in order to design and propose MCC-programs especially on energy and infrastructure in coordination with the MCC-US.

2. Seventh Meeting of Project Steering Committee for the Development of ICPs

The Seventh Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the development of Integrated

Check Posts (ICPs) along the India-Nepal border was held in Kathmandu on 15 December 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Deependra Nath Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal and Smt. Sanjeevane Kuty, Secretary, Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Various issues relating to the early completion and operationalization of the ICPs in Birgunj and Biratnagar as well as finalization of detailed engineering reports for ICPs in Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa were discussed during the meeting.

3. Political Bureau Member of the CPC Central Committee of the PRC Visited Nepal

His Excellency Mr. Liu Qibao, Member of Political Bureau and Secretariat of Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and Chief of the CPC Publicity Department, the People's Republic of China visited Nepal on 18-20 December 2016. Mr. Qibao was accompanied by senior officials of the International Department and Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China. Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance held bilateral discussions with him. During the talks, matters of mutual interests were discussed.

His Excellency Mr. Liu Qibao also paid courtesy calls on the Rt. Hon'ble President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari; the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Pushpa